Lee Burgess: Welcome back to the Law School Toolbox podcast. Today we're talking about 10 things to consider when getting ready for your 2L year of law school. 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.

Hi, this is Lee from the Law School Toolbox. Welcome back! Today we are talking about 10 things to consider when getting ready for your 2L year of law school. Now, the summer before 2L can be exciting, as it is typical that you are working some kind of legal job or something that looks kind of like a legal job, even if it's for free, so it's a volunteer job. So Alison, how did you spend your 2L summer?

Alison Monahan: Well, the summer before my 2L year, I was working, I was getting paid quite a bit, actually. I was a 1L summer associate at a firm in New York City, so that was pretty awesome, I have to say. I basically just got to pretend that I was a 2L summer associate, even though I had just come out of 1L. Yeah, so I was a summer associate. I worked there for quite a number of weeks, actually. Made a bunch of money, had some fun, learned some stuff. It was great.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, but did you go to another firm for your next summer, or did you go back?

Alison Monahan: I did. So, the second summer I went to a different firm for most of the summer, and then I returned for, I think, two weeks maybe to this first firm, just so they could be like, "Oh, cool. We still like you. You still like us, right?" Everybody was great. They were great. I actually really enjoyed the place, but I decided not to work in New York after I clerked. But if I had, that would have been one of the places I definitely would have thought about.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. Well, I did work for free. I worked at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Oakland, and it was a very cool experience, partly because you are certified to go to trial – well, not go to trial, but go stand up and talk about misdemeanors. I mean, you can't really do much, but you can do something. And there are some really valuable lessons about standing up in a courtroom and talking to a judge. And so, it was a lot of fun. It was great. I did miss the money-making part of it; I did wish that could have happened a little bit more. But I did have a side hustle. I

was tutoring for the SATs, and so I did have a side hustle that I did to make a little bit of cash on the side, which I did all that summer too. It was a good summer, I have positive memories about it. But it is kind of a bummer if you aren't making money, because you might feel like you're working quite a bit, and I think a lot of people end up in public interest or free roles.

Alison Monahan: Oh, definitely. I think it's very rare to have a paid, fully paid, actual summer associate position as a 1L. You have to get pretty lucky for that.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. I did have an offer for one, back from the area where I grew up, but they wanted me to basically move back there to work for them and they were trying to court me back. So I had this big moment of, "Do I take that job and seal my fate, or do I take this other gig and work for free and stay in the Bay Area?" And you can all see what choice I made. I still feel good about my choice. I just still feel good about my choice.

Alison Monahan: I do think that's the thing. I think people just got to be realistic about the summer job, but that's not what this podcast is about.

Lee Burgess: No. Anyway, but hopefully, you are working or doing something legal-related. And I think when you're thinking about your top 10 things you want to think about for your summer before your 2L year, you want to make the most of whatever you're doing, and that means building relationships. You want these folks to be your references or write you letters of recommendation – that can be incredibly important. You want to make sure you're being professional. This is really the start of your legal reputation and you want to think about it that way.

Alison Monahan: Definitely. I think whatever job you have, whether you're thrilled with it, whether you're not so thrilled with it, make the most of it – you're there, you should be showing up on time, you should be ready to do whatever anyone asks you to do, within reason. Be that eager beaver like, "Oh, I'm so excited to be here", even if behind the scenes you're thinking, "Man, I really wish I was getting paid to dine out at a law firm."

Lee Burgess: Yeah, but you learn some really interesting stuff. When I was at the U.S. Attorney's Office, there was a huge patent case about dialysis machines, which is not incredibly interesting per se, I guess unless you're in the dialysis machine business. But the attorneys in our office said that it would be wise for us to go watch some of the trial when we weren't busy, and so we did. And I actually really enjoyed watching all these different, very high-dollar lawyers who were

flown in from all over the country and to see how different they were, to watch the jury interact with them. My dad was a litigator, and so I spent a lot of time in courtrooms growing up. It was not something that's new to me, but it's a different lens when you are in law school to start seeing what kind of lawyer do you want to be? And it's kind of fun to watch other people in that space. And sometimes in these jobs you have those opportunities. Don't be foolish and say "no", because you never know what you're going to learn from some of these lawyers. I looked these folks up, a lot of them were really at the top of their fields. They would be flown in just for certain parts of the case, because they were that specialized.

Alison Monahan: I think that's so true. I remember that first summer, the place I worked, they had a lot of trial lawyers who actually went to trial. And so they would sometimes take us along, people who wanted to come, like, "Oh, this hearing might be kind of interesting for you guys to show up to." So we got to go and sit in court, and I think that's one of the main reasons I really wanted to clerk later in a district court, because I just thought it was so interesting.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. So, there are a lot of experiences that oftentimes can come up on that summer, even if you're not making any money. It's just what it is. Okay, so that was number one, is to make the most of whatever you're doing. Number two is, think about your next summer job. That is the one that is typically more important, that is the one that can lead to a full-time job offer upon graduation. So, use this time to really network. You may be invited to attend any sort of networking event, or an industry event, or your alumni association at your school may have events. It's time to go and start meeting as many people as you can, because these opportunities will allow you to start building the network that you're going to reach out to try and drop resumes here pretty soon.

Alison Monahan: Yeah. And I think if you can do that with outside of your school, that's also a great opportunity. So, wherever you're working, there's a pretty good chance you might be meeting people from different schools. You might be able to talk to those people and maybe even organize a little happy hour or something like that, where you bring your friends, they bring their friends. Maybe some upper-class people come, if they're working in the same city. When you can be the host like that, it's kind of low cost in terms of time and money if you just organize a happy hour after work a couple of times during the summer, but it could really let you expand that network.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. Also, you never know what you're going to get invited to, like sometimes you can get invited to a benefit. Sometimes firms buy tables at things and they're going to ask, do you want to go to this event that celebrates whatever or

is raising money for whatever? And even if you don't have the means to give anything, if they need to fill seats at these events, you should still go and fill the seat and be personable, because oftentimes you talk to people in a social gathering like that in a different way than you were going to talk to them at a firm event. So, really just try and be open and say "yes" to opportunities as they come up.

Alison Monahan: And if you're working in a non-profit, they may be doing some type of fundraising with rich lawyers over the summer. In New York, there are these huge parties that happen at various points in the summer, where lots of lawyers go, but also lots of other people are there. Maybe that is one of the perks of working where you work, is that you get to attend things like that. So, you definitely should try to make the effort if you're invited.

Lee Burgess: Okay. Another thing to think about is honing your interview skills. Some folks will be taking part in OCI, which can sometimes happen at the end of the summer or early into the next semester, but your interview skills need to be on-point. And so, if this is something that you struggle with – no judgment, plenty of people need to work on their interview skills – the summer is a great time to do that. So you can do that by doing mock interviews, your school may have some resources. There are even folks like our career coach at our team who helps people do this. But invest time in it, because those are the jobs that are going to make you the money down the road, and so you don't want to be flippant. If you need to work on some of your skills, that is not a problem, but the opportunity cost of not working on those skills could be really high.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, and I think that's something people could even do with classmates. If you have a few trusted classmates – maybe people that were in your study group or something like that – you guys can do mock interviews on each other. Pretend you're the partner doing the interview. Now, okay, you're the interviewee. That's actually a great way to understand what people are looking for. I was talking to a long-time law firm partner on the podcast this morning. We were recording and I asked him, "What are the red flags of things that you don't like in interviews?" He told me, you can listen to that episode eventually. You can kind of think through that too: "Well, if I asked somebody this question, what would be a good response that I'm looking for? Okay, maybe that's kind of along the lines of what I should give." And what are bad responses? I remember I was doing an interview and I asked the person a total softball question: "How do you like law school?" And they said, "I don't."

Lee Burgess: I mean, it's honest.

Alison Monahan: It is honest. It is also not the correct answer to that question. So, if you're a person who might be a little over-honest, you might have to work on these softball questions that don't seem like they should throw you for a loop. But that is not a good answer, and that is probably not getting you an offer.

Lee Burgess: No. And oh, can we just take one second to say one of our biggest pet peeves is not having appropriate questions to ask in an interview? That's another thing you can get together with your friends and brainstorm: What are just some boilerplate questions that you can keep in your pocket? Never go to an interview and say you have zero questions.

Alison Monahan: Right, and it's totally fine if you all ask the same three questions. It doesn't have to be unique. But you need to have, I would say, five to 10, because sometimes you'll find people who are really introverted, and they have 20 to 30 minutes to talk to you and they have nothing to say. So you're going to have to keep asking questions, you're going to have to have your storyline ready to go. You should be thinking about, "What are the selling points of my background? What are people going to hire me for? What are going to be the things that they think are a little weird?" All these things you've got to have answers for, so you can absolutely start working on that now.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. And if you're not even sure what an interview question would be, you can ask our friend Claude the AI, because I have used Claude to create interview questions. And Claude is quite good, last time I checked – it's been a bit – at coming up with interview questions.

Alison Monahan: Oh, for sure. He'll even give answers. I've gone to Claude before and said, "I'm interviewing at a law firm. What are some questions you think they might ask me?" And then if there's one where I'm like, "Huh, I wouldn't know how to answer that", I might ask him, "What do you think are some good answers to that question?" He'll just tell you indefinitely.

Lee Burgess: Exactly. You can get in a room with a couple of friends and a glass of wine, if you want to drink a glass of wine, and just brainstorm, but it's going to really lighten your load when it comes to prepping for these interviews, which are stressful in the beginning. I mean, OCI is a bizarre experience if you participate in that because you just do first round after first round after first round, and it can get really exhausting talking about yourself in the same way over and over again. So the more that you practice and get comfortable with some of this stuff, it just helps you with the fatigue of that period of time.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, and we have tons of podcasts on this. So if you're not even sure what we're talking about, we have lots of stuff that, again, you could listen to now and be ready to use when the time comes.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. Alright, number four is to try and make some money on the side, if you are not working and making money in a legal job. So, I mentioned I tutored for the SAT. I also did a little bartending for parties as another side hustle in law school and during the summer. These are not going to fill up your bank account forever, but they can lighten the load of not working over the summer and help pad some of your lifestyle. So, I do think that it's worth coming up with a plan of how to have a side hustle if you need to over the summer. That's something else you can do, especially if you're trying not to take out as many loans or be a bit more frugal about how much money you're borrowing. You might need to come up with a plan to make some money over the summer.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, and it could even be something like babysitting or dog walking. A lot of these are flexible at this point. House sitting, potentially Uber, Lyft, Instacart. There are a lot of ways that people can make some side cash. And if that is something that you need to think about, this is a great time to do it.

Lee Burgess: Alright, number five on our list is something we used to talk about back in the day a lot, but I don't feel like we've been talking about it as much. It's cleaning up your online presence and thinking about your personal brand. Because if you don't know it, all these law firms are going to Google you and they're going to look on your Facebook and they're going to look on your Instagram and I guess your TikTok. I'm not a TikTok... I can't do one more thing. I'm always trying to spend less time on social media, I can't collect new social media things. But if you are active on all of those platforms, and if you've had an expressive life on the Internet, know that everybody's Googling you, and you may want to take a beat and scrub what's out there.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, and that might take a little bit of time to get it to go away too. So yeah, I agree. Number one is you want to make sure you're putting out content that is professional, that is consistent across the board, you don't have a resume one place that says something and on LinkedIn it says something else.

Lee Burgess: You think it doesn't happen? It totally happens.

Alison Monahan: Just raises questions that you don't want people thinking about, like "Oh, I wonder if they're lying about having done this." Not what you want them to find when they Google you. So yeah, I think you want to look at what's out there and

just really see, what do people find? And if it's stuff that you may not want them to find, you've got to start finding a way to put other stuff at the top of the list. Maybe you start writing some blog articles or posting stuff for your school groups, whatever. It doesn't matter; you just need to push the bad stuff away.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, I still think that Google loves LinkedIn. If you have a solid LinkedIn profile and you are posting on LinkedIn, and you're sharing things that are interesting, I think that still pops up pretty frequently when you Google somebody's name. At least it does on my algorithm. I don't know about everyone else's.

Alison Monahan: For sure. No, for sure. And it could be something as simple as, "I'm thrilled to announce that I'm going to be working for" whatever. They have a whole template ready to go for you to be thrilled to announce whatever summer job you've gotten. I mean, it's a little obnoxious, let's be honest. But I do think people are getting more into that as a social network, as other ones have declined. So, you might want to be posting something interesting that you read about in a class or over the summer or whatever it is. Obviously you have to think about client confidentiality. Do not be posting, "So excited to finish this brief on blah de blah with my client." No, do not do that.

Lee Burgess: No. But I think that it is really worthwhile. My other thing is, on your LinkedIn profile, please have a professional-looking headshot. You don't have to go pay for professional headshots anymore. You can do it with a nice background, on an iPhone, but make sure it's not the like party...

Alison Monahan: Yeah. Somebody's cut out beside of you at a frat party. No.

Lee Burgess: You think it doesn't happen, but I still see it. I still see it. Or you are in law school, and it's like your graduation picture from undergrad is on there. Not a great look. You think this stuff doesn't matter, but the people who are reviewing these profiles are typically much older than you are, and they're not going to think that is as appropriate, because it's a different time. The folks who are evaluating your work, we're at a much more professional time where photos on professional websites you were in a suit. And you don't have to be in a suit; you just need to not look like you're at a party.

Alison Monahan: Yeah. You just need a nice background, decent lighting, your hair is not doing anything crazy, and a reasonable-looking outfit.

Lee Burgess: Not a baseball hat.

Alison Monahan: Yeah. Just something that was like, "Yeah, that person looks like maybe someone I could consider hiring. They look pretty professional."

Lee Burgess: Yeah, exactly. Alright, so after you spend some time working on your LinkedIn profile, I think it's a good idea – tip number six – to spend some time doing informational interviews. We talked about networking, but I think informational interviews, which is also something we've been talking about for a very long time, is an underutilized way to learn more about the landscape of the legal field and jobs that you may be interested in.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, I have a very long ago post that we can link to, actually a series of posts on The Girl's Guide to Law School. Some of the first content I ever wrote, but still useful actually, about how to set up and conduct a really good informational interview. But people are very willing to talk to you if you reach out in the right way, typically. And not everyone. If you send 10 requests, I don't know, maybe six or seven people respond at all, maybe like three or four people agree to meet with you. But even that, that's several more people than you previously knew.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. And even just work your own network. I think sometimes we forget that even in our own circles, there can be people who can help you with this sort of stuff. I have childcare that works for me that goes off to graduate school and they'll be like, "Do you think you could write a letter of rec?" And I'm like, "You have no idea how good I am at a letter of rec." And then somebody will talk to me and say "Oh, I didn't know how to prep for this interview." And I'm like, "You know what I do for a living. I could have prepped you for that interview." Utilize the resources around you, because they don't always need to be legal. They can just be folks in a professional environment. If you want to practice doing some informational interviews, you could do it with anyone who has a corporate job. Get comfortable doing it. Use a template, ask questions. It just makes everything easier. We were talking about having your standard questions that you have to have at the end of the interview. I think the informational interview is the same thing – the more you do this, the easier it gets, the more comfortable you get in your skin.

Alison Monahan: Definitely. And I think having curiosity is really the key here. So sometimes people will have their 10 questions they want to ask in 30 minutes and they're just rolling through the questions, they're not really listening to the answers. But when you really start building that relationship, you might only ask one or two starting questions, but then the person says something and you say, "Oh, that's really interesting. I'd like to know more about that." And you do a deep dive into whatever it is that they're saying. And they feel like you're a great

listener and you're actually learning something. So, I think sometimes people have the idea like, "Okay, I did it." Well, what did you take away from it? Was it actually helpful for you? Did you learn something? Did you make a connection? And it's just a way of thinking about how to approach this differently.

Lee Burgess: It's true. And I think by getting a little creative sometimes with who you are doing some of these interviews with, you can sometimes ask for feedback, which is hard to do in a legal setting. Oftentimes you will do an interview and you may or may not get feedback. You may or may not want to ask for feedback. But let's say that it's someone in your circle, or you're going to interview just someone in corporate America, or you're just trying to practice these interviews. It's vulnerable to do it, but you may want to ask for feedback, because you may be doing something that you have no concept that you're doing that some people might think is obnoxious.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, I think that's a fine line. You have to be really pretty comfortable with that person and they have to be willing to be honest. But say it's like the parent of a childhood friend or something, who really does know and love you, but also realizes that you have an annoying tick.

Lee Burgess: Right. I mean, sometimes these things we really don't know that we do. It can be sometimes good if you're in the right situation and it's the right person to get a little of that feedback, because it can be hard to know. And when we get nervous, we do all sorts of weird things.

Alison Monahan: You can also videotape yourself, which is painful, but very useful.

Lee Burgess: It is painful, as we do this video podcast.

Alison Monahan: But I never look at the video.

Lee Burgess: Well, if I have to edit it... You're going to make me edit this first, I know. And then I'm going to have to look at it. Fine, it's fine. I mean, we've moved past judging ourselves on video, so it's fine.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, but I do remember one of the firms or something I worked at, they brought somebody in to film us and I just remember being mortified by this. I was like, "I am so terrible at everything I'm doing", which was not true, really. But when you see it... If you see yourself on video skiing and suddenly you slow

it down and you're looking at all these things, you're like, "Oh, that looks awful." But nobody notices it when you're just skiing.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. Yeah. Oh, one tip I will say from Zoom interviews or informational interviews is, if you have a tendency to look at yourself and fix your hair like this all the time... I have interviewed people on Zoom where they are clearly checking themselves out the whole time, and it's weird and distracting. So, you may want to cover with a Post-it note. If we use this software where we're side-by-side, you could just put a Post-it note on your face.

Alison Monahan: You may not be aware of this, I literally drag our photos off the screen, so I can't see them. I'm not watching myself. I'm also not watching you.

Lee Burgess: Well, there you go. I'm watching you, but I just like to talk to you and look at your face.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, I find it distracting, so you can always just pull yourself off. I'd say in an interview it's a little different, because you probably do want to see at least how the other person's reacting, but you can typically minimize yourself if it is distracting, which it often is.

Lee Burgess: It is. I will tell you, I've been shocked at how easy it is to tell somebody's doing that. It's really bizarre. Yeah. It's not a good look, so that's another thing you want to be aware of. So these are reasons why you have to practice and you have to be aware that if you can see yourself on Zoom, it's going to be awkward. And so you have to just come up with a solution. Don't say, "I can't be on video" – that's not a good solution. Just cover yourself up with a Post-it note.

Alison Monahan: Well, the other thing I would say is if you think you're going to be doing virtual interviews, you may as well go ahead and think about what is your lighting going to be, where are you going to set up? That can be a big deal. Do you want to get an external camera so you look better? All these things, ideally, you want to sort it out before, again, somebody asks you to come and do an interview the next day, so you're not running around being like, "Oh my gosh, I don't have a background that's appropriate." These are things that you can solve over the summer.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, good point. Okay, so we've talked about your brand, we've talked about doing informational interviews, and now we're going to talk about money. I know nobody likes to talk about it – number seven on our list – you need to spend some time checking in on your finances. Maybe you've worked and made

some money to pay some stuff off, maybe you haven't and you feel like you're deeper in debt. It doesn't really matter what the reality is, you still need to take a moment and see where you are and make sure that you're not paying high interest rates on a credit card or paying late fees on things, or you haven't not canceled subscriptions that pop up. Whatever it might be, you just want to kind of audit your finances before you take a bunch of loans for another year.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, I think just that check in: "Okay, does all this make sense? Is it all necessary? Are there ways that potentially I could make some money and reduce some of these other interest costs or whatever?" Because right now I think credit cards are like 30%, which is pretty crazy.

Lee Burgess: Oh my gosh, so crazy. I know, I just saw what the amount was, because my credit card got canceled, because it was fraudulent, they stole one. But they send you the notice again, and I don't carry a balance, but I was just like, "Oh, it's terrifying to see." It was like 29%.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, it it's literally crazy. I was just like, "Wow, that would really compound very quickly." So definitely, do what you can. Obviously law school is expensive, most people are taking out a ton of loans. But do what you can to make sure that you are spending your money as you wish.

Lee Burgess: Yes. Okay, number eight. We were just talking about how you're likely going to be starting to interview, OCI may even start over the summer for some schools. But you need to take some time to work on your resume, your cover letter, your writing sample. If it's not in good shape, you need to spend some time with it. And please don't leave it to the last minute. And please get it proofread by basically everyone who will read it.

Alison Monahan: Yeah. You don't want to be the one who uploads your resume to some portal that's going out to all these different hiring people, and then realize you have a really egregious typo. Just not a good look, really not a good look. Lawyers are very picky. The formatting needs to be perfect, it should be a PDF, it should not be a Word doc, all these things. You want to make sure that you're really putting your best professional foot forward when you start looking for jobs. And other people can help you do that, so let them do it for you.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. You need a friend – you are that friend for me – who can tell when the bullet font is different.

Alison Monahan: Oh God, I can tell an italicized period at this point. That is an insane thing. No one should be able to see that, but I see that. I'm like, "No, Lee, there're some problems here." You're like, "I don't know what you're talking about." But then when it's fixed, you're like, "Oh, that does look so much better."

Lee Burgess: I know. And then you've turned me into that person, because now other people send me things and I'm like, "The bullets are different sizes."

Alison Monahan: "This comma is italicized and the other one's not." You're just like, "Oh my God, we are crazy people", but we are lawyers. This is what you get trained for.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. And you were on the Law Review and they turn you into this person on the Law Review. Even if you had these tendencies before, it gets worse. And the thing is, if you're trying to go work at a big firm, everyone was on the Law Review. Everyone was looking for this stuff. We are trained to look for it.

Alison Monahan: I could never tell you that before I was on Law Review, but they blew it up to 14 times the normal size. And then you can see that that is definitely an italicized thing that should not be italicized. We've got to fix that right away. The world will end if this comma is italicized. We can't publish the article. I mean, it's absurd. It's totally absurd. This is why I hated Law Review, but it did make me a person who notices that now.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. And there is just something to realizing that it's the presentation of yourself in writing. You worry about what you wear to an interview, you worry about all these other things. This is how you're presenting yourself. And it may feel a little vulnerable to ask friends and family for feedback, but trust me, I really hate it when we get a resume that has not been put together well. I just find it insulting to myself, because it's a waste of my time. I just don't like it. It's not going to go over well.

Alison Monahan: Well, and also you have to understand that people reviewing these are assuming this is the quality of the work product that you will put in front of clients, you will put in front of judges. Would I want a client to read that? Nope. Okay, no, I'm not hiring that person. Sorry!

Lee Burgess: Yeah, that's so true. So, if you don't know where to start, talk to your Career Services office, get some help, reach out to us; we can connect you with someone on our team. But just floundering around and not doing it's not a great solution.

Alison Monahan: No, it's got to be perfect. All of that has to be perfect. I'm sorry, it just does.

Lee Burgess: It just does. Okay, so that we have fully stressed you out about OCI and getting ready for jobs, and then we've talked about your finances and you're stressed about money, don't forget to take care of yourself – tip number nine. You've got to prioritize self-care. Maybe you found your self-care really went in the toilet during the school year. I mean, it happens, especially with finals and things like that. So the summer is a great time to get outside, spend time with other people, try to get back to your hobbies, whatever you need to do. I think that it's just so important to move away from the laptop and the phone. Oh my goodness, I'm reading *The Anxious Generation* book, which everyone is talking about. And it is such a good reminder of just how much we get from socializing in real time with real people. When you can get away from your laptop and your classroom work and your books, be face-to-face with other people, because we get a lot out of it as humans.

Alison Monahan: It is a very stressful experience that you're going through, and 2L year is likely to be very busy. So, the more that you can get back to the things that you feel nourish you and make you a person who can cope with things, so much the better.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. Alright, and tip number 10 is, you also have to take care of life tasks. Summer is a great time to get your tasks in order. So, maybe you're moving – get your home life set up. Maybe it's the best time to go to all those doctor's and dentist's appointments that you've been pushing off. The eye doctor, maybe you need new glasses. But this is the stuff that you want to deal with over the summer as long as you can either do it in conjunction with your job, or maybe you'll get a bit of a break between work and school starting. But make sure that you do knock that stuff out, because they always say 1L they scare you to death, 2L they work you to death, 3L they bore you to death. Well, 2L is intense. I worked more hours my 2L year than I think I did my 3L year, and I was pretty busy because I was on the Law Review my 3L year. Totally different.

Alison Monahan: My 3L year, I was like, "Wow, this is like a vacation compared to 2L."

Lee Burgess: 2L is so much work, and you're taking really intense classes, and you're doing all this job stuff, and you might be taking on leadership positions in clubs and things like that. It's a lot of work.

Alison Monahan: Journal work.

Lee Burgess: Journal work. It just really adds up. Make sure that everything you can do over the summer gets done to lighten your load and automate as much of your life as you can, so you don't forget about stuff when things get busy. Remember the 29%+ on your credit card bill. Don't miss a credit card payment. Automate that stuff.

Alison Monahan: Less late fees.

Lee Burgess: Oh, late fees. Just automate that stuff. It's just so much easier. Just don't do it. Life is expensive, but the only people who win by you not paying attention to that stuff are banks.

Alison Monahan: Yeah. It pains me to even think about you giving your hard-earned or hard-borrowed money to a bank because you missed a credit card payment, and now they're charging you all this stuff. It's just, "Ugh." No, just don't let them win that game.

Lee Burgess: Don't let them win. it's just like writing dates down and automating payments so things don't get missed. It really is as simple as that.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, but you have to do it. So yeah, anything you can do to set yourself up for success in this very busy upcoming year, I think go ahead and do.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. I mean, have some fun. Enjoy the summer, get yourself set up, and then 2L year will be busy, but you'll be set up for as much success as you can come up with.

Alison Monahan: Busy but productive. Alright, well, everyone, please subscribe so you don't miss anything. And you can check out LawSchoolToolbox.com for help from our tutors or our career people.

Lee Burgess: 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 or 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:

Tutoring for Law School Success
The Anxious Generation, by Jonathan Haidt
Claude.ai
Podcast Episode 61: Making the Most of Your 2L and 3L Years of Law School
Podcast Episode 111: Resumes and Cover Letters (with an ex-BigLaw Recruiter)
Podcast Episode 149: Saving Money in Law School
Podcast Episode 185: Thinking About the 2L Job Search as a 1L (w/ex-BigLaw Recruiter Sadie Jones)
Podcast Episode 255: The Dos and Don'ts of Writing Samples (w/Sadie Jones)
Podcast Episode 442: Quick Tips – How to Get the Most Out of Your Summer Legal Job
How to Conduct Great Informational Interviews
How to Set Yourself Up for a Successful 2L Year
A Rising 3L Perspective on Going Into 2L Year
The 2L Slip – Balancing On-Campus Interviews and Extra Curricular Activities