Ideal Law School Graduate in the 21st century

Abstract

The thesis deals with the topic of the profile of a legal professional in the 21st century in connection with the recent technological advances in the legal services sector. The main goal of the thesis is to find out whether these technological advances in legal services delivery are sufficiently reflected in legal education, primarily in the Czech Republic. To fulfill this goal, the thesis uses mainly the methods of research, abstraction and document analysis, particularly in regard to scientific articles and other literature on the topic of legal technologies and their influence on the practice of law and the legal sector. The thesis first offers a brief overview of the professional values and skills typically associated with legal professionals, this overview is primarily based on the Anglo-American tradition and the McCrate Report. In the next part, the thesis describes some proactive characteristics of law – the author uses the term proactive to refer to the changes in law and its practice driven by the use of new technologies. The examples offered are primarily based on foreign sources. In the following part, the thesis deals with some reactions to these technological trends in legal education. Author classifies these reactions into several distinctive groups, listing specific examples for each group. In the last part of the thesis concerning the results, the author confronts these examples with the current state of legal education in law schools in the Czech Republic by analyzing the syllabi of the concerned law schools. Author concludes that law schools in the Czech Republic do not seem to reflect the latest technological trends and changes in law practice in their respective curricula with slight variations from one law school to another. In the discussion part of the thesis, author compares the thesis to prior research done on the topic in the Czech Republic and also offers some recommendations to remedy the situation.

Keywords

legal education, legal technology, legal services, modern lawyers