



Alison Monahan: Welcome back to the Law School Toolbox podcast. Today, we're excited to have ex-BigLaw recruiter Sadie Jones with us to talk about handling difficulties on your resume and cover letter. Your Law School Toolbox host today is Alison Monahan, and typically, I'm with Lee Bruges. We're here to demystify the law school and early legal career experience, so that you'll be the best law student and lawyer you can be. Together, we're the co-creators of the [Law School Toolbox](#), the [Bar Exam Toolbox](#), and the career related website [CareerDicta](#). I also run [The Girl's Guide to Law School](#). If you enjoy the show, please leave a review or rating on your favorite listening app. And if you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to us. You can always reach us via the [contact form](#) on LawSchoolToolBox.com, and we would love to hear from you. With that, let's get started.

Welcome back to the Law School Toolbox podcast. Today, we're excited to have Sadie Jones with us to talk about handling difficulties on your resume and cover letter. So, welcome, Sadie.

Sadie Jones: Thanks for having me back.

Alison Monahan: My pleasure. So, what are we even talking about here? What are some common difficulties you could say that might crop up in the law student job search?

Sadie Jones: Well, I think a lot of students have something on their resume or in their background that they feel that they need to explain, and that's what I would think fits into this category. And probably the most common is a gap on your resume, and that can be that you took time off from school before you started school, in between jobs, kind of a variety of things.

Alison Monahan: Yeah. Sometimes we see people who, for whatever reason, took time off in law school or maybe they took time off in undergrad. I'm thinking of my sister, maybe just took a long time to graduate from undergrad. Yeah, and then also from work. People might have gaps for any number of reasons, whether they were taking care of family members or whatever it was. And like you said, I think a good way to look at this is, almost everyone's going to have something that they feel like they need to explain. And then, it's really just a question of handling this, how serious is it, how specific do you need to get upfront? And I think that's really what we're going to talk about here. So what are some other things you see?

Sadie Jones: Other things would be if you're a law student, that maybe you had a bad semester or a bad year, that you had an illness or you had some kind of personal situation. And I would say this is like a change in grades from other grades that you had, and so you may feel the need to explain that. You could have gone part-time for a semester, you could have left school, you could have actually dropped out and then gone to a different school.



- Alison Monahan: Oh yeah, that's an interesting one. We do see that sometimes people say, "Do I have to have to tell people that I did my 1L year twice at two different schools?" It's like, it kind of depends on what they ask you, if you need to tell them that or not.
- Sadie Jones: Yeah, and I think there are situations where you could catch up. You could take time off and make it up, and so, it may be less obvious or kind of affect you less.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah, well, sometimes people just want to forget that that first year at that other school ever happened. And it depends whether an organization or an institution is going to let you do that or not, but that's something, as we'll talk about, you want to do some research on.
- Sadie Jones: Absolutely. I think other things are sort of, "What was your path to law school?" Maybe you have a lot of work experience, maybe you went straight through, maybe you were doing something completely different. Maybe you spent a few years as a nanny or a waitress, in the service industry, and maybe you feel like you need to explain the change from that to law school.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah, I definitely had a weird educational background, so when that comes up, people are like, "Huh, sociology to architecture to programming to law school. Talk to me about that."
- Sadie Jones: But I think these days, it's less weird because it seems almost less common to have a straightforward path. So, those things are actually more common than people think. And a lot of people don't know what other people's experiences are, so they just view it as, "It doesn't seem right."
- Alison Monahan: Right, everyone else was just like, poli-psy-econ-law school. It's like, no, that's probably not really actually true.
- Sadie Jones: Yeah, exactly. That's the perfect example.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah, I think sometimes also you might see some sort of criminal issue, or a school disciplinary action that people may need to deal with. That's probably somewhat less common, but definitely not uncommon.
- Sadie Jones: Yeah, and I think in some situations, maybe it's something that happened a really long time ago and you don't think of it right away. So, consider anything that's happened in your past. Even maybe it was 10 years ago, but it could still come up. So, I would kind of consider anything that you think may come up later on that needs an explanation. And particularly if you want to be a lawyer, some kind of criminal history is something that is going to come up.



Alison Monahan: Right. But at the same time, I'm not sure it's something you need to put on your resume or cover letter.

Sadie Jones: Exactly.

Alison Monahan: I think that's what we want to talk about here. You have to really handle this stuff, because sometimes people really get very, very upset about any of these issues: "I had that one terrible grade, I'm never going to get hired. I have to explain it in my cover letter." Do you think that's a good call?

Sadie Jones: No, I don't think that's a good call. I do think that the number one thing I see is that if something is sort of on the top of the mind of the student, because it feels like such a big deal to them, that they can tend to overemphasize things, or overdiscuss it, or want to point it out in such a way that it's not helpful and not necessary. And so, I think you want to be honest, but this need to explain things sometimes can go too far, and it's because you're uncomfortable with it.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, I think that's absolutely right. Sometimes people, it's almost like a tell. It's like they feel like they have to draw attention to these things that are actually the last thing that you want someone to be thinking about, because the reality is most people who are screening resumes are not actually calculating that closely the math on something. So, say it took you five years to graduate from undergrad for whatever reason, and you feel like you somehow have to explain that upfront. They're probably not, in 80%-90% of the cases, even going to notice that. You are not putting when you graduated from high school, so how would someone even know? You've got to think about it almost like that. Do you want to draw attention to this or not?

Sadie Jones: Or a lot of people need an extra semester to get through law school for whatever reason. I don't find that to be something major that you need to draw attention to, but as a recruiter the first thing I would look at is a gap in the resume. That's something I would notice, if there's a year where they don't have anything. And it's not necessarily a bad thing. It's just something that will need to be explained. So that's something to me that stands out more, exactly like you said, versus it took you longer to get through school or something like that.

Alison Monahan: Yeah. I've even seen people get advice that it's better to delay graduation than it is to have a gap. For example, someone I went to school with – this is a very bizarre story – I randomly ran into I think in Guatemala, who was a law school class... I remember now. I was on my bar trip, and I'm in Antigua and I randomly see this guy who I thought was the year below me in law school, and I'm like, "What are you doing in Guatemala? Shouldn't you be in school?" He's like, "Oh no, I decided I basically wanted to take a gap year, but they told me it would look better if I did it before I graduated, because then I can just explain it as



whatever." And so, that was what he was doing. He was basically taking a gap year in the middle of law school because he wanted to travel.

Sadie Jones: Interesting. I think that would be less obvious if he were sort of thinking ahead.

Alison Monahan: Yeah. He technically had some volunteer position, so he could put it on his resume.

Sadie Jones: Right.

Alison Monahan: But yeah, basically, he just wanted to drop out and learn Spanish for a year. And I was like, "Oh, that's really clever."

Sadie Jones: Interesting. Yeah, no, I think that kind of creative career planning is smarter than having something harder to explain.

Alison Monahan: Yeah. I do remember in my clerkship, my co-clerk at one point went to the judge when we were having lunch and said, "So, you used to be a partner in a firm. If you were hiring people, what would you think if somebody left their clerkship and then they want to be a ski bum for six months?" And there was this long pause and he says, "Well, I'd want to make sure I had an extra long interview to talk extra long to that person to find out what they were thinking."

Sadie Jones: Exactly.

Alison Monahan: He was like, "I'm not saying it'd be disqualifying, but I'd want to know what you were thinking."

Sadie Jones: But if you're taking six months off to do it before you started law school, I bet no one would think twice about it.

Alison Monahan: Oh, no one would think twice about that. Or even before a clerkship or something, if you had a delayed clerkship, because then you just explain it like, "Oh, my clerkship started a year later", or whatever, or six months later. But yeah, I think you have to be careful if you haven't done these things yet, kind of how they're going to play. But again, he was like, "I wouldn't disqualify you. I'd just want to talk to you more about what you were doing, and if you were actually motivated to practice law."

Sadie Jones: And I think that's the thing to sort of remember, is, everybody has a life, everybody has things that happen. The person who's interviewing you probably had things happen in their life. So it's more about how you explain it than it is really about the fact that it exists, because I can't imagine there's anyone who doesn't have something that fits into any of these categories.



- Alison Monahan: Right. You always have too little experience, too much experience, not quite the right experience. I mean, very few people are turning up to a job, applying to a job where they're literally the perfect candidate who has everything that the job is looking for and nothing else. It looks weird. It just doesn't happen.
- Sadie Jones: Absolutely. I've also heard recently from a few people who were concerned about their undergrad grades and how that was going to affect things. And I hadn't really heard that before, but I think that's also something that could fit into this category.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah. I feel like most jobs don't even ask about that, but then occasionally they do.
- Sadie Jones: Right. But I think generally it's not something I would spend too much mental energy on, because you got into whatever law school you were at.
- Alison Monahan: Again, it's one of those things. Don't put your undergrad GPA on your resume. Nobody's really going to think twice about that.
- Sadie Jones: I would only put it down if you did well.
- Alison Monahan: Well, I think I did well and I didn't put it on there, because I'm like, a) I don't even know what it is, and b) if you graduated with the highest honors, presumably you had a pretty good GPA.
- Sadie Jones: Exactly, exactly.
- Alison Monahan: Alright. So, where do you think people should sort of handle a lot of this? Is it resume, cover letter, or is this stuff you just hope you get to the interview and then if it comes up, you explain it? What's your approach here?
- Sadie Jones: I think some of it does depend on the situation. So, we just talked about the gap in a resume. If there is a gap in the resume, it's just going to be there. There's nothing that you can do there.
- Alison Monahan: Right. I always say, "Were you really just doing absolutely nothing career related? Did you have a volunteer position that we can kind of play up a little bit?" I helped my sister apply to grad school and her fish tour became a tour of the national parks and monuments of America.
- Sadie Jones: Yeah. So I think it depends what that time was. There are people who really didn't do anything, or maybe they were taking care of a sick family member. Maybe they had their own issue. Generally, you can put something on the resume if it actually happened, for sure, and there's always a way to phrase it honestly, but in a good light. I think the cover letter is the place to kind of



mention that, but I will say that I would keep it really brief. So, it's in the paragraph where I would be talking about my background and kind of just going through the basics. I think that there's a place to mention it. I do kind of like the person mentioning it there, because it is something, especially if it's a significant amount of time – I would say more than six months. It is something where immediately my eye would go there and I'd wonder. So if they just deal with it in a sentence in the cover letter, I feel like that just takes care of it, and then a lot of times, you don't even really need to get into it again. And it's like, "Okay, checked off the box, explained that, don't have to worry about that."

Alison Monahan: Right, exactly. It's like, "I took several years off to care for my young children, and now I'm excited to get back into the workplace." "Great."

Sadie Jones: Exactly.

Alison Monahan: "I'm excited to hire you."

Sadie Jones: I do think that there are situations where people kind of want to write too much in a cover letter to explain these things, where they don't really need to. It's sort of up to you how much personal things you want to share. I feel like if it's an illness or a personal situation, I personally wouldn't get too into it.

Alison Monahan: I agree.

Sadie Jones: Or at least into the details.

Alison Monahan: I feel like undersharing in that scenario is probably better than oversharing. No one really needs the exact details before they've even decided they want to talk to you.

Sadie Jones: Exactly. But for some reason, I found recently that the instinct is to overshare. I would always cut it back, and I'd probably say that with anything in a cover letter anyway. If it's too many sentences, you probably need to cut it back.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, it should be short. It should be on one page, for sure, and a short page at that.

Sadie Jones: But I think that a cover letter is also where you'd address kind of your path maybe, to law school, if it was "weird", or your general experience. I think in that same paragraph is where you can kind of address, "This is what I was doing before, and this is what led me to that." And I think, again, something you can do kind of quickly.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, and I think it can be a pro if it's related in any way to the work you're applying to do. I would probably bring it up then. If it's a con, I would probably



personally just let someone look at the resume and be like, "Huh, that's an interesting background. Do I want to talk to them? Let me see their transcript."

Sadie Jones: Absolutely. And I think with grades, it is kind of a grey area explaining bad grades or a bad semester or things like that. I know people will write addendums to their transcripts. It's the kind of thing where you're free to do that, but it is what it is. For whatever reason that those grades happened, if a firm, let's say, has a grade cut-off, you're kind of stuck. If you didn't meet it, you didn't meet it. There might be places where there is a grey area, and so maybe that'll help. And you showed that it was only that semester or whatever it was. But I will say, that stuff – you can explain it, but you can't change it.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, and if it's just one poor grade, you should not even consider mentioning that.

Sadie Jones: Absolutely not.

Alison Monahan: That is not something to draw attention to.

Sadie Jones: But I agree, I have seen people do that. That's kind of the key here, is to be honest, but not necessarily draw attention to things.

Alison Monahan: Right, exactly. Let people ask about it if they're concerned about your D+ that you got. But if you're talking about that in an interview, that means you've already got an interview, so there you go.

Sadie Jones: In my opinion, in terms of if it took you longer to go through school or whatnot, as long as you wrote when you graduated, I feel like you're being honest. Or when you're expected to graduate, unless you feel the need to explain it.

Alison Monahan: Another one that sometimes shows up is when people have failed the bar. And people can draw attention to that in ways that are absolutely unnecessary, that no one would ever notice. So, they graduate in year X, and then for whatever reason put that they passed the bar two years later, which of course, just immediately draws attention to the fact that, "Well, what happened?"

Sadie Jones: I always think that's strange, because all you really need to do is put your bar number.

Alison Monahan: Right, exactly. There's no reason to draw attention to the fact that maybe you didn't pass the bar.

Sadie Jones: And you're not lying.

Alison Monahan: Right, exactly.



Sadie Jones: I think that's the thing that people assume, that you're lying.

Alison Monahan: Yeah. You would be lying if you put a job that you're practicing law or something when you were actually not admitted. But assuming you're not doing that, then someone might even... Again, people don't look that carefully; they may not even notice that, "Huh, I wonder if they passed the bar the first time." And also, frankly, they probably don't care that much if you passed.

Sadie Jones: Yeah. And if down the road they actually look, let's say that they see that you graduated X year and then you were admitted like a year later – you can't lie if they ask you directly, I guess. But I agree, I haven't really seen it be much of an issue if you have passed and you were admitted. Let's just move on.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, like no one cares. Alright, let's actually touch on the issue, is it ever okay to lie? What if... Well, let's just start with that. Is it ever okay to lie on these documents?

Sadie Jones: I don't think so.

Alison Monahan: I agree.

Sadie Jones: I would say, absolutely not. But I guess the situation here is, what's a lie?

Alison Monahan: Right, we're going to get into that. I'm a lawyer, so...

Sadie Jones: Yeah, I would never do anything that I remotely thought was lying, because I promise you, it will come back.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, eventually something will come back to bite you. Okay, so basically, do not lie about something that is an actual fact, that can be looked up, or whatnot. That is a terrible idea. You're applying to be a lawyer. I think this is the sort of stuff that could make you get not admitted to the bar, or disbarred too. The bar doesn't look kindly on lying about things.

Sadie Jones: Right, it's like you could have had some kind of criminal issue, but the problem there is going to be if you say you didn't and you did.

Alison Monahan: Right, exactly. And here, I think, this is where you need to read very carefully what people are asking. So what if they just don't ask about something that you don't want to talk about? Can you just wait for that to come up?

Sadie Jones: I think you can.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, I agree.



- Sadie Jones: Maybe it's not the best idea in every situation, but generally, I would say if they didn't ask you for it, you're definitely not lying if you don't proactively say it.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah, I agree. I think if you have something you don't want to talk about, and nobody's asking you about it, just don't talk about it.
- Sadie Jones: But be prepared that if it does come up, you have an answer.
- Alison Monahan: Right, exactly. And we touched on this a little bit: Is it okay to kind of shade the truth? So for example, maybe you're leaving out some details about why you switched from full-time to part-time, because you were having some personal crisis. Or listing volunteer work under your jobs. What are your opinions on this?
- Sadie Jones: My opinions are, you are telling a story and marketing yourself, so it's okay to sort of shape it in a certain way, as long as you're not lying. So, you shouldn't say you worked somewhere that you didn't work, and you shouldn't directly say you were paid for something if you weren't paid for it. Or were in a different position than you were, or things like that. But I think that you can be sort of creative with your story. If you're applying for a certain job, you're probably going to say that's exactly what you want to do, even though that may not be exactly what you want to do. To me that's not lying; that's just trying to get that job, and kind of shape your interests in a way that makes the most sense for that.
- Alison Monahan: I agree. You need to massage your background in a way that makes sense. Say that you did switch from full-time to part-time, because whatever – you were too stressed out. You don't need to tell them that part. You probably don't need to say anything about it, you just put it on your resume. And if somebody does bring it up, then you have a story that's something like, "Oh, I had some things come up, and so I had to do this for a semester. And then I jumped back into full-time, and that's what I'm doing now."
- Sadie Jones: Exactly. And there's a situation, just like you said – just focus on the positive, focus on the moving forward. Don't get stuck in the what already happened.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah. Hopefully your grades when you were part-time were pretty good, so you can point to that like, "Hey, I had a really great semester, so it was a good choice for me. Next."
- Sadie Jones: Yeah, exactly. So, I think the key there is to feel comfortable with the story when you're talking to them down the road, if this is going to come up.



- Alison Monahan: Right. And I think a lot of these are really things that you probably should address and should expect to be asked about more in an interview. Do you agree with that?
- Sadie Jones: Definitely.
- Alison Monahan: You've gotten past that very first screen. And this person who's going to be interviewing you has to talk to you for 20 to 30 minutes. And they're looking in detail at your resume and cover letter, thinking, "What are we going to talk about?" And then some stuff starts jumping out at them.
- Sadie Jones: That's another situation where I wouldn't proactively try to bring things up in an interview either. I think students sometimes do that because they're trying to get ahead of it, and it's like, maybe they were never going to ask you about it.
- Alison Monahan: Oh yeah. My interview strategy was basically just like, I'll talk to you about your interests, see if I'd want to be in the same room with you. Other people have totally different approaches, which is why firms probably have you interview with six people or something. But yeah, I was never that eager to jump into like, "What happened in Torts?" I don't care what happened in Torts; I assume you didn't do well on the exam. It happens.
- Sadie Jones: Exactly. And I think a lot of people are like that. And then some of it depends on the seniority of the person that you're talking to, I think.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah. Some people are more comfortable with confrontation. Ironically, a lot of lawyers are actually sort of confrontation-averse. So, I'm like, "I don't want to get into that unpleasantness, just tell me about your trip to Turkey. That sounds interesting."
- Sadie Jones: Which is why you should always have an interest section on your resume.
- Alison Monahan: You should, absolutely.
- Sadie Jones: Because you could focus to that.
- Alison Monahan: Yes. I'm like, "Tell me what you want to talk about that's fun." Like, "Oh, you're into knitting? That's interesting, tell me about knitting."
- Sadie Jones: Yeah, and it's like you'd probably rather talk about that than...
- Alison Monahan: I might learn something.
- Sadie Jones: ...this the class that they took.



- Alison Monahan: Yeah. I don't care about your Torts grade.
- Sadie Jones: I've noticed that some things that students just automatically feel uncomfortable about or feel like is a negative – when they're talking to me about it, just telling me what they did or the thing that they're worried about – sometimes I immediately think, "I don't think that's a negative at all." Like, "I think that's actually good. You have X amount of work experience, you've shown initiative in this", or whatever it is. And so, sometimes it is just something where you've had this stuck in your head for a while. So some of these sort of weird or bad things aren't actually weird or bad.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah. For example, once someone I worked for once, preferred to hire people who had been in the service industry. So like waitresses... I think I snuck in, because I'd been a barista in college. And I was a programmer, this nothing to do with the actual job. But his philosophy was that that was a great way to learn client service skills. And so, whatever industry you were in, he's like, "You worked hard, you showed up on time, you followed instructions, you dealt with people. I think it's a plus if you worked in a waitress job." Whereas a lot of people I think applying to law jobs might think that's a negative.
- Sadie Jones: Definitely. And I totally agree with that; especially if you did it for, let's say, a number of years, like it was your main job to support yourself. I think that's a situation where people get worried. And it's all about to me how you frame it. "Yes, I know what it's like to please clients, and certainly difficult clients."
- Alison Monahan: "I've actually worked with people one-on-one in difficult scenarios to make them happy, multiple times a day. I can guarantee you I can deal with our client base here."
- Sadie Jones: Exactly. So, I think that is all how you frame your story.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah. That one certainly, you could come in and be like, "Oh, I'm so apologetic that I did this job." Or you can come and be like, "I learned more from this job than any other job I've ever had." Nobody's going to listen to that and be like, "Oh, whatever." They'll be like, "Wow, tell me more about that. What did you learn?"
- Sadie Jones: Yeah, because they're going to hear that you're positive about it, that you feel confident. And I think that's going to come across.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah. Well, how can people prepare for these scenarios? Say you are really worked up about something on your resume, and you really don't want to talk about it, and you're sure it's going to come up. How can we be prepared?
- Sadie Jones: Practice.



- Alison Monahan: Yeah.
- Sadie Jones: And I would get it out of your system, whatever that thing is.
- Alison Monahan: Like therapy.
- Sadie Jones: Yeah, I actually do think that that can be helpful in those situations. Because usually there is some underlying reason why it bothers you, or it's a trigger, that you feel insecure about it. So I would say, try to figure out some way to get through that issue. And then I would say, practice with probably different people, explaining your story. And people maybe who have never heard it. You could have friends who don't really know what your background is or what you've done before. So I think, feel like you have a coherent story, and that you've narrowed it down, that it's not too much.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah, I agree. It should be short. Basically, whatever you don't really love to talk about, you need to have a short, prepared statement that you just give to everyone. For me, with this weird background, it's like, "Well, actually, it turns out that designing a database is not really that different from designing a house or designing a brief. It's all the same thought process. So, I actually think it's really beneficial. Next question."
- Sadie Jones: Exactly, and then you move on. I think sometimes you can get yourself stuck in an interview in one topic by seeming like you want to stay there. But it's like, "Just answer the question, get to the next one."
- Alison Monahan: Yeah, sometimes definitely people are really oversharing totally unnecessarily. Yeah, if you've told me that you took time off to take care of your kids, I'm like, "Okay, great." I don't need to hear about that one who had food allergies, and the other one had this, that they were not doing well in pre-school, and so you had to drop out. It's just like, that's too much.
- Sadie Jones: Right. But the actual fact that you took some time off to take care of your kids is not really unusual or a big deal, so don't make it into a big deal.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah, exactly. And I think you can always go back to the positive: "I had the opportunity to be the president of the PTA, and I learned a lot of great skills. Alright, next question."
- Sadie Jones: Yeah.
- Alison Monahan: Alright. Well, what about if somebody – before we run out time here – sometimes people feel like their background is making it so impossible for them to even think about getting a job that they can't even apply, because you're sure



someone would just never overlook your D in Torts. How can people deal with that kind of angst and being stuck?

Sadie Jones: I'd go back to therapy. That's my answer to that question, probably. I will tell you that if I hear that, I 100% think that's you and not the jobs you're applying to, or other people. Because there's no way that no one will overlook some... There's always someone who will think that's not such a big deal. So it's a big deal to you, but I doubt that it's that big of a deal to every employer that you could possibly ever apply to. I think if your grades are a big deal – yes, you may not be able to look at the top law firms. But as long as you're applying to sort of the right tier and niche, then you'll be fine. Somebody will be interested.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, there are tons of lawyers who had terrible grades in law school. So you're just going to find one of those people and convince them that you're a go-getter and they should hire you. And that can't be that hard. There are a lot of people who are actually pretty proud about how terribly they did in law school, and they make this public knowledge. Go find one of those people and apply to work, and be like, "Hey, I want to follow in your footsteps. You're successful. You did not do so well in law school. Give me a chance, give me a shot." But that requires the confidence.

Sadie Jones: It's like all the people you hear about that have failed the bar, that are famous and successful. I also think sometimes people get worried just about the law school they're at, and they're really uncomfortable about that and somehow want to hide it or not talk about it. It's just like, they're going to know what law school you went to.

Alison Monahan: And also, there are alumni of that school, so go talk to them. They would probably be pretty happy to hire you.

Sadie Jones: Exactly. So, I really can't think of a situation where I would say to anyone, "This is hopeless. You shouldn't even apply anywhere. Maybe you have to do more applications, but that's fine."

Alison Monahan: Yeah, I feel like you can always position yourself for something. And this is really just a confidence thing, that essentially you just have to deal with like, "Alright, just acknowledge that you are afraid that you're going to be rejected and send those applications anyway, because the only way to not be rejected is to send those applications."

Sadie Jones: I also think it's a situation where you might need help or a fresh eye to look at all your stuff and say, "Hey, this is what I see here." Because I think sometimes you can be too in it.



- Alison Monahan: Right. No, I think that's a great point. I think sharing your materials and your background and your story with other people, whether that's a coach or your law school career services people or even just friends, and just kind of brainstorming: "Given the situation, where do you think I should be applying? Where do you think is realistic?" It's like, people will come up with ideas for you.
- Sadie Jones: Yeah, that you may have not thought about. And I think if the issue is a really big deal to you, it can just sort of be a road block internally. And so, sometimes you need someone to kind of get your head out of it. As if you were looking at somebody else's stuff – I bet you wouldn't view it the same way.
- Alison Monahan: Right. And you're certainly not going to tell them, "Eh, it's totally hopeless. Just give up." You would never do that for your friend, hopefully.
- Sadie Jones: Exactly.
- Alison Monahan: So you don't do that to yourself, either. Treat yourself like you would treat a friend who came to you for advice, and you'll probably end up in a better place. Alright, well, any final thoughts on this topic?
- Sadie Jones: I think I'm going to go back to the advice that if you're talking about something too much or writing too much about it, cut some of it, because you're probably drawing attention to it.
- Alison Monahan: You're probably oversharing in a way that is not necessary or helpful.
- Sadie Jones: Exactly.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah, I always think the less you can say and still be within the confines of technical truth on these things, is probably your best option. And then, if you want to talk about it, if they notice it, let them talk to you. And be prepared.
- Sadie Jones: And I will say having that thousands of students, very few directly lie. And the ones who do always get caught. I can think of a handful of examples of really bad lying, but it's just you're not going to lie. If you're already thinking about it, you're not going to cross over that line.
- Alison Monahan: Right. I mean, don't edit your transcript; they'll get the real copy, eventually.
- Sadie Jones: Yes.
- Alison Monahan: That's not a good choice.
- Sadie Jones: That's what I was thinking about.



Alison Monahan: I've heard of that happening too. You're like, "What did you think was going to happen when they pulled your official transcript?"

Sadie Jones: Yeah. When they ask for unofficial, it's because they know they're going to get official later. There's no way that you can fake that and have someone not see it later.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, alright. So basically, our takeaway advice is: Don't lie, but don't overshare.

Sadie Jones: Yes.

Alison Monahan: Alright. With that, we are out of time. Thanks so much for joining us.

Sadie Jones: Thanks for having me.

Alison Monahan: My pleasure. For more career help and the opportunity to work one-on-one with us, including handling your difficulties, check out [CareerDicta.com](https://www.careerdicta.com). If you enjoyed this episode of the Law School Toolbox podcast, please take a second to leave a review or rating on your favorite listening app. We would really appreciate it. And be sure to subscribe so you don't miss anything. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to Lee or Alison at lee@lawschooltoolbox.com or alison@lawschooltoolbox.com. Or you can always contact us via our website [contact form](https://www.lawschooltoolbox.com/contact) at LawSchoolToolbox.com. Thanks for listening, and we'll talk soon!

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