

Santa Clara University SCHOOL OF LAW

May 24, 2022

Dear Friends,

This has been a joyous week in the life of our law school community. Last Monday, our graduates who recently passed the California Bar were sworn in as new lawyers in a <u>moving ceremony</u> in our Mission Church. Throughout the week leading up to our <u>Commencement</u> on May 21, we held special gatherings to honor our graduates who were First Generation students, international students, social justice and public interest champions, leaders in the Black Law Student Association and other Affinity Groups, and those who excelled in our High Tech Law programs.



On the Friday evening before graduation, we joined together in the Mission

Church for the Law Commencement Liturgy, during which our University's Acting President Lisa Kloppenberg presented a beautiful Homily, calling our law school graduates to understand their words and deeds as an expression of God's love. After the Liturgy, we honored students who received the John B. Bates, Jr. Dispute Resolution Award, the Art Gemmel Prize for International Commercial Arbitration, the Dean's Leadership Awards, and the Mabie Outstanding Student Award, this year bestowed upon Zachary Nemirovsky.

On Saturday, we conducted a glorious commencement ceremony for the extraordinary Santa Clara Law Class of 2022. During the ceremony, Judge Edward J. Davila received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree in recognition of his lifetime of public service. In his uplifting address, Judge Davila highlighted the supportive staff and faculty of our law school and offered words of wisdom for our graduates, calling them to embark on careers characterized by service, ethics, and professionalism. Acting President Kloppenberg also shared beautiful words of congratulations for our graduates, inspiring them to help their clients and communities solve problems and build common ground.

Our grads remarkably overcame great challenges to complete their rigorous academic requirements and still found time to pursue justice for their clients in our clinics, transform their communities through countless hours of volunteer public service, help publish and edit impactful research on one of our law journals, achieve great success on our trial, negotiations, and moot court teams, and serve their classmates as leaders of the Student Bar Association or one of our many wonderful affinity groups and student organizations. We are especially grateful to the class of 2022 for its leadership in promoting racial and social justice in our own law school and the surrounding community.

In the spirit of gratitude, I also want to express my heartfelt thanks to all of the members of our community who worked so hard and with such care to make our Commencement events so beautiful and powerful, including our wonderful colleagues on the University's Board of Trustees and Board of Regents and in its Offices of the President, General Counsel, mission and ministry, facilities, photography, media, safety, and catering; our incredible law school administrative services and assessment, external relations, career services, and student services teams; Noelia McKeever and Lisa McMahon in the Law Dean's Office, and especially Dean Minh Virasak, who brilliantly and enthusiastically led the entire effort. We congratulate each and every one of our exceptional Santa Clara Law graduates and their loved ones! We wish our new grads great success on the bar exam and beyond!

With warm regards and immense gratitude,

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Dean and Professor of Law