



# SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

August 31, 2021

Dear Santa Clara Law Students, Staff, and Faculty,

As August concludes and the first long weekend comes into view, I hope that you are beginning to feel connected, or reconnected, with the Santa Clara Law community. Watching students congregate in the Mabie Grand Atrium, engaging faculty and staff colleagues in the halls, and speaking with students after my Civil Procedure class energizes me and validates one of the top reasons I came to Santa Clara Law.



Along with an engaged alumni base and our external partners, Santa Clara Law maintains one of the most supportive, nurturing, and collaborative cultures I have experienced in higher education. Law schools often get the reputation for being cut-throat pressure-cookers, where only the most ruthless survive. Not so at Santa Clara Law, and I have now witnessed this first hand. It's not to suggest that our curriculum isn't rigorous or law school itself isn't challenging, because it is. However, Santa Clara's distinctive strength can be seen in how our dedicated faculty embrace the notion of *cura personalis* and genuinely care about the well-being of our students in a very holistic way. It can be seen in the comprehensive wellness programs and surround-sound supportive resources that our staff provide. Most importantly, it can be seen in the collaborative way in which students lift one another up. I am proud of this closely-knit and supportive community, which helps to define and distinguish us, and I am proud of the way that our graduates enter the profession with an enduring commitment to the service of others.

If your class schedules permit, I invite you to join me and my fellow Law School deans for more informal conversation and fellowship on Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 am in the Charney Hall Second Floor Lounge. As the name of these gatherings suggests, (Breakfast & Banter), bagels and donuts will be served. I look forward to seeing you there.

Enjoy the long Labor Day Weekend and the assurance that you are not laboring alone here at Santa Clara Law.

With warm regards and great gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael J. Kaufman (He/Him/His)  
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