



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

August 17, 2022

Dear Friends,

With great warmth and enthusiasm, we welcomed our newest 1L's into the Santa Clara Law community last Thursday during our annual Convocation ceremony and inaugural Breaking Bread dinner. Michael Schulman J.D. '76 offered inspiration as he shared the professional path his Santa Clara Law degree facilitated, rising to his current role as CEO of the NHL's Anaheim Ducks. We are also grateful to our wonderful new University President, Julie Sullivan for welcoming our students; to Judge Risë Pichon '73, J.D. '76, for administering the solemn Oath of Professionalism, and to Father Robert Scholla S.J. for acknowledging the land on which our beautiful campus is located and blessing the evening in the school's Jesuit, Catholic tradition.



At our law school's first-ever Breaking Bread dinner, our fantastic alumni and newest students did more than share a meal, they brought new life to storied traditions with deep professional and spiritual roots. For many centuries, experienced members of the legal profession passed their wisdom to new members of the profession at the inns of court over a meal. They would break bread together as a way of teaching, mentoring, and shaping professional identity. The inns of court in our area, including the honorable William A. Ingram American Inn of Court in Santa Clara County, carry out this tradition to help new lawyers along their way, and often do it by "breaking bread."

For us, breaking bread also is a demonstration of our dedication to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. It's an act of solidarity with all communities who survived on bread as they fled oppression, including Indigenous People for whom the sharing of fry bread has become a celebration of freedom and community. When we break bread, we share sustenance, fellowship,

gratitude, stories, unique experiences, and different perspectives. We break bread together as an act of welcome, inclusion, cooperation, reconciliation, and peace. We break the bread of blessing and belonging.

Breaking bread thus carries a spiritual dimension for us. By breaking bread with our fingers, we establish the work of our hands—the work of justice— as an expression of God's love. By breaking bread, we form an unbreakable bond with friends, strangers, and the divine. Scripture teaches us that God's love is revealed when we break bread as one community. When we break leavened bread, we rise together as one.

Living out this vital Santa Clara Law mission of service to others, more than 50 of our incoming, transfer, and continuing students worked hard together over this past weekend to prepare sustenance packages for veterans and the most vulnerable members of our community. To all of our extraordinary students, we offer our profound gratitude for granting us the privilege of serving you as Dean, administrators, faculty, and staff.

Last year, we adopted a theme of Rising Together to illustrate our collective ascension from the depths of the pandemic along with our shared aspirations to grow in our understanding of one another as a community committed to working for a more just, humane, and sustainable world.

This year, we will continue to rise together in partnership with our wonderful new University President Julie Sullivan, making sure that we lift each other up as we climb. Together, we will continue to live out our Jesuit, Catholic mission, embrace our enduring values, and build upon our distinctive strengths.

Over the course of the fall semester, through regular communications like this one, I hope to once again promote transparency and a renewed sense of community and belonging. We also forge the bonds of community through social gatherings, like our beloved Breakfast & Banter with the Deans tradition that started again today at 10 am to 11 am on the Panetta Plaza. For those who are new to this weekly reception, it provides a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow students and casually interact with staff, faculty, and administrators. It's another great chance for us to break bread together!

For now, enjoy connecting and reconnecting with friends and classmates, and best wishes as you reacclimate to the start of another academic year. As a law

school community brimming with gratitude, we have much to look forward to in the year ahead.

With warm regards and immense 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)
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