



Lee Burgess: Welcome back to the Law School Toolbox podcast. Today we are chatting with Steve Schwartz on the changes with the LSAT post-COVID-19. 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. Today we are talking with Steve Schwartz, who is the founder of the [LSAT Blog](#) and the [LSAT Unplugged YouTube channel](#) and [podcast](#). And today we're talking about changes – which seems to be what we talk about all the time now – but changes to the LSAT due to COVID-19. So, Steve, I'm glad to hear that you and your family are safe during this strange quarantine time. The one thing I have been doing on our podcast now, which I typically don't do, but we say what day it is, because the world is so crazy that every time we talk about the state of the world, I think we have to say what day it is. Today is Monday, May 18th, so all of the discussion that we have is timely as of today.

Steve Schwartz: Well, thanks for that. Yeah, things are changing so fast that it's good to stay on track with exactly where we're at, because things are changing day by day, moment by moment, especially with this new online [LSAT-Flex](#). I'm learning more every day. So yeah, things move pretty fast these days.

Lee Burgess: And before we jumped on this podcast, you were just reminding me that there was an LSAT-Flex today.

Steve Schwartz: Yeah, there was, and it wasn't on the radar of anybody two months ago. We thought the March and April LSATs might still happen a couple of months back. But [LSAC](#) moved very quickly to get this out, and I'm glad they did because a lot of folks needed to take the LSAT, and law schools also need applicants. So, LSAC jumped right in and got this running pretty fast.

Lee Burgess: Alright, so let's back up a minute. So, for folks who might be listening to this who have not yet applied to law school, or are still trying to play catch up with how the world has changed over the last two months, can you give us a bit of a background of what has been happening with the LSAT since the onset of COVID-19?

Steve Schwartz: Yeah, sure, Lee. So, basically the LSAT had just gone from being offered four times a year in-person to nine or ten times a year. And back in 2019, LSAC switched from administering the LSAT on paper to digital on tablet. So, already



lots of changes over the past year. Now due to COVID, it wasn't possible to administer the LSAT in-person, period, in any format. So, LSAC had to cancel the March LSAT and the April LSAT. But law schools, like I said, they need applicants, applicants need to apply and take the LSAT. So LSAC very quickly, over the span of just a couple of months, moved the LSAT online. It's now at home, from your computer for the foreseeable future, as long as the pandemic persists and prevents it.

Lee Burgess: Wow. That's pretty amazing that they were able to move that quickly, considering that large bureaucratic organizations typically do not move that quickly.

Steve Schwartz: Yeah. I think in the testing world, all of us were kind of surprised, but luckily there is a company that has benefited enormously from this entire change, called [ProctorU](#). And they administer a number of different exams online in shorter formats, typically due to online proctoring requirements, but they were available and able to help. And so they're the ones handling the security and proctoring for this.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. So, how do you think the experience really changes for those who are sitting for the first time at home? Most college students maybe have just taken their first set of exams at home, but what do you think this means for people studying for the LSAT?

Steve Schwartz: Well, it's definitely a change, and a mix of good and bad. I think overall more good than bad. Like I said, the exam is typically shorter when it's online due to proctoring requirements – namely, you can't get up to go to the bathroom because that could be a security issue. So, they make the exam short enough that they wouldn't need to provide a bathroom break. So the LSAT, rather than being five sections of content is now only three sections, so you're done in two hours. That's probably a more pleasant experience for most people, I would imagine.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. So do you think that that's going to have an effect on scores? I mean, a two-hour LSAT is just mind boggling to me. That just doesn't seem to carry that much weight.

Steve Schwartz: Yeah. I mean, yes and no, because even when it was five sections in-person, one of those was experimental, so it didn't really count anyway.

Lee Burgess: Okay.

Steve Schwartz: Obviously three sections is more pleasant than five overall, but each question counts more. So, it doesn't change that much in terms of easy versus more difficult. And they adjust the scaling to account for that. So, it's not as if anyone



taking a three-section exam will have significantly higher scores out of 180. They're big on psychometrics and all the data analysis, and so they'll adjust for that.

Lee Burgess: So, with this shorter exam, how has the layout changed? So they took away the experimental section.

Steve Schwartz: Yes, they did.

Lee Burgess: Okay. And then how else does it look different for takers?

Steve Schwartz: Well, they also removed one of the logical reasoning sections. So, rather than two sections of logical reasoning – one games and one reading comp – it's now only one of each. And LSAC also confirmed that each question is weighted the same. So, logical reasoning has gone from half the exam to only about one third, and the other sections – games and reading comp – have relatively increased in importance. So, it actually changes the areas students should focus on accordingly as well.

Lee Burgess: Do you think that the providers who help people prepare for this test are also going to be able to pivot? Because it seems like that's going to, like you mentioned, change people's strategies for how they prepare.

Steve Schwartz: Yeah, it does change things a little bit. In my study programs, for example, I would tell students, "Spend less time on logical reasoning than you would have otherwise, and spend relatively more time on games and reading comp." But that's really it from a content perspective. The only other thing I would say is, you want to simulate test day differently as well. So, don't get ready to go to a testing center with a bunch of other people around you. Instead, make sure that your at-home environment is good, that you have a good strong Internet connection, and your desk is clean and you feel comfortable there, so you're ready to go. And you also have buy-in from roommates, significant others, friends and family who aren't going to interrupt you for those two hours.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, at least it's only two hours. I think what we're running into, I think with some law school exams and also potentially the bar exam, is it's not two hours, right? So you're trying to get buy-in for a longer period of time. So, cleaning off your desk and creating a space is very important. What about other technology things if people are thinking down the road? What do they need to consider? You clearly are running this off your laptop, or are they running it off of an iPad?

Steve Schwartz: Surprisingly, no tablets. They actually want you using a desktop or a laptop computer and no Netbooks, no Chromebooks. It's got to be a Windows or MacBook computer that is able to run their proctoring and security software.



- Lee Burgess: Okay. And so, have you read about or gotten reports of what this proctoring security software looks like from the student perspective? It sounds a little Big Brother-ish that somebody is kind of hiding over your shoulder on your camera. I'm not sure. What does it really look like?
- Steve Schwartz: Yeah, it definitely is. So it's actually a Chrome extension and it can kind of hijack your computer to screenshare and make sure that you're not running anything that you shouldn't, no other programs. And they are monitoring you, as you indicated, with a webcam and microphone for security purposes. So, they can see you. You can't see them. And you want to make sure that nobody else is in the room, no other devices are in the room, because LSAC is very concerned about somebody helping you cheat or helping you record the content of the exam, because these are undisclosed LSAT questions that they want to potentially reuse for future administration. So they would consider that a security issue. And they are recording everything for potential later review. And to add to the Big Brother-ishness, they're also using AI to monitor your eye movements in case you were looking anywhere suspicious for too long.
- Lee Burgess: Oh my gosh, that's so creepy, but I see why they have to do it. I'm trying to think what my eye movements would tell me. I don't know, I feel like my eye movements might give things away. Well, that's interesting. I think that that could be really anxiety inducing for a lot of people, especially given that they're not allowed to get up and go to the bathroom, they're not allowed to get up and get a drink of water. I would assume that people who are looking forward to the next administration of this test really have to study trying to mimic the scenario, because it can be very unsettling.
- Steve Schwartz: Totally. And I've recommended – back to that simulating test day idea – do practice tests at the same desk with the same computer you'll do the actual thing. And maybe you do a "study with me" with a friend, where you're on video together taking an exam, so you get used to that feeling of being watched by somebody else the entire time. Another thing I've seen pop up a lot recently is "study with me's" where people will actually live stream themselves studying on YouTube or Facebook. Obviously that is not for everybody, but it provides a measure of accountability, and it also gets you used to the idea that you're being watched by somebody who can't watch you. Because that is a little weird honestly, and you have that little webcam light on the entire time. That could be anxiety provoking, absolutely. But unfortunately, there is no way around it.
- Lee Burgess: Right. I feel like I've seen some horror movies where the camera comes on. Isn't that why people tape the camera and stuff?
- Steve Schwartz: It is, yeah. So I'd say, get used to it. There's not really much more else you can do, other than just get used to it so that you're inoculated against it when it happens on the actual day.



Lee Burgess: Yeah. That's really fascinating. I think you raise an interesting idea too, of streaming and getting used to this idea that somebody else is connecting with you while you're studying. I know that for my friends who have school age children, they've even had a tutor, basically. They've hired somebody to sit on Zoom or FaceTime throughout the day to try and help facilitate things for their kids who are trying to do some of this stuff online. I think this new world that we're in is going to really alter the way that we have to feel about connecting with people and how much of our life can be tracked from our computer. You and I do virtual businesses, we present content online, we do videos, we do audio, all of that stuff. But never really thought of anybody tracking my eye movements while I am doing my work. That seems like definitely an interesting place, and there could be some interesting privacy concerns around that.

Steve Schwartz: Certainly. I've definitely gotten a lot of comments around that. But this is one of those things where in a post-COVID-19 world, a large percentage of the population is exposed to these technologies. And then the question becomes, how do we go back once we've been exposed to it, given that there are certain benefits to this? Like online, at-home proctoring – no more need to book testing centers. You might give up a little bit of security or privacy in that people can see into your bedroom, but you don't have to go anywhere. No transportation issues, no logistical issues about booking testing centers or hiring in-person proctors. This is remote, could be anywhere so you don't have to travel for it. They could potentially administer this overseas as well. So, there are definitely lots of tradeoffs, but one big open question is whether the LSAT will be online going forward even beyond COVID-19. And I'm sure that's the case for a lot of other exams that have moved online as well.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. So what about accommodations for folks who get extended time or... ADA requirements require people to have a lot of specialized circumstances. Have you heard anything about how that's being handled in this electronic format?

Steve Schwartz: Yeah, I have. For extended time, that's a pretty easy adjustment because it just requires changing the countdown timer. So, common extended time formats would be time and a half, which would be 53 minutes per section, rather than 35 minutes per section, or double time – 70 minutes per section. Even for the 70 minutes per section situation, they do actually allow bathroom breaks.

Lee Burgess: I was going to say! At some point you've got to let people go pee.

Steve Schwartz: Exactly. So in that case, they do make an exception and allow it; I guess they don't consider it a security issue in that circumstance. But overall, the countdown timer is an easy fix. But for other kinds of accommodations, like visual impairments, they may actually provide the test taker with an in-person administration. Obviously with social distancing and other circumstances



required, they'll make those adjustments accordingly, but they will connect you with a local college or law school where you could take it in-person.

- Lee Burgess: Yeah. I do think there are going to be those situations that it's just going to be really hard to do that online. I'm thinking of students I've known, who have visual impairments or have to dictate things. It can get pretty tricky.
- Steve Schwartz: Yeah. They'll definitely make those adjustments. And one other adjustment that would require potentially an in-person administration as well is if somebody doesn't have a suitable device. So, what if you don't have a laptop or a desktop? What if you only have a Chromebook which isn't workable, or a tablet? In some cases they've actually mailed people loaner devices to use for the LSAT, or they might connect you with a local law school to take it there too.
- Lee Burgess: Yeah, that is true. And it sounds like stable Internet may also be an issue for some folks as well.
- Steve Schwartz: Definitely. That could be a huge issue, yeah. And so a lot of folks who have questionable Internet, I'm telling them, "Just reach out to LSAC, because you don't want your exam to be invalidated halfway through." It's stressful enough as it is.
- Lee Burgess: Right. I can't even tell you the amount of technology problems I have had today, and I have a brand new computer. It was supposed to solve some of my technology problems. It's just unbelievable, all these things that become way more important when we're conducting our entire lives over technology.
- Steve Schwartz: Exactly, yeah. Things can get a lot more complicated really fast. And so, I would actually tell students who are preparing for this LSAT-Flex, the content of the exam hasn't changed at all. I mentioned how logical reasoning has diminished, the other sections are increased in importance, but overall, this tech stuff – the setup and logistics – can actually be more important sometimes. As we said, today's Monday, May 18th. The LSAT-Flex was administered today for the first time. And some of the proctors didn't know that test takers are allowed to use scratch paper.
- Lee Burgess: Oh my gosh.
- Steve Schwartz: You've got to know that you are allowed scratch paper. Correct that proctor, ask to show them LSAC's site where they confirm that, because if you can't take it with scratch paper, that's way more important than anything else we could be discussing, given the importance of paper and diagramming logic games.



- Lee Burgess: Right. So, do they inspect your desk? How do they do that? If you're allowed to have scratch paper, how do they make sure that that scratch paper doesn't have answers on it or [CliffsNotes](#) on it?
- Steve Schwartz: Well, they have you hold it up to the camera.
- Lee Burgess: Oh, they do. Okay.
- Steve Schwartz: Yeah, they have you hold up both sides of the paper. You're allowed five sheets. So 10 pages double-sided, altogether of course. And you show it to them, both sides beforehand, and then at the end they ask you to tear it up.
- Lee Burgess: Wow. Fascinating.
- Steve Schwartz: On camera. Yeah.
- Lee Burgess: On camera.
- Steve Schwartz: On camera. Nothing getting out.
- Lee Burgess: This makes me feel like such a dinosaur, but it's just like such a brave new world.
- Steve Schwartz: Yeah. It really is one of those things where they've thought of everything. They've thought of everything. They don't allow mechanical pencils because of concerns about things like a hidden camera. Actually someone attempted to do something like that in-person decades ago, and they still don't allow mechanical pencils for that very reason.
- Lee Burgess: Wow. That's fascinating.
- Steve Schwartz: Yeah. There've been a number of cheating attempts over the years.
- Lee Burgess: Oh yeah. I mean, that's the thing, right? I think what's going to be interesting as we do make this transition, they're going to find out the creative ways that people can try and bypass things.
- Steve Schwartz: Oh, for sure. People were asking...
- Lee Burgess: No, I just remember in law school, hearing about somebody leaving a piece of paper in the bathroom or something like that. It's going to be a lot more sophisticated than that.
- Steve Schwartz: For sure. And people were asking me, what about hidden cameras? Could you hide a hidden camera in your bedroom before the exam starts? Theoretically you could, and they're looking for things like that, but that would have also even



been a concern at an in-person exam. So, things don't always even change that much; a lot of the attempted methods would still apply in either situation. But on an exam like the LSAT, or even the bar exam, I'd imagine that it's of limited usefulness because you still have the time constraint.

Lee Burgess: Right.

Steve Schwartz: If an exam is open book or it doesn't require memorization, what really changes?

Lee Burgess: Yeah, that's true. I think the bar exam does require a knowledge of the law, which is a little bit different. So, if you did have a cheat sheet for some things, that could definitely shift the playing field. I think that all of these tests, like the LSAT, your law school exams – they can still curve a law school exam even when it's open book, because the exams are just hard enough. And I think that's going to be what's kind of interesting to see where all of this goes – if it really becomes, in the more academic setting, about cheating because people know stuff. Then do just make it open book and then make it really hard? I think it's going to be interesting, but some of these archaic institutions are not going to give up their tried and true way of making these judgment calls. I also feel like I saw a few headers where some schools are not requiring the LSAT. Am I making this up? Or do you think that...?

Steve Schwartz: No, you're correct. Over the years, some schools have been taking the GRE as an alternative entrance exam. And then even most recently a law school in Arizona said they're not requiring either the LSAT or the GRE, because fall semester 1L is the best test of all, in their view.

Lee Burgess: Which is why it's so important to be successful academically.

Steve Schwartz: Right. Well, I thought that was a very creative interpretation of the ABA rules requiring a valid and reliable admission test. We'll see if the ABA cracks down on that one, but that's only affecting a very small number of people anyway. The question though is, could that grow over time?

Lee Burgess: Yeah. I think it's going to be an interesting new frontier, and I guess it's going to be up to the LSAC to make the law schools feel that these scores are still reliable in this new format.'

Steve Schwartz: And the admissions officers have all indicated universally that they are fine with LSAT-Flex. Three sections that are scored versus four sections that are scored – not a huge difference there. And they have a lot of faith in the psychometricians over at LSAC to produce a valid and reliable admission test. And I haven't heard anyone complaining about it honestly. The only schools that aren't taking the Flex results now are because of the timing in the cycle, because we're pretty





late into the admission cycle, not because of the content of the exam or that it was Flex versus regular.

Lee Burgess: Right. What about this idea that they're not going to include an experimental section? If this is going to be a permanent move, are they going to have to come through a new round of transition, because how do they keep producing the test without experimental sections?

Steve Schwartz: That's a great question. And I think that's the biggest barrier to the LSAT-Flex becoming the new normal way to administer the LSAT long term. Everything else aside, I think they could do it and they would do it overall because of the logistical issues regarding holding exams in-person. But moving it online, no more experimental, how do they test those questions out? They only have so many undisclosed test forms in the bank.

Lee Burgess: Right.

Steve Schwartz: So, they either have to stop releasing exams, period, and then run into the risk of people potentially seeing the same reused exam questions over and over, or they have to have some other way to administer and test out these sections. So, I don't know, it's an open question and LSAC has not given any indication about what the future will hold. I think they're just trying to make it through the next couple of months, and then seeing what they'll do with regard to administering it the rest of this year. But beyond that it's anyone's guess.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, it's tricky. Back in the day, I used to be an SAT tutor, part-time while I was in law school. And the company that I worked for was a small startup, and the owners, who were all in their mid to late thirties, would all go sit for the SAT, they would rotate. So at least two of them were sitting for every administration. And then afterwards they would debrief and trying to remember what was on the test. And it just makes me think, if they don't come up with a solution, that's basically what's going to start happening with the LSATs, but then that's not the right way to keep it fresh and new.

Steve Schwartz: Absolutely. That's always been an issue with standardized testing over the years for administrators that reuse the same questions over and over. It was an issue for the GRE back in the day when they had a very limited pool of questions. And if enough tutors go in and take the exam and remember the questions, if each person remembers one question and you have a hundred people, that's a hundred questions you've extracted, and you can show your students for future administrations. The GRE definitely had to change a lot of things around because of that, so I'm not surprised at all to hear that. It would certainly be an issue for the LSAT as well, especially given the importance of this exam in the admission process.



Lee Burgess: There's one bar review provider that got in trouble for that. I won't say who it is, but one of the big ones. They got in a little bit of trouble for that.

Steve Schwartz: I can imagine.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, it's fascinating. I'm remembering, again, continuing to feel like a dinosaur – I took the GRE before I took the LSAT so many, many, many moons ago. And they had just moved the GRE online and it was such a big... Or on a computer, it wasn't online. But you went to a testing center and there were like four computer desktops. And I remember thinking that that was so revolutionary that you would actually take it on a computer at all. So, it's just fascinating how things change. And then the fact that this is a necessity, and if they want this test to survive COVID, that they have to come up with a way to pivot.

Steve Schwartz: They do, and I think that this is not their ideal way to administer it. They're obviously facing a number of tech issues, as one would expect, especially on the first administration of an exam like this. But over time they will get better at administering it. But one question is, not everybody has the same device. There's a wide range of different types of devices out there. I mean, are you using a wireless mouse or a wired mouse? Are you using an ergonomic keyboard versus a regular keyboard? What are the pros and cons of each one? These are all things that nobody's really figured out yet. So, this is a big, massive experiment involving thousands of people. So we'll see what happens and make adjustments going forward. And of course I'll track this all very closely along with all the other prep providers. But it's interesting how there've been so many changes. Like you said, revolutionary to have it on a desktop. Last year it was crazy to have the LSAT on a tablet, and now we've moved it online. So, things just change faster and faster.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, they do. So, when do you think, if somebody has not yet sat for the LSAT and they're considering applying to law school in the future... Typically you don't always necessarily want to be at the beginning of these new transitions, because like you said, there are all these scenarios that they have not thought about and ways to handle all sorts of tech problems. In law school, we talk about how many people have their machines crash using the software, and in the bar exam the same thing, because you take it on laptops, or a part of the bar exam. So, when do you think things will settle out given the dates of the exam and how quickly and responsive the LSAC seems to be?

Steve Schwartz: Well, I would say first off, this week with the May LSAT-Flex – this is the trial run, especially those who took it today on Monday in the morning. They were the first guinea pigs for this. We'll know a lot more for those taking the June LSAT-Flex in mid-June. Beyond that, I expect July will also be canceled in-person and become a Flex.



Lee Burgess: Yeah.

Steve Schwartz: I think probably August is the most likely in-person. At least it appears that way at the moment, but really anything could happen moving forward. So, I'd say those who want some more certainty, aim for July or August at the earliest. And that gives them about two months to study. Assuming they've been studying already, those are reasonable target test dates. But as for predictions of when things will be stable, unfortunately during this pandemic time...

Lee Burgess: Who knows!

Steve Schwartz: ...it's really impossible to say. Nobody knows for certain, not even LSAC. And they're taking the "wait and see" approach for each exam because they do seem to remain hopeful that they'll be able to do it in-person, but who knows. Who knows. I'd say you don't need to take it soon though. If you're applying this fall, you could take it in August and still apply at the very beginning of the cycle. So I wouldn't try to rush this, and I wouldn't rush to do Flex over regular just because of any perceived benefits, because it is a mix of pros and cons. If you prefer certainty, hold off and wait. Only take the Flex if you really believe you'll be ready by then.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. Before you and I got on this podcast, Alison and I were doing a podcast on the bar exam and COVID-19. Every few weeks we've been doing an update because it's like a whole new world every couple of weeks. We can just talk about how everything's changed. But I think that it's also just different for different people who have to make different health considerations. I could see a lot of people saying, "No, I want to take the Flex because I don't want to have to make a decision in August if it is safe to go in-person somewhere." I think that typically the group of people who are studying for the LSAT are on the younger, more recent college graduates, you might be in your twenties, but everyone is scared. And so, I think it can be hard at that point in your life to look out and say, "But what if this isn't optimal? Or what if I delay this?" But it's your health and wellness, this is it. You only get your one life, your one body, your one everything. And I think that we all have to start making decisions, reminding ourselves of that. So, if you're concerned or you have underlying health conditions or you have a family that is at high risk, maybe this Flex option is better. Maybe it makes sense to actually push to take this because you may not want to be the guinea pigs in the in-person one either.

Steve Schwartz: That's a very reasonable point, and I'm glad you brought that up. I think anyone who has concerns about going in-person should opt for the Flex. And even if it's administered in-person for the vast majority of students, it is possible that those with special health considerations might still get some sort of accommodation from LSAC – of course, provided they have the documentation. It'll be up to LSAC's discretion. But I could see there being a situation where a limited



number of people could do it either online or with more restrictive social distancing measures, just for everyone's health and safety.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. Probably most of us have not thought about our health and safety this much ever in our lives, I think.

Steve Schwartz: Certainly not, yeah.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. Even as someone who's been pregnant twice – still, it's not the same.

Steve Schwartz: Yeah. This is something you think of every time you leave your house, right?

Lee Burgess: Exactly, I know. Well, one of my favorite things to do is to go to the farmers' market. I love farmers' markets. I live in California; it's like farmers' market heaven. And it's interesting to me how even that little thing that's been one of my favorite things I do, is so changed. I just pre-ordered my blueberries this morning, so I don't have to pay for them at the stand. And you mask up and you've got cash in one pocket and you've got the hand sanitizer in the other. And that's a very privileged thing to be worried about. But even the little things that we used to think were so easy and pleasant have become very complicated. And I am in an area that has not been as heavily hit as a lot of parts of the East Coast. And it's very scary.

Steve Schwartz: Yeah, it certainly is. Every time I leave the house, it's like the mask is one more thing to remember before going to walk the dog four times a day and stuff. Those constant reminders definitely add up.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, they do. And that's another thing we've been talking about, that I think anyone who's studying for something difficult has to keep in mind, is I think there is some universal fatigue that's kind of set in from this situation. And very few people feel like they're performing at their best. We were joking today about doing this podcast. I was not on my top game today because I have too many things, you had tech problems, you're trying to coordinate lots of different things in not ideal situations. And so, I think that people have to be a little kind with themselves. And if you are looking towards the future, if you were going to study for four weeks, maybe you want to study for six, because I don't know that you're going to be able to work at the level that you were going to be able to work. And there is inherent uncertainty. We don't know what's coming down the pipes and if our lives have to change again, and there's mental exertion required to do all of that stuff. I think there is mental energy spent getting the dog outside and maintaining safety for yourself and your family. That was mental energy that can't be used somewhere else.

Steve Schwartz: Certainly. So, on the one hand, you have folks who may have more free time than usual, and I would encourage them to make the most of it if they can. At



the same time though, if you have extra obligations or additional stresses, be patient with yourself. You don't have to get it all done in the next month or two. And if you have to push back your LSAT date, you certainly wouldn't be the first person to have to do that. There are plenty of people who've been postponing it for years due to different things coming up. For younger folks who are straight out of college, they might have more free time and not have as many stresses. But those who are working, who have families, who have other obligations – if you have to push it back, that's okay. You can still apply this cycle in the fall. Or even if you have to push it back a year, that's okay too. The LSAT and law school will still be there for you when you're ready.

Lee Burgess: It's true. I think that that is something we all have to remember, is that time has taken on this totally new meaning. But five years from now, 10 years from now, if you delayed something for a year but your family was healthy and safe, that's the most important thing. You're not going to think, "What if I had applied in 2020 versus 2021?", or whatever it would be.

Steve Schwartz: Certainly. In the grand scheme of things, a couple of months or even a year won't make a big difference. But as we said, health and safety, that's got to come first.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. Well, this has been really fascinating, despite the fact that I now truly feel like a dinosaur. I was really picturing the room where I took the GRE back in 2000 something. I will just say that it was early in the 2000s, having graduated college in 2001. But what would your final thoughts for folks who are leading into doing the Flex, and also letting people know how they can find more about you, what you do and how your websites and podcasts and everything can help people prepare?

Steve Schwartz: Yeah, for sure, absolutely. Thank you, Lee. So, the biggest thing I would say for folks preparing for the Flex is that, again, the content has not changed. All your previous prep materials, like the actual LSAT exams, are still perfectly relevant. Just remove one logical reasoning section and you've got a three-section LSAT-Flex exam. I have details on my site about how to adjust those scaling and such, but start there. And then for folks who want to reach out to me personally or look up my resources – again, I'm Steve Schwartz, I run the [LSAT Blog](#). I also host the [LSAT Unplugged YouTube channel](#) and [podcast](#), as well as a Facebook group, Instagram and such. I've got tons of resources on both the LSAT-Flex, as well as the digital LSAT. And I'm tracking all the latest updates as they unfold. So, follow me and reach out for more.

Lee Burgess: Awesome, Steve. Well, thanks so much for joining us today, and I hope your family continues to stay safe and be well. And with that, we are out of time. If you enjoyed this episode of the Law School Toolbox podcast, please take a second to leave a review and rating on your favorite listening app. We'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:**

[Start Law School Right](#)

[LSAT Blog](#)

[LSAT Unplugged YouTube channel](#)

[LSAT Unplugged Podcast](#)

[LSAT-Flex](#)

[Law School Admission Council](#)

[ProctorU](#)

[CliffsNotes](#)

[Podcast Episode 246: Influence of the LSAT on the Law School Admission Process \(with Shirag Shemmassian\)](#)

[Top LSAT Mistakes to Avoid](#)

[Tips for Self-Studying for the LSAT](#)