



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

October 26, 2021

Dear Santa Clara Law Students, Staff, and Faculty,

In my first-year civil procedure class, I relish robust discussions and thoughtful questions from our wonderfully engaged students. Similarly, I am very grateful to so many members of our community who have energetically participated in our thoughtful dialogue about our law school's many distinctive strengths. You have shared your experiences, reflections, and wisdom as we work together to embrace our bright future by building on those strengths. Not only are your perspectives helping us to refine our articulation of our distinctive strengths, they are also heightening our awareness of those occasions when our distinctive strengths are on full display.



On Friday, October 15th, the University held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new [John A. and Susan Sobrato Campus for Discovery and Innovation \(SCDI\)](#). In attendance were the University's senior leadership, Trustees and Regents, generous donors, CA Governor Gavin Newsom '89, and Deans like myself from the various schools. The ceremony illustrated Santa Clara's state-of-the-art educational facilities (something we also enjoy here in Charney Hall), a collegial campus community, and a supportive group of alumni and non-alumni donors. I consider all of us fortunate to be a vital part of such a vibrant, interconnected, beautiful, and growing campus community.

We are also so fortunate that our law school enjoys a distinctive legacy of remarkably strong deaconal leadership. On October 16, former Dean, Don Polden and his wife Susie hosted a wonderful event that brought together many members of our terrific law school faculty and staff, myself, and four former Santa Clara Law Deans, including Gerald Uelmen, Don Polden, Lisa Kloppenberg (now Acting President), and Anna Han (together in the photo below). The occasion was a powerful reminder that our former deans have created a solid and enduring law school foundation on which we can build a very hopeful future.

We are also so fortunate to be supported by our loyal and engaged law school alumni family. I am immensely grateful to our alumni who have opened up their hearts and their homes to me and to our students. Last week, the Chair of our Law Advisory Board and "Triple Bronco," Andy Kryder '74, JD/MBA '77, and Jo Kryder, hosted a gathering at his home for our Law Advisory Board members. As we continue to make progress towards the eventual end of the pandemic, it was a wonderful way to bring together new members and longstanding members of our alumni team from a variety of professional backgrounds to socialize and discuss ways to advance the goals and vision for Santa Clara Law.

Our alumni are incredible! They offer their time, talent, and treasure to support the success and well-being of all of our students.

We will continue to find innovative ways to come together as one community with those students in the weeks ahead. On Wednesday, October 27th, from Noon - 1 pm, we will be celebrating Halloween with refreshments in the Grand Atrium and an SBA Sponsored Costume Contest in the Panelli Courtroom. Also, with temperatures dropping and inclement weather becoming more frequent, we will be moving our weekly Breakfast & Banter with the Deans (Thursdays 9:30-10:30 am) to the Grand Atrium until further notice. Have a happy and safe Halloween!

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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