Lee Burgess: Welcome back to the Law School Toolbox podcast. Today we're talking about why you should still study in school if AI will just be able to do the work for you. 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.

Alison Monahan: Welcome back! Today we're talking about why, or if, you should still study in law school if AI will just be able to do the work for you. Well, Lee, I'm excited to talk about this.

Lee Burgess: We talk about AI a lot actually, I think probably more than many people do. But I think it's a fascinating question. And if I was starting law school, I would definitely be asking myself this question, because on one hand I seem to see an article every other day that says that AI is going to take all our jobs and do all of our thinking for us. And then I read an article about how AI screwed up something and does not have the capacity to do everything for us. So, I think these are big questions and law students need to not put their heads in the ground and really think about what is the future of AI and how can they use AI now, maybe to make them a better law student. But unfortunately it can't do everything for us.

Alison Monahan: No, I mean I would definitely be thinking seriously about this question if I was going into essentially an information profession, because I think there're some really serious questions about the viability of certain roles that have existed for a long time.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. So maybe the first question is: What aspects of legal work can AI currently handle? I feel like "currently" is such a loaded word, as we understand at the moment.

Alison Monahan: Of 2025.

Lee Burgess: Right. And what are some of its limitations?

Alison Monahan: Well, I think it depends on who you talk to. If you are promoting an AI for lawyers tool, I would tell you it can do absolutely everything. You do not need any paralegals, you do not need any junior associates, you can just have it do

your work. I don't think that's necessarily accurate. I think there are aspects of legal research and document stuff that it can help with or it can do for you. It might make you more efficient – I think that's usually the goal here. It's not to replace people, but to make them better and make them faster. But I think there are a lot of questions around analysis. Even a lot of the things we've been seeing about making up citations. Or there was a classic one I recently read about, where Anthropic, which of course has our new friend Claude, and their lawyers filed a brief. And in that case it did not actually create a citation that didn't exist, but it did, I think, make up the title of the article and the authors, even though it linked to the right thing. So it wasn't quite as bad as these ones you hear about where people are just submitting fake cases that don't exist. But it was still not a great look, particularly in that scenario.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, I'd be really nervous using AI in my practice of law without double checking everything, because it is confidently making mistakes. It just did that to me yesterday when I was using it for something, until I called it on it, and it did admit its mistakes, but it wasn't going to admit it without me calling the computer on being a computer. But I think it's important to keep in mind what AI can do well. If I think of the work that I would do in my BigLaw firm, a lot of this cross-checking or consistency, which I think is a big issue in legal documents, is like, is everything consistent? AI is great at that, because it can see like, did you call someone the wrong name, or switch the parties, or did you mean to cite something and not have a citation for it? It is so much better than a person to do all of that work. And that is tedious work that I think it's pretty amazing that a computer can do some of that. Or summarizing large documents or organizing large documents, searching for things – these are all really powerful things. Where it gets a little sticky is that whole "thinking like a lawyer" part. And we're not so sure it's so good at that.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, I mean if you think about things that lawyers have been doing for a long time, using samples for things like responding to discovery requests and things like that – I'm sure you had to do that as a young attorney and someone basically handed you the forms we use for, if we agree, if we don't agree, if we kind of agree. And you just had to sit there and kind of go through these. But to a certain extent, some of that can probably be automated. Or if you're a trust and estates lawyer and you're doing a standard will or trust, something like that, where you've basically just been filling the blanks. Or real estate contracts. I mean, the reality is lawyers haven't been writing this stuff from scratch, hopefully, for a very long time. I mean, whether it was on parchment or whatever, there's always been a sample. So, I think things that are kind of rote like that, "Fill in this person's name and give me the contract back." Or one thing I've heard people doing is asking it for sort of unusual terms in a contract or

something like that. So, at least it's flagging things where you might want to take a closer look, but you still have to take that look.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, I did that. I fed it a lease and I asked it to summarize the lease and highlight any terms that seemed out of the ordinary or more extreme. And it summarized it, and then it said, "I would double check these terms", which I thought was great. I was like, "Thanks, I will double check those terms." And I did still read the lease, but it was kind of like reading the CliffsNotes before you read the novel. It just made it a little bit faster and it made sure that I paid more attention to the parts that I was doing. Now, mind you, this was just for me, nobody was paying me to do this work. But it definitely helped streamline that work and kind of helped me feel confident that I didn't miss something. So, that was great. I think the other thing is that many lawyers do client-facing work, and that is not automated. And a lot of attorneys are handling people in really hard situations, and that is still important. You're still going to need to give your legal judgment on the fly, typically, with a client. You're still going to have to walk clients through things. You're still going to have to negotiate with other parties. And all of that is not at this point able to be done by AI.

Alison Monahan: No, but I think you could get some coaching, if you know that your sort of bedside manner is maybe a little abrupt and you want to think of, "What would be a more gentle way to phrase this information that I need to convey?" Or even to practice saying things. I mean, you can get a lot of feedback like that actually from some of these tools. But yeah, you can't just send Claude in to do your work for you, unfortunately.

Lee Burgess: Maybe someday, but not now. I do love Claude, but I'm not sure that I want that output as all of my work. There's also that little bit of an ethical problem, which is that right now we all as licensed attorneys have ethical duties, and Claude doesn't. So, there's that.

Alison Monahan: Yeah. I think of it like we've said before – you can think of it as a paralegal or a legal intern. Someone that you would have to supervise, someone whose judgment may or may not be great, but they're good at certain things and you've got to figure out the parameters within which you can trust them. And that's not even mentioning the resource use and things like this, that we're destroying more planets, probably at some point, just to be able to run these things. So, also worth a consideration.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, that's true. I've read an article that talked about how much waste there is by thanking AI.

Alison Monahan: Yeah.

Lee Burgess: Or saying, "please", yeah.

Alison Monahan: Yeah. I found that sad, because I'm like, "Thanks so much!" And it sends me a paragraph and I'm like, "Oh, that was probably wasteful."

Lee Burgess: I know, but sometimes when it does a good job, I really want to give it positive reinforcement.

Alison Monahan: So yeah, I think understanding kind of where you can apply these tools in practice. And in law schools, where we'll get to, it's really important because you can't just turn it loose on everything and you don't have any responsibilities.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. So, we've touched on it a little bit, but we think about what skills will remain uniquely human as we understand it today, even as AI advances. So, what do you think are some of these skills that are unique and that law students should focus on in law school?

Alison Monahan: Well, I think for me a lot of it comes down to developing judgment, whether that is judgment about how a judge is likely to rule on something, or judgment about how you should deliver this news that maybe is unpleasant, or how you should ask a question of a client that maybe they're not going to be happy to answer. All of these judgment things I think become even more important. And a lot of that is the emotional intelligence too. And I know this sounds like not things you would be thinking about in law school, but I really think a lot of these skills are actually what are going to become super critical. And then of course, the ability to exercise judgment, in terms of what information are you accepting from your AI tools or anything else – that kind of meter of, "Huh, that doesn't seem right" – to me I think becomes even more important. What do you think?

Lee Burgess: Yeah, I think that's true. I also think about creative problem solving. AI can be a great brainstormer, which is one of its, I think, positive uses, but an experienced lawyer has some really good gut reactions. A good experienced lawyer has very good gut reactions about how to solve problems, and they can be pretty unique problems that involve a very human element to it. This is not like a coding problem or a data problem. And I think that is something that at least for now, is very unique. Maybe you could use the AI to brainstorm different solutions to a problem, but anticipating how humans are going to react or how they're going to behave, I still think that is something that experience, and as you said, judgment, still requires.

Alison Monahan: Right, because I think so much of lawyering, at least, I would say in a trial or in a deal, transactional setting, is really being able to read people and understand

what they might respond to. So sometimes, I don't know, I feel like people who are not lawyers want to put – maybe judges for example – they want to put them in a certain bucket and be like, "Well, this person was appointed by X, so they're going to rule this way." But that's, we all know, not really accurate. And so, it's always interesting to see what people are surprised by, when some of it's not that surprising to me. I'm like, "Yeah, that makes sense." But I'm coming at it from a different perspective and with a different background, a different understanding of how this person might think about things.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. And then there's the art of oral advocacy. I mean, when we think about litigators and trial lawyers, their job is still to convince a panel of jurors that their interpretation of the facts is correct. Maybe AI could write some of your opening and closing, but the way that you deliver, the way that you present things, the interactions you have with the jurors, your personas in the courtroom – that is still very uniquely personal. And as a daughter of a litigator, I spent a lot of time watching different lawyers in court, and it is a very unique skill and one that can be developed. But it is something that is very personable, it is about the human. And so I think if you're someone who wants to do that sort of work, that work is still going to be there for you, unless we change our judicial system, because it's still about people communicating with people about facts.

Alison Monahan: Right. And I think some of this is also the social and cultural context that some of this stuff is happening. I remember when I was clerking, we had a specific case, and it was a sexual harassment and workplace retaliation thing. And when they picked the jury, my co-clerk and I went in, we're like, "Well, this case is over." And the judge, who was an older white man was like, "What are you talking about?" We're like, "Did you not see who they put on that jury?" And he is like, "What?" And we're like, "Oh my God, you are missing so much right now." You can use these tools to sort of brainstorm like, "How would so-and-so respond to this type of argument perhaps?" But the reality is, these things have been trained on certain sets of data. They're biased in certain ways. There's lots of stuff they don't know. So I don't think you're necessarily getting a full perspective of all the different ways that people could look at something.

Lee Burgess: Oh my gosh. I think jury selection is a great example. Jury selection in and of itself is an art, not a science. And some people are quite good at it. Some people become consultants and that's all that they do.

Alison Monahan: Yep, fascinating.

Lee Burgess: It's fascinating. If you've never really dug into that and you want to learn about it, that could be a fun summer activity, because it is really fascinating. And the

next time you get called for jury duty, you should watch how the attorneys do it. It's fascinating. There can be sticky notes or there can be charts, but everybody's got a system.

Alison Monahan: Everybody's got a theory too.

Lee Burgess: Everybody's got a theory, everybody's got a system, everybody has their favorite demographics. It's wild. Anyway, that is something that is very like in the moment and in the present, and when I think about all of this, I think the courtroom is really where you don't see AI, because the courtroom is still about people.

Alison Monahan: Right. And like you mentioned, jury consultants. I was on a case with a jury consultant and they tell you all these things and you're just like, "You have no idea, you're making this up as much as anybody else." And we did sort of a pre-trial show, basically, for three different sets of fake jurors. We presented part of the case, they all sat and watched exactly the same things. Two of the three juries came out one way, one came out the other, and we could watch how they got there. So, it's fascinating. It's very unpredictable.

Lee Burgess: Yeah.

Alison Monahan: Although, in the case with the judge, we were 100% correct. A hundred percent. It was an absolute disaster for one side. And we're like, "This is going to be a bloodbath, and they don't even know it." And we knew it literally as soon as they picked the jury.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. Yeah. Well, I guess let's look at the future. How do we think the legal profession... Because we can all look into the future. How do we think the legal profession may transform with AI, and what new opportunities will emerge? Because with all changes usually come opportunities. So, I think one of the opportunities is if you are comfortable learning these tools, you are going to be able to possibly be better in your role. And I think that one of the things you and I talked about, I feel like when we met – which was a while ago now – but when we first started talking about doing our own project together, we talked about how law school made us really good studiers. We were just really good at learning stuff. We had to learn how to run a business and we just read books and learned how to do it. We weren't perfect, we made some mistakes, but we just kind of were quick studies on it. And I think that if you can take that idea and apply it to your legal career and have an openness about it and say, "Change is coming, things are going to be different." There was a time when everybody still researched from books, and then they said that LexisNexis was going to kill the lawyer, and it didn't, right? It just changed how you worked.

And I think that there's an openness to this saying, "How do I understand these tools and be the best at using them, one, so I don't get into ethical problems, and two, so maybe I can either do more work or be more efficient?" So to me, there's an openness around it. I don't know what the legal profession's going to look like in 10 or 20 years, but there will still probably be lawyers. And those lawyers will need to have an openness to learn new tools.

Alison Monahan: Right. I mean, throughout human history we've needed to adjudicate disputes. I mean, some people think the bots are just going to talk to each other and sort it all out, which may be; probably not. People are still going to get in fights about things and want to negotiate things. These are very basic, kind of human things. But I think you're right – you can't put your head in the sand and be like, "Oh, I'm only going to go back to the books to research cases." No one does that, it would take absolutely forever. And all these tools, electronic research tools are obviously evolving, and quite quickly. But you want to understand, again, the limitations of the tools and the power of the tools. Maybe this is pie in the sky, but hopefully we can actually increase access to justice through some of these systems. Maybe it can open up things where people can either have a lawyer that is less costly for the same thing, or maybe just have much better self-help tools that actually are functional. And this isn't stuff that people haven't been thinking about and working on. I think it just opens up new horizons. And in terms of career paths, obviously there are career paths here in all sorts of different things. And again, we saw this happen pretty quickly with discovery and then e-discovery, and all these things. And suddenly there were these paths for people who are lawyers or trained as lawyers to do something slightly different. And I think that's actually a huge opportunity for a lot of people if they're interested in this sort of thing. Obviously people are wondering, "How do I use this? What is it? What does it look like?" And I think there are huge opportunities there.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, I think that this idea that it could just streamline how we do work... You and I love process. So, if you're new to the Law School Toolbox, just buckle up, because Alison and I love process and we love optimizing, so we are constantly asking ourselves, is there something that we can streamline or optimize? Or is it still something that fully needs a human to touch it at every point? And I think access to legal services is a really great question. One of the time-consuming things is collecting information, and I could see AI being able to collect information from a potential client and sort it and put it in some sort of a condition that a lawyer can then review and make judgements on. And instead of having multiple interviews, now of course we have AI note-takers, which can help with certain things. But a lot of what I think is powerful is just dealing with lots of information, and some lawyers are really strapped because they can only do so much with all the information they have to manage. And if the computers

can help you manage the information so you can do the uniquely lawyerly tasks that a human needs to do, you might be able to serve a lot more people. And so, it's just going to change the way you work, but it just might be that there's more access. It's like there's no shortage of need in these kinds of legal services industries.

Alison Monahan: And I think even something basic you alluded to – it has been astonishing how quickly we've started using the voice-to-text. Not long ago when we were getting transcripts for these podcasts and things, we had to pay a service and had people doing it, and they frankly weren't that great. And now, a computer just does it in minutes, and they're better. So, if you are in the transcript business, that's a problem. If you are a consumer of transcripts, that's awesome.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. And I've had some really great experiences with AI note-takers. I was on a call with an attorney and there was an AI note-taker in the meeting. And it was very clear that she had taken those notes and edited them and highlighted the to-dos and circulated them, and that would've taken a long time to do. And then we all had the information and we could move on, and then they've got records. I mean, there's some really powerful stuff that again, just saves all of this time. I mean, I guess it was billable work, but who wants to spend their time making meeting notes? No one. No one.

Alison Monahan: Who wants to pay for that?

Lee Burgess: No. Nobody wants to pay for that.

Alison Monahan: And no one should pay for that hourly.

Lee Burgess: No, yeah. But it's amazing just in the time that we've been doing this podcast, how our podcast process has been really changed by tools and AI-powered tools, to make it much easier for us to deliver content to you. It's a lot easier than it used to be.

Alison Monahan: So, we can do more content.

Lee Burgess: Yay!

Alison Monahan: We can do video, we can do more stuff, basically, in the same amount of time. And probably, frankly, with less money spent on it.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, exactly.

Alison Monahan: So, that's where the magic happens, I think, in the legal profession. Not like, "I'm going to outsource myself or nobody's going to have a job." It's like, how do you do more, do it better, and do it cheaper? I mean, that's the holy grail right there.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, exactly. So, if I am starting law school or considering law school, is it still worth it in the AI era? Do I need to study? Do I have to learn this stuff? I'll just answer my own question.

Alison Monahan: Great, go for it.

Lee Burgess: I think you have to ask yourself if this is the type of world that you want to be in. If you wanted to go into law to just move papers around and not speak to anybody, those jobs I think might be harder to come by, depending on how all of this shakes out. I don't know, do you think the paper pusher jobs are still going to be there? Probably? I don't know.

Alison Monahan: I mean, less so. If I'm going to really want to sit in an office by myself and only write, I want to be an appellate attorney or something along those lines. I think the high-volume practices, things like immigration, or even employment, or car ticket stuff. But again, maybe you can just do more. Maybe you can make more money, because instead of helping 10 people in an hour, you're helping 50 people in an hour. I mean, it's scalable.

Lee Burgess: It is scalable.

Alison Monahan: You probably don't need as many people in your practice, but if you're the person coming up with how you're going to do this, I think it's very viable as a career path still. I don't know, I'm sure most people at least have been exposed to, if not read, the article that came around where they were interviewing students, I think mostly at Ivy League schools about how they don't do any work anymore. And I mean, let's be fair, those people have always been at these schools. I went to fancy schools. I can tell you there were definitely people there that did not do a lot of work and still managed to graduate; in some cases did pretty well. So, I don't think that's so new. I think maybe it's a little more extreme, because law school, like any graduate degree, is kind of about a variety of things. And it might be about learning and exploring something; it might just be about getting a credential. And some people are very clear: "I just want to get the credential and move on with my life." But that's not so unusual, I don't think. I don't think that's new.

Lee Burgess: No. I mean, maybe it's easier to do. But as we've been saying in this podcast, you're still going to have legal requirements, you're still going to have to practice law. It may be slightly different, but if you want to be a practicing

lawyer, you still have ethical obligations, you're still going to have to understand how all this stuff works. AI is, at this point, not going to replace that. I just wouldn't want to be a bad lawyer. I mean, that sounds exhausting to me. And if you're going to spend a ton of money to go to law school – because AI's not going to make law school any cheaper – so, if you're spending a lot of money going to law school, I still think you want to try and get something out of it if you want to enter the legal profession. Even if the legal profession is going to change while you're there, I still think that there's a lot to be learned. So, will people cut corners? Always. But you have to ask yourself like, why are you there? I would learn something.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, I get it – you fell behind in a class, you need a canned brief to catch up. It's not like, again, any of that is particularly new. It's like, maybe now you can ask ChatGPT to explain some area of tort law that you missed, and maybe it's right or not. But you could also just go get a commercial outline and the rules will be there. It's not like you can't find this information pretty easily.

Lee Burgess: No. Or you could ask ChatGPT to do your course outline for you, but you don't know it.

Alison Monahan: You also could just get an old student outline and it would be probably equally good, if not better.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, and still you're not going to know it. I think part of the deal is, the creation of these documents is how you learn stuff. So if you just outsource all of it, you're not really learning. But I also think that it's important to think about how AI can make law school better. I know that you have an interesting podcast episode with Lindsay Scola, who's talking about AI helping students with ADHD, which I think that's a really interesting idea. Do you want to say a few words about what you all talked about?

Alison Monahan: Yeah. Well, I think it's a fascinating topic, because she was diagnosed late in life with ADHD, which was transformative for her. And as a writer has found AI tools to be literally transformative of her in terms of getting started, and she was being paralyzed by not being able to find words. And that would totally derail her for like two days, trying to think of the word "banana" when she was thinking of "apple". All that's just gone now. It has made her so much more efficient in terms of getting her own ideas out. And it's not that she's writing a book of like, "Write me a book on AI for ADHD", push the button. That's schlock. We all know what that sounds like. So, the book is actually super interesting. And it's her own thoughts, but she obviously used AI tools to help her get started and for formatting and getting stuck on not being able to use a particular tool. So, I think there's a lot to be said for using these tools in a smart

way to make your experience better. Well, before we wrap up, I guess we should talk about how legal education is actually adapting to incorporate some of this. I'm going to have an interesting podcast on that. So, I know we're talking to a lot of people. I think a lot of people have interesting ideas. What have you seen?

Lee Burgess: Yeah, I think that the idea that the law schools need to not put their heads in the sand and realize that this is going to be part of legal profession is important. I think some law schools are starting to grapple with that, or live in reality maybe, more than others. And I think it's interesting, I think it causes big questions. Do we want to be training law students to just be drafting things with ChatGPT? Maybe, I don't know. But those are some big questions. Also seems like it's not always that good at what it does. If I had had this tool when I was in law school, I think about trying to pick my note topic for my Law Review note. And gosh, the brainstorming for that was really hard. I spent a lot of time. And having a tool that could have assisted me in doing that and kind of helped me see what was out there or look for holes and information... That's one thing that I do often with AI, is, I feed it a bunch of information and I'm like, "Where do you see a hole?" And I think it can do that in a way much faster than a human can. I think that would've been very powerful and that would've made it a bit better. And maybe you can use that brainstorming as an attorney by engaging with some of these tools – of course, keeping client confidentiality, which is a big issue of how do you use these tools and protect your client information. So, we can't ignore them, but I also think that we shouldn't assume that these tools will always be there for us and that we won't have to still produce a certain level of work, because we don't know. We don't know what the energy consumption realities are, access, if things become prohibitively expensive. We don't really know. So, I still think that we need to know how to do the work, and then you can ask AI for help to be more efficient.

Alison Monahan: Right. Or if you're even thinking about law schools, even something like a closed-book exam, or the bar exam. Obviously those are all evolving, but it's hard to say that any point in the near future, I don't really see the bar exam saying, "You know what? We're just going to let you have ChatGPT alongside of you to help you out." That's unlikely.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. I thought that in Lindsay's book, one of the things she mentioned was, when do you realize you've reached a tipping point where you're using these tools too much? Because she was also talking about how we all have to practice doing certain things. And I can't remember if this example came out of her book or somewhere else, but it was about the fact that nobody knows phone numbers anymore, because we don't have to.

Alison Monahan: Right, she talked about that.

Lee Burgess: Yes, I know a couple of phone numbers.

Alison Monahan: I think I literally know one.

Lee Burgess: Yeah.

Alison Monahan: I know two. I know my mother's, which was mine when I was growing up. And I know mine.

Lee Burgess: Yes, I know some of the digits of yours because weirdly enough, you and my husband's phone numbers are very closely aligned.

Alison Monahan: Right. So I kind of know some of his, actually.

Lee Burgess: Yes, exactly.

Alison Monahan: They're actually sort of similar to my boyfriend's, the whole thing. Yeah, there's certain numbers that keep showing up in weird patterns. But actually, off the top of my head, I could give you two numbers.

Lee Burgess: Exactly. So, that's a skill we've lost. We used to have to memorize phone numbers and we don't have to do it anymore. And she kind of makes the argument that if you feel like you can't write an email without using ChatGPT, that's a problem. If you can't proofread something without ChatGPT, that's a problem. And so, I think that as a law student, that might be something that you can keep in mind. It's like, "Am I relying on these tools because I cannot do it on my own anymore?" I don't think you want to be that way. I know that my kids will probably always have some sort of GPS-type device as they become older. We all have them now. Yet, I will teach them to read subway maps and maps, because they might have a dead device. I mean, things happen in the world and you still need to know how to read a map. And so, I do think it's the same idea. It's like, how can you use these tools to raise your level but not to become so dependent on them that you have no other skills?

Alison Monahan: Yeah, the mapping one is a perfect example, and Lindsay and I talked about that. She's like, "You can't just turn off your brain and stop looking out the window when you're driving because the map is telling you to go a certain direction, because you're going to drive into something."

Lee Burgess: Yeah.

Alison Monahan: Like, the road is closed, there's a lake there, actually, it's flooded, whatever it is. But yeah, I think there are skills that people have kind of lost, which is unfortunate. I mean, even the idea of going to a physical library and being able to find a book, I think to some people is very confusing these days.

Lee Burgess: Oh my gosh, I just did this with my daughter the other day where we were deep in the Dewey Decimal system, and I realized it had been a long... And I do get library books, but oftentimes I reserve them online and I just walk in and they hold them for me. I hadn't done the whole search for a very specific book. And I was rusty, I'll be honest. I was rusty.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, but then you also realize kind of the benefit of it. I was also in a library recently, on our new library kick, and you realize the beauty of the Dewey Decimal system is that once you arrive at the shelf to find the book you were specifically looking for, there are all these other related books that you can just kind of take a look at. Like, I just browsed the cookbook section to see if maybe I wanted to get a cookbook.

Lee Burgess: I know, It's pretty cool. So, I don't want to be a zombie that doesn't have independent thoughts or creativity. And I think that I don't want to give that all up to the bots. And I was thinking about this when I was traveling in Amsterdam, where we were visiting the windmills. And they still use the windmills for many things. They use the windmills to pump water. Pumping water out of spaces is a big thing in the Netherlands, because there's lots of it.

Alison Monahan: Yeah. The Netherlands is very into the flooding, the dikes, the water. Where the water goes is a big deal.

Lee Burgess: Moving water around is a very big deal. I did not appreciate this, but it's a very big deal. And they still use windmills to pump water in various situations. They still use windmills to make certain paint colors and certain things. They just decided that they still want to make things this way, that this is part of their culture or it's part of how things have been done a very long time. They don't consume fossil fuels, they're wind powered, they're incredibly powerful. If you've ever stood next to one of those windmills when it's spinning, it was a little terrifying. I was very blown away by that – of the power, the sheer power that the wind generates on those windmills. But I also realized that it was a choice. It was a choice that they decided that they still wanted to use these tools. And I feel like in maybe the legal profession, and maybe as a culture, we're going to have to start making choices. And as a law student, you have to choose what type of law student you want to be, and do you want to cut all those corners or do you want to try and gain as many skills as you can? Maybe

be open to technology, but also make sure that you have a lot to offer. And I think those are your choices, so you should think about them.

Alison Monahan: I 100% agree. And it's not just like what type of law student do you want to be or what type of lawyer to be? It's like, what kind of person do you want to be? I think that's really the fundamental question that comes so sharply into focus when you have a tool that is not a person that can do a lot of things, and it's kind of an existential dilemma of, "What do I bring to the table here?" And I think that's worth thinking about.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. Oh well, I think that's quite a provocative way to end this episode. Till next time!

Alison Monahan: Till next time. Check us out on LawSchoolToolbox.com. And be sure to subscribe so you don't miss our deep thoughts.

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!

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