Robots, Blockchain, ESI, Oh My!: Why Law Schools Are (or Should Be) Teaching Legal Technology

By Emily Janoski-Haehlen.  38 Legal Reference Services Q. 77 (2019).

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Reviewer’s Summary:

Janoski-Haehlen begins by describing, broadly, the challenges faced by the legal profession in the current economy and the relationship between such challenges and technology. She acknowledges that as a field, law has been slow to embrace new technologies. She notes that legal technology includes practice management software, document automation tools, social media, e-discovery platforms, cybersecurity, data security, encryption, legal research, metadata, cloud computing, the dark web, Access to Justice, and mobile apps. She asserts that law schools should offer some instruction regarding these issues and tools for several reasons: to comply with ABA and state bar mandates, to support new employment opportunities for graduates, to better educate their graduates regarding the business of law, and to meet experiential course requirements. In her survey of law schools, she finds that many are already offering legal technology courses, certificates, and other learning opportunities, and she describes the content covered in such initiatives.

Summarized by: Meredith Capps, Vanderbilt University Law School, in 2020.