



# SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

January 23, 2024

Dear Friends,

Institutions of higher learning are facing serious challenges, including expanding access and affordability; managing an upside-down business model heavily dependent on tuition and subject to sharp demographic shifts; strengthening community, democratic values, respectful discourse, and inclusive excellence in an era of destructive polarization; mitigating enterprise risks, and reinvigorating the value proposition for higher education itself.



At Santa Clara Law, we are coming together to overcome these challenges by building on our many distinctive strengths; dramatically increasing affordability and access to legal education; fostering genuine student success and well-being; preparing our graduates to be productive participants, eminent professionals, and servant leaders in healthy local and global democracies; and designing innovative, tech-fluent, and human-centered solutions to the world's most vexing problems, particularly for underserved clients and communities.

Last week, we held the second immersion session for our innovative hybrid Flex JD program, which makes law school possible for students throughout the country who are at every stage of their careers and from all walks of life. By unbundling our resources and bending time and space, we have more than doubled the number of our part-time JD students and we are now justifiably ranked the #1 such JD program in Northern California.

I am so impressed with our amazing part-time students, who offer so much to our law school community and will offer so much to our profession. They often share with us that, but for this new program, they could never have gone to law school. And they rightly express their gratitude to each other and to our spectacular, dedicated, and caring faculty and administrative team, who are with them every step of the way—throughout their intense immersion weeks, on weekends, and online. Please join me in especially thanking Anna Benvenue, Liza-Jane Capatos, Adriana Duffy-Horling, Vicki Huebner, Sandee Magliozzi, Michelle Oberman, Dori Pina, David Sloss, and Kent Streseman, as well as our professionals from the Offices of Student Services, Law Technology, Law Administrative Services, Admissions, Library, and Career Management. They have given their “all” and their “awe” to our students, surrounding them with educational best practices, love, and support!

We also are the home of one of the nation's top-ranked intellectual property programs, with a growing superstar faculty and the trail-blazing TechEdge JD program. As such, we are uniquely positioned to lead the world in responding to myriad issues raised by the rapid rise of artificial intelligence. On February 2-3, for example, we are bringing to Charney Hall the leading scholars in intellectual property and tech law who will share their research and their insights into the legal, political, and ethical structures surrounding emerging technologies and artificial intelligence - [21st Annual Works In Progress for Intellectual Property Scholars Colloquium](#).

In our role as leaders at the forefront of the practice of law, we are also hosting the [20th Annual Ingram Inn of Court Symposium](#) on the pressing issue of "Artificial Intelligence: Its Promises and Challenges for Lawyers and the Legal Profession." On January 29, we are continuing to lead in bringing access and diversity to the tech sector by sponsoring an important conversation with attorneys in the [Cooley firm and ChIPs](#), a nonprofit organization that advances and connects women in technology, law, and policy.

On February 9, the law school will build upon its distinctive strengths in both high tech and international law. In true Santa Clara Law collaborative spirit, our High Tech Law Journal and our Journal of International Law are working together to sponsor [a cutting-edge symposium](#) regarding the human rights implications of data localization and data sovereignty.

That evening, we are also holding our [18th Diversity & Inclusion Celebration](#), honoring Carlos Rosario and the Elevate Community Center for their inspiring work to pursue equity and justice for all. On March 1, we are hosting a [Racial Justice Symposium](#), which will cover topics including the importance of historical narratives that have fueled racial disparities, biases, and discriminatory language in our communities, litigation strategies, the impact of implicit biases in our criminal legal system, and the reach of remedies to confront racism in the spirit of the Racial Justice Act.

With the support of our university's incredible athletic director Renee Baumgartner, our Office of Career Management, and our prominent alum, Omar Habbas, we are also presenting our must-attend [Sports Law Conference](#) on January 26. Leading experts in the sports law field will come to Santa Clara to share their insights about critical and complex issues facing student-athletes such as name, image, and likeness.

We are also taking a leadership role with our fellow Jesuit law schools and universities in reinforcing our democratic principles, practices, structures, and values. On February 15, the School of Law will be presenting a special program featuring Professor David Sloss, who will be speaking on: "SCOTUS v. the People: the Supreme Court's Assault on American Democracy." So too, in February, the law school will be training even more of its students, staff, and faculty in the art of facilitating community circles, thereby building on its commitment to foster a culture rooted in restorative and transformative justice, trauma-informed practices, and respectful dialogue across differences.

We are so blessed to be in a law school community that is ready, willing, and able to meet our collective challenges head-on by coming together to build the future of justice for the communities and clients whom our exceptional students are called to serve. In doing so, we

are all bearing witness to the growing social, economic, political, pedagogical, moral, and spiritual value of our Santa Clara legal education.

With warm regards and tremendous gratitude,

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

Michael J. Kaufman (He/Him/His)  
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