

## The Biggest Surprise I encountered as a law student and how I handled it

# PARI

## Sadrolsadatzaeh

3L, University of Windsor

It took me most of my 1L year to fully realize that law school operates nothing like undergrad or any other academic experience I had before. The learning process feels almost backwards. Even when you think you understand the material, it doesn't really click until the end of the semester, or sometimes not until the end of the year. At some point, it finally made sense why professors never just tell you the rules or the takeaways outright. Instead, you work through case after case, focusing on every small detail. By the end of the semester, you realize that the individual cases and facts were never the point; it was how they fit together that mattered. In a way, it mirrors what



lawyers actually do. Law school trains you to be a problem solver by forcing you to extract rules, compare ratios, and then piece everything together on your own, almost like putting together a puzzle that doesn't have edges so you never know what piece to start with.

Now, as a third-year law student, if I could go back and give my 1L self any advice, it would be to stop getting lost in individual cases and start looking for the big picture earlier. I would tell myself to think about how doctrines connect, where themes overlap, and how everything might tie together, rather than waiting until the end of the semester for it to finally make sense. Law school is like putting together a puzzle without edges, and I wish I had tried to start assembling that puzzle long before finals season.

It is also an incredibly rewarding exercise because even in situations where a case seems completely lost and there appears to be no possible path to revival, law school teaches you that there are always two sides. As a lawyer, no matter which cards you are dealt, you are expected to find an argument. That process, learning how to reframe facts, draw connections, and advocate even in the hardest cases, is what ultimately makes the puzzle worth putting together.

Have a tip of your own that you want to share with Canadian law students across the country?

Email it to [lawschools@lexisnexis.ca](mailto:lawschools@lexisnexis.ca) with Student Spotlight in the subject line for a chance to be featured in an upcoming Student Spotlight!

Follow LexisNexis Law Schools on social media for more student content!

 [Inc\\_lawschools](#)  [LncForStudents](#)  [LexisNexis.com/en-ca/academic/law-schools](https://LexisNexis.com/en-ca/academic/law-schools)