



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

February 21, 2023

Dear Friends,

Over the past few days, the School of Law has hosted a series of extraordinary events. On February 16, more than 100 students, alumni, faculty, staff-educators, and community partners came to campus for the law school's 17th annual Diversity and Inclusion Celebration. Thanks to our intentional and comprehensive efforts, Santa Clara Law has become one of the most diverse law schools in the country. Our diversity is, and always will be, one of our greatest distinctive strengths.

At our special gathering, we lifted up our affinity groups, student leaders, recipients of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Scholarship, and the sponsors and benefactors who have provided invaluable financial support for our students as they embark upon rewarding careers of service. We honored **Akshay Verma J.D. '06**, who has worked to open doors and create opportunities for students of color to attend law school and thrive in the legal profession. We also recognized (LEAP) Legal Education Access Pipeline, Inc., which has partnered with our law school to provide a successful pathway program to legal education for underrepresented students.



Over the weekend, the School of Law also conducted the semi-final rounds of the Galloway Moot Court Competition, in which our first-year students somehow managed to take time from their classroom studies to prepare and deliver outstanding oral arguments in a rigorous format. Thanks so much to all of our colleagues who organized this signature program and served as judges, and congrats to all of the participants, including our remarkable finalist teams: Jennifer Stukenberg & Hanchel Cheng; and Simone Wolberg & Ajit Bhullar.

Finally, over this past weekend, we hosted a wonderful inaugural gathering of deans from all of the Jesuit law schools. In the spirit of collaboration and mutual support, the deans generated strategic initiatives designed to build on the many distinctive strengths and opportunities enjoyed by all of the Jesuit law schools. Special thanks to Kristen Forrester, who oversaw all of the logistics, and to Former Acting President and School of Law Dean Lisa Kloppenberg, who facilitated a thought-provoking conversation about the Jesuit law schools' important role in developing relationship-building skills, which are not only vital to the successful practice of law, but also to the protection of our democracy against the autocratic forces of violence, polarization, and anti-truth. As a great Jesuit law school, we rededicated ourselves to finding new and meaningful ways to collaborate in the care of our students, our common home, and our common good.

In the spirit of service to others, I invite you to join our colleagues in the Center for Social Justice at the annual [Benefit for Justice Celebration and Auction](#) which will take place next week on Friday, March 3. The Benefit has two purposes: (1) to bring together Santa Clara Law students, staff-educators, faculty, and alumni to celebrate the social justice work being done at the law school, and (2) to raise funds for the CSJ's summer stipend program. You may donate items to be auctioned at the Benefit by completing the [Benefit for Social Justice Donations Intake Form](#). Tickets to attend the event are available for purchase by visiting the [2023 Benefit for Justice event registration page](#). This will be the first time since 2019 that the Benefit for Justice will be held in person, and we are looking forward to a great turnout and a wonderful time together as a community.

With warm regards and tremendous 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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