



# SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

December 27, 2021

Dear Santa Clara Law Students, Staff, and Faculty,

The month of December juxtaposes darkness and light in countless ways. Longer nights are accentuated by starry skies. Heavy hearts weighted by the loss of loved ones over the past year are buoyed by the promise of a new year. In our world, the ongoing pandemic, the persistence of racial injustice, and the tragedies we experienced right here on our own campus, cast shadows over all of our lives, but as is recognized by many different religious traditions, our lives are also brightened by the hope-filled message contained within this season of lights.



Last week, the law school community together with the university community gathered to light the Hanukkah Menorah, a holiday that celebrates our shared belief that even a flicker of light can drive out darkness and illuminate the world. Over the weekend, as Santa Clara University's championship women's soccer team sought to defend their National Championship crown in this year's College Cup (final four) hosted on our campus in front of a sold-out crowd, the University community gathered at the Mission Church for the Festival of Lights, renewing a sacred Santa Clara tradition of prayer and song. Yesterday, the law school community returned to the Mission Church for the swearing-in ceremony for those who passed California's July 2021 Bar Exam. For this diverse group of law school graduates, this ceremony provides light at the end of their educational tunnel. They will now head out into the world, serving clients and shedding light on the truth.

To our students, as you complete your fall semester exams, your pursuit of knowledge illuminates the lives of our faculty, staff, and administration. Whether you were completing your first semester in law school or merely your first semester back since the outset of the pandemic, you are a beacon of light for others who may one day follow in your footsteps. I am inspired by your resilience and grateful for your presence here at Santa Clara Law.

In this season of celebration and lights, may we all serve as lights to one another. Your brightness undoubtedly shines during another's darkest hour. May the transcendent light of the holiday season bring peace and joy to you and your loved ones.

With warm regards and immense gratitude,

Michael J. Kaufman (He/Him/His)  
Dean and Professor of Law

Santa Clara University School of Law  
[mjkaufman@scu.edu](mailto:mjkaufman@scu.edu)