



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

October 11, 2022

Dear Friends,

In Medias Res!

At this time of year, we are right in the middle of things! Students are grappling with their midterms and faculty are providing assessments to nurture the formation of professional knowledge, skills, and values. Inspired by our Jesuit Mission, our entire law school community is called to engage in educational experiences that take us to the heart of the action—to dig deeper, to be proximate, to stand in solidarity, and to accompany our clients and each other.



Charney Hall and Panetta Plaza were certainly at the center of the action this past weekend when more than 150 alumni gathered for our reunion celebration and shared their law school memories and milestones. The sense of pride in belonging to the Santa Clara Law community was overwhelming. Many thanks to all who attended, especially our wonderful staff and student volunteers whose hard work made our joyous gathering possible.

Our entire campus was at the center of President Julie Sullivan's beautiful inauguration festivities! Although President Sullivan's formal inauguration ceremony occurred last week, she is already "in medias res"—fully enmeshed as Santa Clara University's new leader and showing great support for our law school!

And always at the heart of the Charney Hall action are our incredible experts in residence! I know that our students are so grateful to former California Supreme Court Justice Edward Panelli B.S. '53, J.D. '55, the Chair of SCU's Board of Regents, and former Alameda County Judge Risë Pichon B.S. '73, J.D. '76. Justice Panelli and Judge Pichon have generously offered to counsel and mentor law students by holding weekly office hours right in the middle of the Atrium. What a gift to our students and

our entire law school community! Please refer to [this link](#) for more information on our experts in residence program.

This season also finds the Supreme Court already in the midst of its new term. On the first Monday in October, the Court began its consideration of crucial and contentious issues that will reach into the heart of our democracy and our freedoms, including the validity of racial discrimination in voting rights, the legitimacy of discrimination based on gender identity, and the ability of law schools like ours to continue to achieve the proven educational benefits of a diverse student body. In the days and weeks ahead, our law school will offer various opportunities for all of us to engage in courageous and respectful conversations about these critically important matters.

Regardless of our different viewpoints on these issues, however, we can all find the middle ground in rejoicing in the fact that Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first Black woman ever to sit on the Supreme Court, will be adding her brilliance, expertise, and experience to the Court's deliberations. As Justice Jackson reflected: "It has taken 232 years and 115 prior appointments for a Black woman to be selected to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States. But we've made it. We've made it. All of us."

Although we should all celebrate this historic moment, we also know that we have so much more work to do together to achieve racial justice and reconciliation. Toward that end, I hope that you will all attend the important conference on reparations which will be held at our law school this Friday, October 14.

I know that, in the spirit of Toni Morrison, we will all keep working until the margin is the middle!

With warm regards and great gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a trailing flourish.

Michael J. Kaufman (He/Him/His)
Dean and Professor of Law
Santa Clara University School of Law
mjkaufman@scu.edu