Human-Centered Legal Tech: Integrating Design in Legal Education

By Dan Jackson. 50 Law Teacher 82 (2016).

Article Categories: Course Creation & Design; Surveys & Empirical Research; Teaching Legal Technology & Legal Analytics

Keywords: ABA Standards; Access to Justice; Analytical Skills; Apps; Collaboration; Course Design; Decision-Making; Methodology; Natural Language Processing; Survey; Systems Theory; Technology; Universal Design

Reviewer’s Summary:

In this article, Jackson introduces the subject of technology by reviewing the lack of ABA requirements for legal technology instruction, and the increasing trend towards technological tools to fill gaps in legal services. He then surveys technology-focused course offerings at different law schools. Jackson explains how design can be implemented to make technology more accessible for everyday users, using the example of the shift from Boolean searching to natural language searching in research databases. He then discusses his experiences with introducing law students to design principles such as inspiration, synthesis, and experimentation. He concludes by claiming that law teachers can increase their students’ ability to address the needs of people by including human-centered design principles along with legal technology instruction.