



Lee Burgess:

Welcome back to the Law School Toolbox podcast. Today, we are welcoming back Shirag Shemmassian to talk about the LSAT and law school admissions. Your Law School Toolbox hosts are Alison Monahan and Lee Burgess, that's me. We're here to demystify the law school and early legal career experience so you'll be the best law student and lawyer you can be. We're the co-creators of the [Law School Toolbox](#), the [Bar Exam Toolbox](#), and the career related website [CareerDicta](#). Alison also runs [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 reach us via the [contact form](#) on LawSchoolToolBox.com, and we'd love to hear from you. And with that, let's get started.

Welcome back to the Law School Toolbox podcast. Before we dive into this episode, I wanted to set the stage for this interview. Since we recorded this episode, our lives have ever been changed and turned upside down with the onset of COVID-19. As of April 22nd, 2020, the April LSAT has been postponed, and the LSAC will be offering an online version of the LSAT in May. This is likely not the last of the changes we will see with the LSAT as time marches on and our new reality sets in. If you are considering sitting for the LSAT in 2020 or even 2021, I would encourage you to frequently check [lsac.org](#) for more updates on their [COVID-19](#) and [LSAT-Flex](#) information pages. The advice on this podcast should still be helpful, but it will not reflect any realities of the at-home testing options or COVID-19. We hope you still enjoy this episode and are staying well and hanging in there. And now on to today's interview.

Welcome back! Today, we are welcoming back to the podcast Shirag Shemmassian and we are going to talk about the LSAT and choosing the right law school for you. So thanks for coming back to the podcast! I love repeat takers of our offer to join us.

Shirag Shemmassian: Yeah, thank you. Thank you for having me. I was on the hot seat last time, and it wasn't too, too hot, so I figured why not return?

Lee Burgess: Excellent. Well, I know we have another podcast that I really enjoyed doing a while back on [choosing the right law school for you](#), which we will actually link to in the show notes if people haven't heard it. But if folks haven't heard about you and what you do before, why don't you give us a little bit more about yourself and your business and how you help people looking to enter law school?

Shirag Shemmassian: Yeah. So, we do everything on the admissions side. So, we help students figure out what narrative to communicate across their application materials – so brainstorming the right topics, outlining their essays, and editing them until they're perfect, helping students figure out what schools to apply to, if there are interviews involved doing that, editing CVs. Basically everything around the



application process and even before then, advising folks on what extracurriculars to pursue, what courses they might want to take, what internships they might want to get involved in. Really everything involved in the admissions process outside of the LSAT, which one day we might take on, but at the time we focus on applications.

Lee Burgess: Great. Well, the LSAT fortunately, unfortunately, is a big part of that law school application. Now, it used to be that you had to take the LSAT. Back in the dark ages when I applied to law school, you had to take the LSAT. But things are kind of shifting in that space because now some schools are starting to accept the GRE. So how is the power of the LSAT changing or how has law school admission started to change recently?

Shirag Shemmassian: Yeah, it's a great question, and I've been getting this question more and more lately. To back up for a moment, what's covered on the GRE, right? So it's basically half-verbal and half-quant, so it's math and verbal.

Lee Burgess: Right. I took that even years before the LSAT. So that's the dark, dark, dark ages.

Shirag Shemmassian: GRE has been around for quite a long time, and then it's been increasingly accepted by law schools. Now, just off the top, I should say every law school accepts the LSAT; not every law school accepts the GRE, right?

Lee Burgess: Got it.

Shirag Shemmassian: So when you're thinking about GRE versus LSAT, one big question is, "How wide of a net do I want to be able to cast?" That's super important because let's say you want to apply to a certain 10 schools, but then six of those accept the LSAT but not the GRE. Then you have to ask yourself, "How badly do I want to apply to the four that don't accept the GRE?" So you want to consider the types of schools you want to apply to before making a decision on whether to take the GRE in lieu of the LSAT.

Lee Burgess: What if somebody has already taken the GRE? I think I was kind of in that camp of somebody who was not sure exactly what I was going to do. So I initially thought I might go do a PhD in something, and so I went and took the GRE. Then I decided I didn't want that PhD, and then at that time you just had to go take the LSAT if you wanted to apply to law school. So if somebody already has the GRE, should they still sit for the LSAT?

Shirag Shemmassian: Maybe yes, maybe no.

Lee Burgess: Okay.



Shirag Shemmassian: There are few factors to consider. Number one is, let's assume for a moment the GRE score has not expired, right? Because some schools are going to have expiration dates – three years, whatever the case might be. So let's assume that you took it in the last year, you're still eligible to use that score. Now the question is, "Should I also take the LSAT in addition to the GRE?"

Lee Burgess: Right.

Shirag Shemmassian: So let's assume for a moment that all of the schools on your list accept the GRE and the LSAT. So we don't have this issue I mentioned earlier about some of the schools not accepting the GRE. I got this question recently from someone who went to an engineering program and I think had a three, four GPA – which, obviously, engineering is really tough – but then had I think a 97th percentile score on the verbal section of the GRE, but a 99th percentile score on the quant.

Lee Burgess: So just terribly bombed it, yeah.

Shirag Shemmassian: Yeah. Had done really, really well on the GRE, and they asked me, "Hey, should I also take the LSAT?" So, of course, I brought up the issue about we want to make sure that every school in your list accepts the GRE, but I said, "Beyond that, I actually don't think you should take the LSAT because you're playing to your strengths." If you think about the LSAT, the LSAT doesn't include quant. So if that student is really strong in quant and they've achieved a really great score, by taking the LSAT, you might be introducing risk. Because let's say you get a score that's at the 90th percentile – it's good, but it's not great like your GRE scores. Then you can make a decision on, "These schools that accept the GRE, maybe I send them the GRE score. The schools that only accept the LSAT, then I can send them that LSAT score." But by playing to your strengths, you can maximize your chances. The question any school is trying to answer with a standardized test is, "Okay, we have students from different programs, with different majors, with different experiences. How can we put them on some sort of level playing field?" That's what standardized tests do. Whether you do exceptionally well on the GRE or exceptionally well on the LSAT score, the question we're trying to answer is, "Are you among the academic elite when we offer a level playing field?" And if I can answer that question with a "Yes", whether through the GRE or the LSAT, I've done my job.

Lee Burgess: Got it.

Shirag Shemmassian: The schools wouldn't allow the GRE if they were going to, I guess, think it was less valuable than the LSAT. They've come to the decision that these are both answering the question we really want answered, so you decide, but do great.

Lee Burgess: I think that that's really interesting. So, like most things, we can always give the lawyer answer, which is, "It depends."



Shirag Shemmassian: Yes.

Lee Burgess: But it sounds like if you are thinking about going to law school and you already have a rockstar GRE score, that you can consider moving forward with just that rather than put yourself through the LSAT, if it reflects really well on you. But if it's an okay GRE score, then it sounds like it's time to go ahead and try and do the LSAT to see if you can get a more impressive score.

Shirag Shemmassian: Yeah, exactly. And then you can decide what you want to do. You build in flexibility. But if I've done really, really well with the GRE and all the schools on my list, or most of them accept the GRE, then I might not need to.

Lee Burgess: Got it.

Shirag Shemmassian: So it's a question of weighing what's my score with which schools do I want to apply to.

Lee Burgess: And maybe timeline, depending on when you have the opportunity to sit for the LSAT.

Shirag Shemmassian: Exactly. And so, assuming logistically things are there, then it comes down to what your score was and the personal decision with the school list.

Lee Burgess: So, it seems to ebb and flow. We had a drop in law school admission numbers, and then things ticked up again, especially after 2016. So what now is considered a good LSAT number? Like an LSAT number that you're like, "I knocked it out of the park! I feel good! I'm going to get into the schools that I want!"

Shirag Shemmassian: Yes. So, it's no secret that we have a lot of law schools in this country. So, if overall numbers drop with regard to law school applications, it doesn't mean that the top schools now have lower expectations.

Lee Burgess: Got it.

Shirag Shemmassian: So even if overall law school application numbers drop, it's not like Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Columbia, NYU and so on now become less desirable.

Lee Burgess: Right, those top 14.

Shirag Shemmassian: Yeah, yeah, yeah. T14 schools are going to be really coveted no matter what, I don't know, economic times we're in or whatever the case might be. The top schools will always have top expectations. So what was necessary before the application drop is necessary now. So, I would say a good LSAT score for the T14



is going to be a 168 plus. Now, if you're thinking top six, if we want to narrow in even more – the schools I specifically mentioned like Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Columbia, NYU, etcetera – now you're going to have to do a 170 plus to be at that 50th percentile or above really. And then if you want to be 75th percentile and up, depending on the specific school, you want to do 172 plus.

Lee Burgess: So it seems like one of the things that's different with the application numbers when I applied to law school, the admissions numbers were insane. One of the problems a lot of the big schools were having is they had so many people with those LSAT scores that they could toss all the files on the floor, pick up a handful of them, and they were all qualified. You know what I mean? And so, even when it sounds like there are less applications, maybe there are just less qualified applications, but there are still more qualified applications than there are spots.

Shirag Shemmassian: Exactly. And the top schools have tremendous power where they can essentially blindly throw darts and they... A lot of admissions committees at top schools joke, "We can fill our class entirely from the pool of rejected students and still have a great class." So they are spoiled for choice. They get to look at everyone's applications and say, "Alright, we want people with high stats, and who have excellent experiences, and who have excellent essays and stuff like that." They don't have to come to any compromises.

Lee Burgess: Got it. That's a good point. Whereas as you get lower in the rankings, that seems to be where these admissions numbers really change things.

Shirag Shemmassian: Exactly. Because Yale Law is not worried about its yield.

Lee Burgess: Right. It's true.

Shirag Shemmassian: And so, you're just playing in a different sandbox when we talk about T6 or T14 types of schools. And then along with that though to your point, Lee, a lot of these applicants at top schools have top scores, and there are a number of students with top numbers who aren't getting into these schools. So, a strong GPA and a strong LSAT score are necessary but not sufficient.

Lee Burgess: Got it. Yeah, and then the thing that can happen is if you move down a tier – let's say you didn't get into those top schools, but you have those high scores – that can make you a great candidate for things like scholarships. And there can be other benefits that come... Having those scores and that solid application behooves you even if you aren't accepted into the rarefied air at the top.

Shirag Shemmassian: Exactly. It's like the big fish in a small pond type of thing. A less prestigious school will want to more aggressively recruit a top candidate because that will bring prestige to their name as well. So, I think achieving a strong LSAT score is



great for getting into top programs, but also improving your odds of getting great scholarships. That's an awesome point.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. Alright, so one of the things that we're seeing in the law school, but mostly the bar space is that a lot of people are kind of working while trying to prepare for the bar exam. I know when I prepared for the LSAT, I had a full-time job. Actually this is kind of funny about me deciding to take the LSAT. I went through a really bad break-up, and then I decided I needed to figure out what I was going to do next in my life. So, for some reason, I decided that going and doing a lot of yoga and sitting for the LSAT was how I was going to cope. I don't know why I decided the perfect combo for me, but... So I was very Zen, in good shape, and I would study for the LSAT in my free time. But I also didn't have a lot to do outside of work, so I pretty much worked, studied, and went to yoga. I think for a lot of people though, when you're trying to make this transition, it can be hard depending on your work/life balance to study for this test, because it is something that needs to be studied for, for most people.

Shirag Shemmassian: Mm-hmm. Yeah. Go ahead, I'm sorry.

Lee Burgess: No, no. And so, do you think that you're seeing more and more students who are trying to balance working and these applications, or has that pretty much been the norm for folks applying to law school?

Shirag Shemmassian: In terms of pushing really hard to do well on the LSAT, or...

Lee Burgess: Right, yeah. I mean, it used to be that a lot of people would take the LSAT maybe in law school, or they would not have very serious jobs so they were trying to study. But I think that, especially as everyone's feeling the money crunch, it can be hard to take time off to study, or study when you're not doing something else.

Shirag Shemmassian: Yeah, for sure. There are always going to be individual differences and circumstances you have to consider. It's one thing if you come from a family with means or something like that and you have the luxury of not having to work and you get to just study full-time. And that's what you're doing for a two, three-month period; versus working as a paralegal and simultaneously having to work. In those cases, I don't encourage students just to do your best, "It's okay if you don't have a strong score" or something like that, but to spread the work out.

Lee Burgess: Yeah.

Shirag Shemmassian: Hypothetically speaking, let's say that it's ideal to study for two to three months based on your natural abilities with logic, but also how good you are at standardized tests and whatever the case might be. But now you're working a



very rigorous job. You're working, I don't know, 50 hours a week, 60 hours a week, and simply don't have the same bandwidth. Well, then maybe you stretch a two to three-month study period to four to five months, and you do it more in smaller chunks but over a larger period of time so that your overall study time ends up being the same and you're not sacrificing your numbers because of this truncated timeframe.

Lee Burgess: And I would assume, just like in the bar space, if you do have a high-intensity job or let's say you have a lot of family responsibilities or your time is very precious – as all of our time is precious, but your time is very small and precious – that could be where you may want to look at getting a specific LSAT tutor who can customize your work to what you're doing, because often times the larger review programs aren't going to reflect these very unique situations, especially for people who are working a lot of hours.

Shirag Shemmassian: Yeah, yeah, yeah, for sure, for sure. And so you have to think about it based on your situation.

Lee Burgess: Yeah.

Shirag Shemmassian: I never make blanket statements about, "What you need for the LSAT is X amount of months", or something like that. Or even for the bar exam. I'm sure lawyers would say something similar. It's about, how much time do you have right now and how many total hours do you need to put into this? And then let's essentially work backward, like, "What's the date? When do I need to start by so that I can put enough time to achieve what I need to?"

Lee Burgess: And I think what's really hard I know for our bar takers, and I think for anybody, is to be realistic about what that time is. I have a lot of conversations with people about balancing working and studying for tests. And I'll say, "How many hours do you have?" And they be like, "Oh, I could totally do 35 hours." And I'm like, "Oh really, where? Where are those 35 hours coming from? You just told me you have a baby at home, and you have a full-time job. When are you going to study those 35?" And then they start to parse out, and then it starts to get very realistic that that's not possible. And so, I do think that one of the challenges for everybody is to be super conservative and realistic, and also realize that stuff happens. You get the flu and you're out for a week. You can't let that bring you down from your whole studying.

Shirag Shemmassian: Right. I mean, it's a marathon, to use the cliché. It's a marathon, and so just have the long-term game in mind. The long game in mind. And consider, "Okay, what do I need to do? Will there be dips? Will there be ebbs and flows and things like that?" Absolutely. You might be thinking, "Alright, I'm on this timeline and my practice test scores are going to increase in this linear fashion." And then all of a sudden you take one and you're like, "Oh my gosh, I didn't do as



well as I need to and I'm three weeks out" and stuff like that. That's okay. Just build in that time and whatever you need to be resilient; not only throughout your study process, but for the actual exam.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, and life doesn't stop because we've signed up for these tests.

Shirag Shemmassian: That's right.

Lee Burgess: Even though we might wish that we had that power.

Shirag Shemmassian: Yeah.

Lee Burgess: Stuff happens.

Shirag Shemmassian: That's a very Zen response, Lee.

Lee Burgess: Well, it may be. That is the lesson life keeps telling me, teaching me over and over again. Alright, so what about the situation where you've studied, you've prepared, you found a preparation program that felt good to you, you did all this work, you sit for the test, and it doesn't go well? Then what do you do? Do you just throw up your hands and say, "I shouldn't go to law school"? Or what are the different ways that you can approach kind of disappointing LSAT scores?

Shirag Shemmassian: Yeah, so numbers are very important for law school admissions. But what that really impacts is your school list. You might have thought, "Okay, if I achieve X score, then schools A, B, and C would be targets for me." But then you underperformed your expectations. Well, then maybe those schools now are reaches, right? So, now you need to identify new targets. That's one way to do it, to adjust your school list. Or if you say, "Look, no, I'm dead set on getting into schools in this tier" – then you have to figure out, "Okay when do I intend to apply, and when can I retake the exam? Okay, I have identified a date I can retake the exam. Do I have enough time to study to make a retake worthwhile?" Because you don't want to just get the same score or less because you didn't have time to study. So depending on when you have to submit your applications and how far you're out and what test dates are available to you, that's how you would approach the decision. Either adjust your school list or retake the exam, or both.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. And do you find that if people have a lot of flexibility and when they want to take the test... I think it used to be that you always wanted to try and take the October test if you were going to apply for the next fall. Do you still find that that is true? If somebody has a history of struggling with tests and standardized tests aren't their strength, do they want to try and start the process earlier to give them more opportunities to retake?



Shirag Shemmassian: Yeah, absolutely. If standardized tests are a struggle for you, don't take your first test, or the one you're really relying on, right before you need to apply. Because what happens if you take the exam and then you don't do as well as possible? Law school operates on a rolling admissions process, and you need to retake the exam and you need, I don't know, two months to achieve the score that you need to. Well, now we're in the new year and now admission is... It's a runaway train. It's going to move whether or not you're aboard, and so you have to think about this stuff ahead of time versus getting into a situation where you're essentially being squeezed.

Lee Burgess: Also, if you are a person that is struggling with the LSAT, do you think there's ever a point where you say, "I'm going to pause this and then go back to the GRE." Maybe if you've never taken the GRE, and try something new to see if that applies to your strengths, because maybe you do better on math than you do on logic games.

Shirag Shemmassian: Yeah, exactly. And again, because essentially they're seen as equivalent, if you do similarly well, then you can choose whatever you want folks to see. And again, math has logic to it, of course, the same way that there are verbal logic games and things like that. So, if that's a better format for you, do that.

Lee Burgess: Yeah.

Shirag Shemmassian: And GRE is also... There are so many more... You could take it like any time, versus LSAT, which has limited dates.

Lee Burgess: Right, that's the benefit. You don't have to wait until the next LSAT date. I think if you're trying to hedge your bets, it gives you a lot more opportunities.

Shirag Shemmassian: Yeah, tons. Between June 2020 and April 2021, there are, I think eight LSAT dates.

Lee Burgess: Right.

Shirag Shemmassian: Versus GRE, show up at a testing center...

Lee Burgess: It's like every weekend, basically.

Shirag Shemmassian: It's all the time, so yeah.

Lee Burgess: So, if you are somebody who's deciding to go to law school, I think trying to decide this path of how to do these admissions tests, seems like one of the things you really want to think about is your academic success on the SAT and getting into college. Do you think those tests can inform how you're going to do on these other standardized tests?



Shirag Shemmassian: Yeah. I'd have to look at recent studies that showed correlations between an SAT and ACT test and LSAT scores and stuff. But that trend always comes up.

Lee Burgess: Yeah.

Shirag Shemmassian: I shouldn't say "always", but it often comes up. And so, I think that is a good indicator for how long you should be studying. So if you know that you struggle on standardized tests and maybe you struggled with the SAT or the ACT, you might be the type of person who needs a little bit more time.

Lee Burgess: Right.

Shirag Shemmassian: Or conversely, if you had a 1550 on the SAT and you feel good about this sort of thing, you might need less time. You work quickly, you process information quickly, and all that kind of stuff, then you might not need the same thing. So, it's good to take an early diagnostic. It's nice to know as a rule of thumb if you did well on the SAT, you have maybe a higher ceiling on the LSAT. That's fine, but there's no substitute for taking a really great early diagnostic.

Lee Burgess: Yeah.

Shirag Shemmassian: And early diagnostics, for better or worse, they tend to be very tough, because testing companies and stuff like that want you to be like, "Oh my gosh, I really need study materials."

Lee Burgess: Right, "I really need to sign up for this course. Extra tutoring!"

Shirag Shemmassian: Right, right, right. So, take those. It's okay to be a little bit spooked in the beginning, because that's going to be a big motivator for you.

Lee Burgess: And I think the one thing that we are very passionate about, in law school and for the bar exam, and I think that same is true for these admissions tests is, you can study to become better at them. There are people who find these tests infuriatingly simple, but they are the outliers. I think most of us end up needing to do some sort of preparation for it, and that doesn't mean that you're not qualified for school. That is just what needs to be done. Just like most of us won't pass the driver's test if we don't study for the driver's test.

Shirag Shemmassian: Yeah, exactly. And standardized test prep – you're right, Lee – is just the norm.

Lee Burgess: Yeah.



Shirag Shemmassian: It's just the thing you do. I would be shocked honestly these days, if I speak with a student who said, "Yeah, I'm taking the LSAT and not prepping." They're the outlier.

Lee Burgess: Right.

Shirag Shemmassian: So, I strongly advise students to study and to study hard and to study deliberately, because these are not just tests of natural ability or talent or anything like that. They're obviously very teachable and they require skill, and skill is something that you develop through deliberate practice.

Lee Burgess: Right. So there could be a whole another discussion about the validity of these tests as deciding whether or not you should go to law school. But since they are being used as a point of admission, if you really do incredibly poorly and you are not likely to get into schools that are maybe even accredited by the ABA or you're in a situation where you're really in kind of a danger zone, they have done all these studies that show that LSAT scores do somewhat correlate to success in law school. The grades in LSAT scores can tend to correlate. So, at what point do you think folks should really sit back and decide if this is the right path? Do they just keep taking the tests until they can get into a better school, or is there a point where having a positive mindset means that you're going down a path that maybe isn't a good fit for you?

Shirag Shemmassian: Yeah, it's a question of how bad do you want it and what is it going to take to get there? If you're really, really set on becoming an attorney and that's your dream career and stuff like that, then do what you need to do.

Lee Burgess: Right.

Shirag Shemmassian: Now, I don't know, if you keep taking it and retaking and retaking and you're just really not doing well, then you have to ask yourself, "Okay, is this a study approach issue? Is it an ability issue?" or whatever the case might be. And then also to consider, along with that, alternative options, whatever it is that you're interested, either in the legal field or outside of it. But you're right, regardless of how you feel personally about the use of standardized tests for admissions and stuff like that, they are correlated with performance in law school. And I think there are also some studies about how they're associated with cognitive ability and stuff like that too. So they're not completely invalid indicators or anything like that. But you have to think about, "Alright, how bad do I want this? How much am I working at it? How many years has it been? What are the opportunity costs? What am I not doing in my pursuit of law school that I might be equally interested in or maybe just under?" But yeah, careers... Lee, it's funny that you and I are talking about this, but we've gone to grad programs and we don't sort of practice...



Lee Burgess: Right.

Shirag Shemmassian: ...exactly what we went to school for. Obviously, we use many of the skills that we developed by going to the programs we went to, but we have, through our career process, taken a different path. And so, I think career often evolves and there might be opportunities you're not paying attention to or don't know about right now that you very well may end up pursuing and very well may enjoy just as much as you would the other thing that you initially set out to do.

Lee Burgess: I think that's a very interesting point. And I think with law school even more than other graduate programs, because you do have the bar exam as this kind of penultimate exam at the end, that your ability to take and study for these tests is just a necessary part of this process. Even if you choose to become a lawyer through an apprentice program, which is allowed in some of the states, including California, you still have to sit for the bar. There's no way to circumvent that. It doesn't mean that you do poorly on the LSAT, you won't pass the bar, but if you have a history of struggles with standardized tests and the testing itself is something that you don't want to prepare for or that you have struggles with, you either need to really dive in and try and figure out could it be that you have learning differences that were undiagnosed? Could it be that you have debilitating anxiety? There can be those things that need to be dealt with, but you do need to realize that this is not your last test of a significant nature that you're going to take. If you think the LSAT is bad, the bar is worse.

I think there is just a realism about it, and I think that what you mentioned about looking at lots of different jobs in the legal field is very interesting. I knew someone who was behind me in law school, who was struggling academically, had some learning differences that were making law school exams and eventually the bar exam specifically very challenging. And so, she ended up deciding that she was not going to pursue a law degree, but then she was going to become a court interpreter because she was bilingual. So, she went and did the training for that. I mean, court interpreters are an incredibly important role in our legal system, and she was able to go down that path. They are good, solid jobs. They don't have enough court interpreters. But she still got to participate in the legal system, and in a lot of ways she really had individuals counting on her in a very specific way, which is also very powerful. And I think that in the end, that was probably the right choice for her, rather than just beating her head against the wall over the bar exam for years and years and years. So, thinking outside the box and not necessarily thinking of some of these different choices as failures is hard to do, but it's a worthwhile exercise to do before you dump hundreds of thousands of dollars into this process of going to school.

Shirag Shemmassian: Yeah. It's important to be flexible and to be open to different possibilities, even if you do pass the bar, like what type of law do you want to practice? Do you want to be at a corporate law firm? Do you want to be in-house? Do you want



to start your own thing? Do you want to do litigation? There are always going to be decisions. It's not like, "I did great on the LSAT, I passed the bar, now I know exactly what path I'm going to go down for the next several decades." And that's also true before getting into this whole thing.

Lee Burgess: Right.

Shirag Shemmassian: So, yeah, lots of personal decisions to make, and I hope our discussion serves as a helpful framework for folks listening.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. And I think if you are at the beginning of this process, if you are thinking about going to law school or if you're working on your application, I think talking to other people and making sure that you know what all the resources are available for you or you can strategize, especially if you have a unique story leading into law school, I think that's where admissions consultants can really be helpful to help you frame how you're going to apply to these schools, but also make sure that you know the resources that you can access and see if those resources are going to help you pass this milestone.

Shirag Shemmassian: Mm-hmm. Exactly.

Lee Burgess: Well, unfortunately, we are running out of time, but can you share a little bit about how people can find more about you and your company, and if they wanted to talk to you about law school admissions?

Shirag Shemmassian: Yeah, sure. The best way to reach out is through our [website](#). There are contact forms and opportunities to schedule consultations to discuss your admissions process. I know, Lee, you and I have discussed maybe linking to some useful [guides](#) like...

Lee Burgess: Absolutely.

Shirag Shemmassian: ...LSAT score that'll tell people a little bit more about what scores to aim for and how to think about the LSAT. And I'll also talk to our team about writing something about the GRE versus the LSAT. I think that's a very useful resource for folks to have. But really, it'll be a pleasure to connect with anybody, and certainly, it's been a pleasure talking with you again.

Lee Burgess: Awesome. Well, we will definitely link to those resources in the show notes and on our blog post. And I encourage students to reach out if they are interested in learning more.

Shirag Shemmassian: Awesome.



Lee Burgess:

If you enjoyed this episode of the Law School Toolbox podcast, please take a second to leave a review and rating on iTunes. I'd 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 myself or Alison at [lee@lawschooltoolbox.com](mailto:lee@lawschooltoolbox.com) or [alison@lawschooltoolbox.com](mailto:alison@lawschooltoolbox.com). Or you can always contact us via our website [contact form](#) at LawSchoolToolbox.com. Thanks for listening, and we'll talk soon!

**RESOURCES:**

[Shemmassian Academic Consulting](#)

[The Ultimate Guide to Law School Admissions](#)

[Law School Admission Council](#)

[Podcast Episode 217: Choosing a Law School \(with Dr. Shirag Shemmassian\)](#)

[Everything You Think You Know About Law School – The LSAT](#)

[Understanding the GRE Phenomenon in Law School Admissions](#)