



# SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

August 30, 2022

Dear Friends,

As our Law School community settles into the rhythm of the fall semester, with its opportunities and challenges, we continue to care deeply for the well-being of all of our students, staff, and faculty. I hope that you have all had the chance to read Dean Maxwell's beautiful welcoming message (see attachment below) and remember that you will never walk on this law school journey alone. As Simone Biles poignantly reminded us, we all get the "twisties" sometimes. And as Dean Maxwell wisely advised us: seeking help is not a sign of weakness; it is an act of great strength. Please let us help you, and please take advantage of the array of supportive services available to you in our caring, student-centered community.



In her recent address to our law faculty and administration, our University President, Dr. Julie Sullivan, shared that she was drawn to Santa Clara University because of three of our distinctive strengths: (1) our Jesuit education and *cura personalis* (care for the whole person); (2) our commitment to excellence in all pursuits; and (3) our authentic sense of community, which calls us to become even more welcoming and inclusive. We are truly grateful for President Sullivan's leadership and the many benefits the law school enjoys from being part of a world-class university rooted in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition.

Last year, we introduced Breakfast & Banter, a weekly Charney Hall tradition, to bring all students, staff, and faculty together in communal fellowship. In light of the great success of B&B, we are implementing additional community-building programs at the law school this fall.

First, in order to ensure that our part-time evening students have an opportunity to connect with each other and their faculty and staff, we are scheduling periodic get-togethers in the evening, called "Caffeine, Cookies, and Conversation."

Second, every Wednesday, we will make every effort to offer joyful activities, festive gatherings, forums for the exchange of ideas, enrichment opportunities, and special events designed to reconnect us to each other and build a vibrant community in the beautiful Charney Hall. We hope to see Charney Hall at its finest and fullest on Wednesdays!

Third, with the assistance of Professor Devin Kinyon, Director of the Office of Academic & Bar Success, we have created the law school's Spice Committee. It is often said that variety is the spice of life, and now our own Spice Committee will be partnering with student organizations to create and amplify opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to connect, have fun, and bond outside of the rigorous routines of law school.

We have so much to give of ourselves, and so much to offer to each other. I have great faith that we will continue to work together to strengthen our exceptional law school community.

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.

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