



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

September 27, 2022

Dear Friends,

L'Shana Tovah!

As we enter the period between Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all of you for a Happy New Year—a year overflowing with health, happiness, and hope.



These Days of Awe commemorate the creation of our common home and grace us with the opportunity for reflection, redemption, and renewal. We are called to strengthen the bonds of our community by atoning for our transgressions and offering each other forgiveness. I pray that you will all accept my own heartfelt apology and atonement for my many transgressions in the past year—my hurtful words and deeds, my iniquities and inequities. And I hope that through this communal reconciliation process, we can all “return” (“Teshuvah”) to our enduring values, return to our best selves, return from darkness to light, return from hurting to healing the world, and return from fragmentation to wholeness.

In this same spirit of renewal and return, our law school community continues to design new and creative ways to live out our Jesuit, Catholic mission and the Universal Apostolic Preferences, which call us to collaborate in the care of our common home, to accompany each other in the creation of a hope-filled future, and to walk with the poor, the marginalized, and those whose dignity has been violated in a mission of reconciliation and justice.

We have just helped to create a more hope-filled future for aspiring lawyers by making our J.D. degree more accessible to students from all walks of life whose working or family commitments might have otherwise prevented them from going to law school. We have launched our new part-time Flex J.D. program, which will be

offered in a hybrid online format starting next fall. Our Flex J.D. provides the same world-class education and networking opportunities offered by our top-ranked Silicon Valley-based law school, with greater flexibility to serve the holistic needs of our students.

And we have renewed and returned to our commitment to reconciliation and justice as well. On September 28th, the Katharine & George Alexander Center is hosting its [2022 Virtual Celebration](#), honoring the Community, Commitment & Courage that has gone into its work over the past year. On October 6th, our Northern California Innocence Project– a beacon of forgiveness, redemption, renewal, justice, and reconciliation– will be hosting its annual [Justice for All Awards Gala](#) at the Julia Morgan Ballroom in San Francisco.

In keeping with our work to create myriad pathways toward atonement and reconciliation, please also join us for "Reimagining Reparations in California: from 'Forty Acres and a Mule' to the CA Task Force to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African Americans." The [symposium](#) will take place on October 14, 2022, from 1 to 5 p.m.

We also have made restorative justice circles an important part of our law school's communal culture. Please join us for our next circle in Charney 201 on September 29 from noon to 1:00 pm.

And be sure to keep an eye out for more opportunities to return in person to Charney Hall and to renew our bonds of fellowship, including our Spice Committee events as well as the upcoming [Law Reunion](#), which will be taking place on October 7th at Panetta Plaza.

In this sacred season of renewal and return, we have so much to be grateful for. May you all be inscribed for blessing in the Book of Life.

With warm regards and great 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

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