

Artificial Intelligence: a Threat to the Legal Profession or New Opportunities?

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Is the legal profession still popular? Is the right to study right now? These questions have been asked by the COURT OF JUSTICE, the leaders of the leading universities in the country, preparing the leaders of the country's leading lawyers, leaders and prominent academics, with whom we have talked about today's student lawyer, his career prospects, whether the current educational tools, methods and techniques are working and what are the biggest innovations in educating young professionals.



Lyra Jakulevičienė, Tomas Berkmanas ir Tomas Davulis

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Interview with Dean of the Faculty of Law of Vilnius University prof. dr. Tomas Davulis, Dean of Mykolas Romeris Law School prof. dr. Lyra Jakuleviciene and Dean of the Faculty of Law of Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) prof. dr. Tom Berkman.

- Do you think the profession of lawyer is still so popular and the right to study is still a great honor and prestige compared to the last century?

T. Davulis: - To continue to be a prestigious and popular lawyer, we can deal with the demand for an abundance of young lawyers every year, as well as from these professionals. Every year more than two hundred students choose the Faculty of Law of Vilnius University, and some of them come from the most remote places in the world. Lawyers occupy one of the most honorable and highest positions in the state, become fighters for justice, and a large part of the profession is constantly involved in public life, contributing to the creation of a safer, smarter state, which is certainly an honor.

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SLAPUKŲ NUSTATYMAI

SUTINKU

L. Jakulevičienė: – Legal studies, like all social sciences, have been unduly underestimated in Lithuania in recent years, emphasizing the importance of technological sciences, which is unquestionable, but even technology needs law. The legal profession is eternal, it can be compared to a doctor because the purpose of the law is to help prevent conflicts and solve the problems that have arisen. It is the foundation of the whole state, so the profession of a lawyer has definitely been and is of great importance at all times, regardless of different evaluations. At the same time, legal education is universal, so the profession of lawyer should not be narrowed down to the classic profession of lawyer, bailiff, notary, prosecutor or judge.

Legal education is indispensable in business, the banking system, the insurance sector, the civil service, and more and more legal knowledge is needed in the healthcare system, data protection and elsewhere. Sometimes it is a shame that the responsible authorities do not take this profession into account when calculating the employability of lawyers. Indeed, the employability of university graduates is one of the highest, and salaries in this area outperform many other professions.

It should be borne in mind that law is constantly changing, there is a need to regulate ever new phenomena (various new technologies), so the training of lawyers cannot be static, oriented only to prestige. The development of lawyers (in studies) requires not the accent of prestige, but the innovations that would allow a graduate to work in practical and complex situations would have mastered the newest legal technologies and guided by values. That is what our guidelines for Mykolas Romeris Law School are.

T. Berkmanas: – The legal profession is currently transforming both globally and locally. Important changes are taking place in the 4th industrial revolution and technological development. Issues related to the integration of artificial intelligence into human life are discussed intensively, the challenges related to our ethical, political and legal paradigms are discussed. I do not think that this will lead to a fundamental change in our political and legal framework in the sense that the branch of power III (as a human authority), together with the whole justice system, will become less or no need at all. However, the changes will certainly take place. And both the profession itself and the academic world will depend on how it will be.

- How would you describe today's future lawyer?

T. Davulis: - Today's future lawyer is already one foot in the future - he is catching up with the latest technology, he is not only reading the law, but also interested in other disciplines related to the field, learning to understand and analyze various legal problems, trying to go with time and adapt to lightning strikes in the 21st century. In general, today's student is brave, curious, critical and willing to get the most out of studies.

Future lawyers are increasingly expecting their teachers to see their authority, top-class professionals and their field professionals who will broaden their horizons and skills during their sessions, not just the information that can be found online. In my opinion, this curiosity is to be welcomed - we encourage students to think analytically, logically and critically, because it is not possible to learn from solving the problems of legal problems alone. In addition, such students encourage retraining. I am delighted that we can meet their expectations in this faculty - not only high-level scientists, but also some of the best Lithuanian practitioners - prosecutors, judges, public servants, lawyers - are preparing here for future lawyers.

L. Jakulevičienė: - It would be difficult to unambiguously describe today's future lawyer. Some come to study right after school, expect the university to be different from school; others are looking for legal knowledge as the extra work required for their work, their need for law is often mature, motivation is clear. Much of our students are new generation children - they need to be interested in studying, they

know a lot, otherwise they accept information, details are not always important. Together they are impatient.

For example, after writing a message to a study manager, they can still write to the dean on the same day, stating that no one is responsible to them. They are characterized by a high degree of self-confidence, which is important for the lawyer, especially when working as a lawyer or judge. They are very pleased to see that they do not feel crushed into the frames, otherwise they look at internationality - they do not feel the geographical boundaries and do not close in the national space alone, participate in many social activities.

T. Berkman: - Without a doubt, today's lawyers must be innovative, active, creative, committed and, above all, ethical and moral. However, I notice a few trends - some students still want traditional lectures when the teacher tells and the students write down; individual students even specifically ask for it, they do not want something different and ask, "Why do we not kill codes?" This is associated with a certain comfort zone that has not dominated universities for so long as the usual form of activity. On the other hand, it is precisely this kind of environment that has come and still comes to change. The Faculty of Law at VMU has long understood that this needs to be changed so that such an environment is not the medium for preparing a good lawyer. Socratic Teaching Method For over 20 years, teaching at the Faculty focused on case analysis and simulation of court proceedings has been practiced. The experience of the faculty graduates shows that this model of study organization was especially useful for them in their professional activities.

- How much attention is paid to international experience in preparing lawyers? Do many students go abroad for exchange programs? Do many of us come to gain knowledge?

T. Davulis:- Special attention is given to international activities and practice at the Faculty. We collaborate with 60 foreign higher education institutions, where students can go to study, encourage a semester or several to spend at foreign universities and get acquainted with the legal systems, culture and other international relations of other countries. True, so far more students come to us from countries other than those who want to leave for a semester abroad. We are actively cooperating with our neighbors in the European Union, and among the Baltic States, we are leaders in the development of legal professionals who later return to their countries and use the knowledge they receive in their home country. Foreign, mainly Eastern European, students are the most popular English and International Master's Degree study program in English.

L. Jakulevičienė: - It is a pleasure to see more and more graduates coming from abroad every year, who can choose from 6 English-language joint / double diploma master's programs implemented with university partners from other countries. 2018 At the School of Law, students from 132 grade students from abroad studied. Currently we have successful programs with Universities of Mont Blanc and Bordeaux (France), we have programs in Ukraine with the most important law schools in Kharkov, Kiev and Lviv. International experience this year has produced results - Mykolas Romeris Law School among the 300 best law schools in the world. This is also a huge achievement for Lithuania, because for the first time in the field of law, the University of Lithuania was ranked as the global university ranking QS World University Rankings by Subject 2019.

2018 In total, 548 foreign students from over 50 countries came to the law school, not only to study, but also to gain knowledge in other activities such as summer schools, intensive programs. There is a tendency for more and more students to take up placements abroad under the Erasmus + program. Every year, Mykolas Romeris Law School attracts about 100 students from foreign countries who choose us for a wide range of subjects taught in English (we offer almost 40 subjects), as well as excellent infrastructures of excellent teacher competence and good English.

T. Berkman: - VMU is distinguished from other Lithuanian universities by the fact that there are many foreign students studying here. 2017 After studying various forms of studies, VMU studied almost 1,000 students from abroad. Students from the Faculty of Law study under bilateral exchange or Erasmus programs from Italy, Spain, Ukraine, Georgia and other countries. Faculty students for a semester or so on. choose countries such as the US, Sweden, France, Luxembourg, Spain, Italy for study abroad, and Erasmus placements abroad (Sweden, Italy, Latvia, etc.).

- Which lawyers are most desirable in the labor market?

T. Davulis: - The most demanding law professionals in the labor market who are critical, logical, analytical, flexible, have a broad worldview and are able to apply knowledge in a wide range of fields. Regarding specific legal professions, lawyers, including state institutions, are constantly looking for curious and diligent lawyers. As the Lithuanian market grows, the demand for company lawyers is also growing, who are able to think creatively and see opportunities, not just threats, even in difficult situations.

L. Jakulevičienė: - Even today, business can not say what professions will be needed after 5 years, and all the guesses about which professions will be the most appropriate, and remain speculative. The same goes for the demands of the labor market. At the moment, such market research is not being conducted, we have only conducted such surveys on our own initiative. Often there is a dilemma - to specialize or not? I think a specialist in his field will always find his niche, although the number of opportunities will be lower. However, the needs vary. If everybody needed labor law specialists after the new Labor Code was adopted, today lawyers with data protection need a great deal, and tomorrow's wishes may be completely different.

T. Berkman: - As mentioned above, the more you need the lawyers of innovative, critical and creative minds. With technology taking over automated jobs that were previously associated with simply knowing information or certain automatic skills (say a formal census), it will become less and less necessary. On the other hand, I do not think that studies should completely abandon the learning of knowledge or even the learning of individual important elements of law. It must be understood that this is only needed now to allow the lawyer to use the information holistically, systematically and integrally, to reflect on it and to apply it effectively. You will still need this holistic thinking, but it will no longer be a self-evident thing, just a ridding of terms, without any understanding of what is needed for these processes and purposes.

- What skills, qualities and knowledge will the future lawyer need? What areas will be in demand?

T. Davulis: - The future lawyer will need to have a better understanding of various disciplines, especially in the field of technology. While it is often said that in the near future many lawyers will be replaced by robots and artificial intelligence, this is certainly not true. This niche will open up many gaps and new opportunities for lawyers. Undoubtedly, the auxiliary actions will be automated, but they will only remain an ancillary tool, and the laws and decisions will continue to be adopted by the people. In addition, I am convinced that, when artificial intelligence comes into existence, there will be many lawyers who will take care of both their algorithms and ethical issues, and so on. Likewise, as I have already mentioned, the lawyer will need to be creative, to be able to look at the various problems originally, to think flexibly.

L. Jakulevičienė: - The future lawyer will undoubtedly need both classical and new qualities and knowledge. Future lawyers should be able to operate internationally, apply common law, as more and more clients in Lithuania are from common law countries, the major global legal centers are predicted to be mostly in common law countries.

The high competition in the legal services market and the pressure to reduce costs will require both a distinction of views and excellence.

Therefore, besides classical skills, more internationality (both legal and linguistic skills) will be needed, as even a conservative market, such as law, is subject to global processes, European Union law; there will also be a growing need for technological skills (because the ability to quickly find and process information will no longer be enough, as soon as the machines perform), communication skills in different cultures. There is a growing tendency for graduates to have creative thinking, interdisciplinary knowledge (economics, finance, etc.).

Apparently, the areas of classical law will remain in demand: criminal, civil, unless crimes disappear and people stop arguing. However, the added value, as I have said, will be the knowledge of international, European Union and other countries, which will allow us to operate without borders. Among the new areas, there is currently a very popular and topical legal technology (legaltech) theme in the world, and the increasing use of mediation in legal activities is already receiving considerable attention. It is noteworthy that practicing lawyers are returning to practical studies, as new competencies are needed. For example, MRU Saturday Mediation School alone in 2018 has attracted nearly two hundred judges, notaries, bailiffs, corporate and institutional lawyers seeking to acquire mediation competencies. In Lithuania, we increasingly notice that legal knowledge is needed for specialists in health care, labor relations and other fields, as the expansion of legal regulation in these areas is very active.

T. Berkman: - Today, the most important thing is the impact of technologies on the legal profession and the need for appropriate lawyer knowledge and skills in the future. Unfortunately, certain extremes dominate on this issue. Some say that this will make lawyers almost unnecessary; others categorically deny and comfort themselves that everything will be as they were. In my opinion, as in many cases, the truth is somewhere in the middle. However, the fact is obvious - technology is changing the profession and will definitely continue to become an integral and integral part of it.

It will happen, or maybe it has already happened, as is currently the case with EU law - now the teaching of individual EU law subjects and, more so, the program in Lithuania does not make much sense, because this right is an integral part of the national legal system, it must be taught in any law. in the program in abundance and in many subjects. Accordingly, I do not already see the meaning of a large number of individual study programs designed exclusively for legal and technological interaction. It is necessary to go further and integrate this interaction into an integral part of any law study program, as technology is already around the lawyer from the very beginning, ie from the first year of university. This is the path that has been chosen at VMU Law Faculty - not creating new specialized legaltech / techlegal programs, but reorganizing all law studies.

- Do the current educational tools, methods and techniques work well in the 21st century? Do you have to change them and combine them with today's student? What are the biggest innovations in education in terms of innovation already existing or planned for the future? Are lectures online?

T. Davulis: - Educational tools and methods are constantly being changed and improved in response to today's trends and demand. Students are now as curious as ever, so we try to give them various opportunities for improvement - to participate in various organizations, to practice, to participate in competitions in Lithuania and abroad. One of these is Law Without Walls, where students with prestigious high-profile law schools are addressing specific problems and solutions for international business. This opens up new opportunities for international contacts and learning from top-level professionals. In the future, we will also offer students a joint law and technology degree program.

L. Jakulevičienė: - Study methods and tools are constantly changing because both market needs and opportunities are changing, more and more technological opportunities are emerging in the study process. Online lectures are not a novelty, this is happening in MRU for a decade, all subjects are e. for

many years. We have been combining classical methods and experimental learning for some time, when studies are moved from the auditorium to the courtroom, discussions with practitioners are organized, and work is done in the laboratories of law. That's just what happened with the partners - an international law firm - a tax law court. However, innovations could be called the first in Lithuania to incorporate the aspects of the latest legal technologies into studies, students gain some knowledge in the so-called Meetups, Hackaton.

For example, in one of these meetings with practitioners, the students learned about the so-called Chatbots, they were already created by themselves, and later participated in an international competition organized by a global IBM company. 2018 We have established the Legal Technologies (Legaltech) Center, one of the objectives of which is to convey the latest methods, to introduce innovations in the study process, to create conditions for the development of legal technology start-ups. So there are many opportunities for students.

T. Berkman:- There is no doubt that educational tools and methods now have to be different. You just have to look at everything. Universities that operate in a virtual environment are successful in the world, and they have more students than any major Lithuanian university. In terms of infrastructure, the whole university is made up of one small building. On the other hand, former traditional universities are also intensively changing. Recently, I had to visit the Faculty of Law of the University of Bergen, where a large number of students living in remote areas of Norway study almost virtually, arriving in Bergen is basically just reporting and doing so using information technology. At VMU Law Faculty, individual subjects are also taught in a virtual way and we plan to expand it; also by using the opportunities offered by technology. Modern students take it with joy.

- How does today's teacher feel? Can you go hand in hand with innovation?

T. Davulis: - Like a student, today's teacher is curious, looking for justice, not only to give the student knowledge but also to learn from them. Thus, students are increasingly seen by students as colleagues rather than teachers. I think our teachers are truly authoritative and are on the move with innovation - many of them are youthful, know a few foreign languages, and are well versed in modern technology. They are happy to apply advanced, interactive study methods, stimulate interest in various fields, support students' academic mobility, are able to ignite their desire to deepen, apply and understand the acquired knowledge.

L. Jakulevičienė: - Most of our teachers are strong in their fields not only in Lithuania, but also in Europe, so they are often the engines of ideas, innovations and innovations. We work only with teachers who are not only competent but also motivated. The motivation of the students should always be high, and then, apparently, the teacher would feel best. On the other hand, children of the next generation often look at themselves as equal to all others. Therefore, it is not acceptable for every teacher to contact a student on their behalf.

T. Berkman: - the 21st century challenges for the university with its traditional traditions of knowledge transfer and competence monopoly have been predicted for a long time. We live in an information age when knowledge is spreading and changing one another extremely quickly. Teachers can quickly compare the same technology enabled and simplified surveys, not to mention informal environments like Facebook. The information is so accessible that I can find the source I need in the Washington library in a minute from my mobile phone. In a way, the present teacher, in the sense of still being traditional, has become completely "translucent", his competence can be checked very quickly, he himself is compared and evaluated. Therefore, the question of whether a teacher is able to go hand in hand with innovation is in itself a bit late / unpredictable: either guess or shrink. The times of the comfort zone for reading books and repeating students are over. On the other hand, for those who like challenges, this is a golden age.

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