



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

January 25, 2022

Dear Friends,

I am so incredibly grateful for our law school community's resilience, adaptability, and genuine love for one another. I know that I have expressed these sentiments before, but they are every bit as authentic as the first time I conveyed them shortly after arriving on campus last summer.

We are a little over two weeks into the spring semester, and the community's ability to shift to a predominantly remote learning environment has been nothing shy of remarkable. Our awe-inspiring staff and faculty continue to prioritize the academic success and well-being of our students while ensuring the health and safety of the entire campus. We are encouraged by the recent medical data suggesting that the variant's surge may have plateaued and that our University's plan to return to in-person instruction on January 31st remains on track. Just as in the fall, it will be wonderful to come back to Charney Hall and once again be with one another—I know that our strong sense of community was an important factor in the [two new faculty hires we just announced](#).



Last week, [Professor Adriana Duffy](#) shared that the 2022 Galloway Moot Court Competition has begun, and that briefs will be accepted until 11:59 PM on Thursday, January 27th. The competition offers an excellent platform for our students to demonstrate their persuasive writing and oratory skills. Based on the performance of our students in other moot court competitions this year, I am looking forward to seeing their talent and dedication on full display here as well. Thank you to all of the participants, judges, and volunteers, and a special thank you to Professor Duffy for her leadership with this competition.

On Friday of this week (1/28), our [Center for Social Justice & Public Service](#) will be holding their annual Benefit for Justice. The proceeds will benefit the Center's summer fellowship program, making it possible for law students to serve the public interest while also earning a stipend. You may [register for the virtual event here](#)—it's free for anyone who would like to attend! Kudos to [Professor Evangeline Abriel](#), the law students, and volunteers who have worked hard to organize this event, secure exciting live and silent auction items, and pivoted to a virtual format when campus guidelines necessitated the change. Special thanks also to [Professor David Yosifon](#), who will again serve as our entertaining emcee! I am hopeful that many of you will be able to join us for this wonderful virtual event!

In the weeks ahead, please continue to care for yourself and one another. We will persevere in the face of adversity, and one day reflect on the many ways in which our current experiences have made us more compassionate colleagues and more empathetic advocates for our clients and communities alike.

With warm regards and immense gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael J. Kaufman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line to the left of the first few letters.

Michael J. Kaufman (He/Him/His)
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