



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

November 22, 2022

Dear Friends,

Last week, the California Bar Examiners released the names of our many graduates who passed the July bar exam. Congratulations to each and every one of them! We are looking forward to hosting a swearing-in ceremony at the Mission Church at 5 pm on December 5.



For those members of our law school community who will sit for the exam again in February, rest assured that we will continue to accompany you every step of the way. Each one of you has already overcome the extraordinary challenge of succeeding in law school during the pandemic. We know that you will also overcome the challenge of passing the bar and moving forward to become an exceptional lawyer.

No matter where their career journeys may lead, our grads will carry with them habits of mind and heart that empower them to design solutions to our most urgent and complex social problems. I have great faith that they will use their Santa Clara legal education to work for the greater good, and in particular to fight our nation's scourge of horrific mass killings, which are so often motivated by bigotry and hatred. Over this past weekend, members of our LGBTQ+ family were yet again killed and traumatized by heinous acts of hate-filled gun violence. We send our heartfelt condolences to all of the victims and their loved ones, we stand in solidarity with our LGBTQ+ community in categorically condemning these mass killings, and we rededicate ourselves to eradicating all such abhorrent acts of terror and oppression from our midst.

On Friday, November 18, the School of Law hosted a remarkable conference devoted to developing solutions to another persistent social problem—the lack of diversity in the pathways to innovation and invention. Under the leadership of Professor Colleen

Chien, the conference brought together hundreds of experts from the US Patent and Trademark Office, the practicing bar, the academy, and industry, to create, implement, test, and scale evidence-based pilot programs designed to close the wide diversity gap in innovation and invention. This extraordinary gathering fused two of our law school's distinctive strengths: our social justice mission, which calls us to work for equal access to opportunity, and our deep expertise in the legal engines of innovation, including high tech and intellectual property law.

I was reminded of this confluence of our great strengths when I heard that a pair of Steve Jobs' sandals recently fetched \$218,000 at auction. In light of our law school's commitment to high tech law, we can perhaps appreciate why those old shoes may have value as an icon of innovation. But at this law school, we find profound and enduring value in a very different pair of shoes. Preserved in the "Rooms of Saint Ignatius of Loyola" at the Gesu in Rome, are a pair of tiny, threadbare leather shoes worn by St. Ignatius. He too was an innovator, who responded to his traumatic experience with the horrors of violence (his cannonball moment) by embarking on a pilgrimage to invent Jesuit Education, deeply rooted in a faith that promotes justice and love.



In this time of Thanksgiving, filled with images of pilgrims and plenty, but also with oppression and appropriation of Indigenous Peoples, let us be grateful for the privilege of walking with each other on our own pilgrimage toward reconciliation and justice. We are so blessed to be fellow travelers in this law school community, where our love for both social justice and innovation leads us on a quest to design human-centered solutions to the many pressing problems confronting our common home. May we be thankful for the opportunity to invent the future of justice and for the peace that comes from knowing that we never walk alone—that we are loved.

I wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving, overflowing with gratitude for the many blessings that we share.

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

Michael J. Kaufman (He/Him/His)
Dean and Professor of Law

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