



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

August 3, 2021

Dear Santa Clara Law Students, Staff, and Faculty,

As our new fall semester comes into view, I want to express to you all my profound gratitude for the honor of serving as your dean. I am overjoyed and humbled to join a diverse and closely-knit University community, a community that always has risen together to overcome every challenge.



Thank you to our talented and accomplished students with their insatiable thirst for knowledge, to our staff and administrative team of caring and committed leaders, and to our dedicated faculty who embody what it means to be impactful scholars and devoted public servants. Thank you all for welcoming me with such warm hearts. As the wonderful poet Mary Oliver wrote, "sometimes I need to stand wherever I am to be blessed." My family and I feel so blessed to call Santa Clara Law home.

Over the past eighteen months, our mettle has been tested and it will surely be tested again. But our collective resilience and community spirit has, and always will, carry us to new heights. I know we will support each other this fall, as we follow the University's health protocols and smartly and safely return to our beautiful and beloved campus.

I believe that our diverse and vibrant law school community, built upon our shared ethic of loving kindness, is one of Santa Clara Law's great *distinctive strengths*, a concept upon which I will elaborate in the weeks ahead. As I humbly work alongside all of you, it is my steadfast belief the Santa Clara Law community will emerge from the still-evolving pandemic stronger than we had been prior to its onset.

Over the course of the fall semester, through regular communications like this one, I hope to promote a renewed sense of community and share my thoughts, with the valued contributions of others, including all of you, as to our distinctive strengths. With your help, we can identify, articulate, celebrate, and build upon Santa Clara Law's *distinctive strengths*. It will be an iterative process, and one that welcomes and invites dialogue and conversation. I anticipate that the process will be illuminating and

uplifting, as we come to embrace together the unique qualities of the Santa Clara Law community.

For now, enjoy the final days of our summer break so that you may return to campus refreshed, reinvigorated and open to the opportunities that lie ahead. As a law school community, we have much to look forward to in the year ahead.

With 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)
Dean and Professor of Law
Santa Clara University School of Law
mjkaufman@scu.edu