

ISSUE 9 · NOVEMBER 2024



THE TRU BUSINESS LAW SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Welcome the November edition of the TRU Business Law Society newsletter!

We hope everyone had a restful midterm break ahead of the upcoming exam period!

In this issue, our Alumni Spotlight focuses on Salman Abbasi, recent graduate of the TRU Law Class of 2024. 1L's make sure to check out the exam tips and tricks from upper year law students. We are wishing everyone luck on this upcoming exam period, and hope everyone is making time for themselves as well.

If you have not already, make sure to follow our instagram @trubuslawsociety to stay up to date on our upcoming events!

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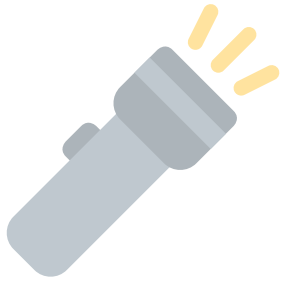
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Alumni Spotlight: Salman (Sami) Abbasi

As a law student, Salman was a research assistant for the Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Law and the Co-President of the South Asian Law Students Association. Salman also was the first-place championship winner of the National Immigration, Refugee, and Citizenship Law Moot 2023 and won the top factum award at the Wilson Moot 2024. Salman is now an articling student at BLG Calgary.



How did you become interested in business law? What made you choose this specialization?

I become interested in business law primarily due to my background in bcomm. I always wanted to work in a fast paced, business environment and that drew me to taking up a bcomm and then leaning into a more legal angle with law school. Business law also really appealed to me because of the diverse opportunities you can pursue in the spectrum. A business lawyer can work on a range of different things including securities, capital markets, financing, real estate, both on the litigation end and the solicitor end which can help diversify your options after law school

In your opinion, what makes a good corporate/business lawyer?

I think what makes a good business lawyer is a drive to keep getting better and strong willpower. Recognizing that you have so much to learn in business and wanting to strive to keep getting better is what makes a good business lawyer. Willpower is also super important because you're going to get lots of things thrown at you and have to deal with complex issues. Keeping a level head and not getting discouraged is important to ensure you keep up the quality of your work and your mental health simultaneously.

Why did you go to law school?

A big part of me wanting to go to law school was to help increase the visibility of underrepresented communities. This is a two part answer. First, the stereotypical vision of what someone views as a "lawyer" is the stoic Atticus Finch. I wanted to challenge that and make it less of a surprise for a poc to be in law. Secondly, there is much wrong our current system, but to change a system you have to first understand what makes it up, which is exactly what law school does

What is something you wish you knew about articling/working in law when you were in law school?

Something I wished I knew about articling/working in the law when I was in law school is how incompetent and fresh to the practice you would feel on a daily basis. My journey in articling has taught me it's okay to make mistakes and ask questions when you're confused about instruction, and the best growth comes from recognizing the strength and growth potential of your own ability.

1L Midterm Tips + Tricks From Upper Years

SELF CARE / STRESS MANAGEMENT

Don't forget to take care of yourself during exams. It's important to make sure you're getting enough sleep, staying active, and spending time with your loved ones during this busy time of year.

-Jess Murphy (2L)



SLEEP



The result (as much as we want a good grade) is not everything and that this is a an opportunity to familiarize yourself with how exam time makes you feel and the actual exam procedures in law school

- Kaitlyn Daly (3L)

When studying for exams, I always prioritize self-care by staying active, such as going on walks or attending yoga classes, getting enough sleep, and drinking plenty of water. I find that this helps prevent burnout and keeps my mind sharp during study sessions.

-Rene Watson (3L)



SELF CARE / STRESS MANAGEMENT Cont.



The lead-up to exams can be stressful, and that stress can affect your performance. To manage it, I suggest starting a routine now. Have your pre-study rituals (coffee, going for a walk, etc.) and make time to unplug. Staying up an extra two hours to study when you're exhausted won't help.
-Jacob Benson (2L)

STUDY HABITS

Take brain breaks: Listen to your body. If during an extra long study session, you start to get grumpier than usual or you can't focus, take a step away for 15 minutes and get a coffee or play the New York Times Crossword (or if you're me, spend money you don't have online shopping).
-Rachel Brodsky (3L)



The IRAC Method: This is the go-to method for organizing your answers during law exams. Writing this way will clearly lay out your response in a way your professors (hopefully) can easily follow. I recommend trying this method on a practice exam and having your professor review it. That way, you can tailor your approach to each professor's preferences.
-Jacob Benson (2L)

STUDY HABITS cont.

Find your groove: Studying habits aren't one size fits all, so don't feel you must study a certain way to succeed. Some people like to study in groups, whereas some people like to study alone. Find what works best for you and stick with it!

-Rachel Brodsky (3L)



Start early! There's a lot of material to cover, and the sooner you begin preparing for midterms, the more manageable it will feel. By now, you've likely heard about CANs and frameworks, but to take your exam preparation to the next level, consider writing small "blurbs" for the big topics in each of your classes. These blurbs should have the tests, applicable cases, and rules written out concisely with blank spaces for you to just plug in the facts and analyze on the exam (for your closed book exams try and memorize these small blurbs). Then, ask your professors for practice questions and dedicate time to filling out the blurbs into full answers for each practice question. This will not only improve your speed for the exam but also help bridge the gap between understanding the material and actually applying it effectively!

-Sharon Malhi (3L)

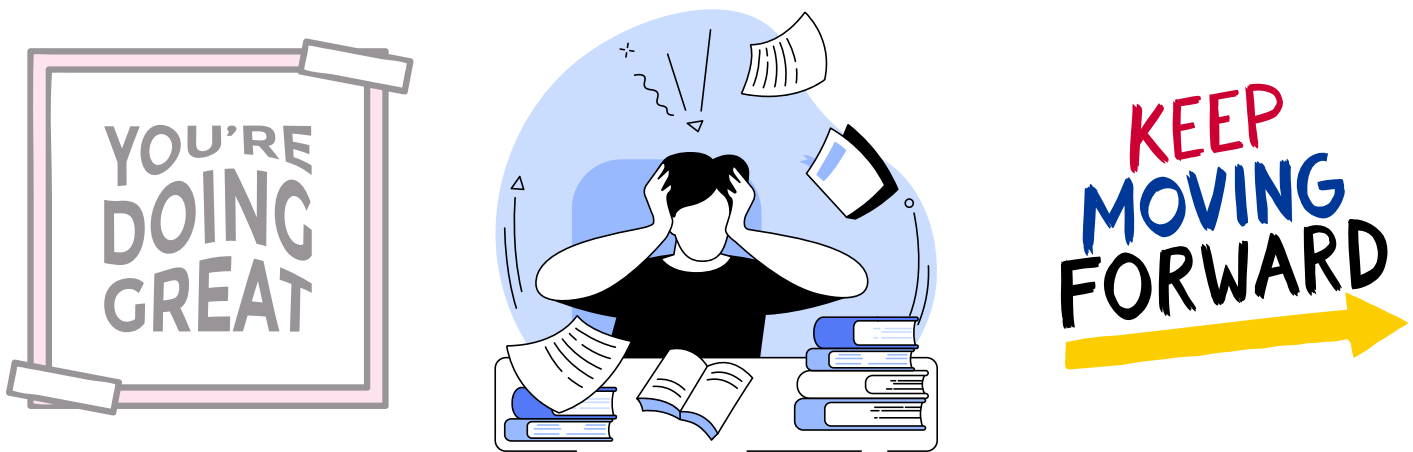
AFTER THE EXAM

Put as much effort as you want / plan to put into finals - if you slack off for midterms you don't have a baseline for how you'll perform in finals. There is no point dwelling on an exam that you've already written...

"On to Cincinnati - Bill Belichick" - Professor Gauthier

There is no one pathway to a good mark on an exam, so I'd either avoid talking about the exam afterwards or take everything people say with a grain of salt.

-Brynn Pedlow (3L)



When it's done, it's done: Don't dwell on what you can't change. I know that when you and all your classmates have gone through something scary and new together, the first instinct is to talk about it afterward to see if you got similar answers. My best advice though, is don't, it usually does more harm than good. You can't go back and fix your answer after the exam so why stress yourself out about it? Wait until your marks come back and you can be pleasantly surprised or you can go to office hours to see how you can improve for the final. Remember: help not hurt!

-Rachel Brodsky (3L)

AFTER THE EXAM cont.

After the Battle: Once you've finished an exam, you might want to talk about it with others or look up whether you got the answer "right". Don't do this. It'll only stress you out and might make you anxious. Take a deep breath, take a short break from studying if you need it, and then shift your focus to the next exam.

-Jacob Benson (2L)



GENERAL TIPS

When you first receive your exam, take a few minutes to read through the entire set of questions carefully. This will help you get an overview of the exam and plan your time accordingly. It's important to approach the exam strategically, focusing on all questions, not just one. After the exam try not to compare answers there are lots of ways to reason a correct answer. And take a short break do something for you- workout, read, go on a walk, play some sports or catch up on some sleep as a little reset before u dive into studying for the next exam. That little reset goes so far !! Good luck 1Ls you got this

-Delaney Ignatieff (3L)



Event Recaps!

BC Alumni Panel and Networking Event

On October 30th, the BLS hosted the annual BC Alumni Networking Panel and Reception! With over 60 1L students in attendance, this was an amazing evening filled with great advice from our BC alumni and current 3L students who will soon be working in Vancouver.

Thank you to our panelists: Arjun Dhaliwal (Harper Grey), Abbey Fortin (Lawson Lundell), Olivia Marty (McMillan), Jeff Scheffel (Farris) Harjote Sumbal (Norton Rose Fulbright), and Angelica Kovac (McCarthy Tetrault).

Also, thanks to Lexis Nexis for sponsoring our event with merch and a Star Rewards contest!





Event Recaps!

Alberta Alumni Networking Event



This past Thursday, the BLS hosted our annual Alberta Alumni Networking Panel and Reception! This was an amazing evening filled with great advice from our Alberta alumni and current 3L students who will soon be working in Alberta.

Thank you to our panelists: Erik Holmstrom (McLennan Ross), Marcus Smith (McCarthy Tetrault), Jasman Mangat (Whitelaw Twining) and Ali Syed (Avenue Living Asset Management).

Also, thank you to Lexis Nexis for sponsoring our event with merch and a Star Rewards contest!

