

[00:00:00] **Sally Penni:** Hello and welcome to Talking Law, the podcast where you can hear barristers, judges, solicitors, managing partners, and more talk about their careers and lives in the law. I'm Sally Penney, [00:00:15] MBE. I'm a barrister at Kenworthy Chambers in Manchester in the uk, and I am the founder of Women of the Law uk. This episode is supported and sponsored by the University of Lincoln.

[00:00:27] You can find out more about them at [00:00:30] Lincoln.ac.uk. My guest today marks a historic moment for the podcast because he's my first academic. I'm delighted to be interviewing Professor Duncan French. Duncan is the Prayer Vice [00:00:45] Chancellor and head of the College of Health Science at the University of Lincoln.

[00:00:50] He's also the professor of international law and is a leading academic on international environmental law, including the international legal implications. Of climate [00:01:00] change. In this episode, you will hear Duncan's passion for his work and how the law plays a key role in finding solutions to this problem.

[00:01:10] You'll also hear how life has changed for Duncan in his new role. At the [00:01:15] university, but that the law would always be in his DNA before all that. I started by asking Duncan to tell me what first attracted him to a career

[00:01:27] **Professor Duncan French:** in the law, as was most people. It [00:01:30] was what was on, on the tellie at the time. And to me it was LA Law during the, uh, you know, the 1980s early 1990s.

[00:01:36] Good. Yeah. So in different generations have different programs, but for me it was a combination of the attractiveness of, uh, you know, the life [00:01:45] demonstrated by LA law, but also that my uncle was a, a conveyancer and solicitor at the time. And I think the combination of the two and probably a certain level of.

[00:01:56] Lack of clarity about what other subjects I wanted to do. I really loved [00:02:00] history. I still love history, but, uh, for me, I wanted to, you know, I happened another A level. I certainly still feel that that's not, not a requirement by any stretch. I really enjoyed coming to it a new, but yeah, so very early on was, uh, [00:02:15] merely a very superficial reason is that I enjoy the TV program about it.

[00:02:21] **Sally Penni:** Now I can see that law or legal. DNA still, you know, your legal DNA still feeds into a lot of what you're doing [00:02:30] now, and

I'll come back to that for a moment. But can you gimme an idea about some of your, your interested areas? Because one of the areas that you are interested in is sustainable goals. I think you've got a conference coming up 'cause it's been a difficult tracking, pinning you down to [00:02:45] interview you.

[00:02:45] But I, I wonder if you could tell us a little bit about some of the environmental law aspects and sustainable goals that. You know, you, you and how law feeds into the environment. 'cause one doesn't often hear that aspect. Uh, when we talk about climate change in the [00:03:00] environment.

[00:03:02] **Professor Duncan French:** So environmental law was something that I became really interested in relatively early on within my undergraduate degree.

[00:03:10] It was something that, uh, was offered as an optional subject. I [00:03:15] decided to choose my undergraduate dissertation on it. I did the, uh. A dissertation on the new provisions on contaminated, contaminated land, which was still very new at, uh, in the late 1960s and 1996. Uh, when I, uh, graduated, I then did [00:03:30] a, a master's degree at the University of Nottingham, which was more on international and European environmental law.

[00:03:35] I. From that I did a PhD, which was very specifically on international environmental law, particularly as it applied to developing countries. I was [00:03:45] really interested in the way that the, the new conventions on climate change and biodiversity, I. Suppose promoted environmental, uh, objectives, but also recognized, uh, the challenges that the developing countries faced.

[00:03:58] So I did, uh, some, [00:04:00] uh, particularly focused on concepts like common but differentiated responsibilities. So, you know, all countries have common ownership or common responsibilities, but these could be differentiated, be it on in terms of. The level of the commitment, whether resource or funding would be [00:04:15] available.

[00:04:15] Uh, technology transfer. So it was really at the interspace between international environmental law and some of the, uh, more historical issues around the developing countries have faced in the UN system since the 1960s. [00:04:30] Uh, and that has kind of been the area that I've continued to work in, uh, ever since.

[00:04:36] I've also had some really occasional projects that I've been really interested in. So things to do with Antarctica. I've often left issues to do with the, uh, [00:04:45] the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Uh,

recent work on, um. Legal response to, uh, planetary boundaries. So ideas that if we exceed our, our capacity to be it climate change, be it, [00:05:00] uh, emissions of chemi uh, chemicals into the environment, we will reach a point where we reach certain tipping boundaries and we, that will result in a cascade situation, which will be really difficult to move back from.

[00:05:11] So yeah, a whole range of things that have kept me busy over the years. [00:05:15]

[00:05:15] **Sally Penni:** Yeah, I mean, it's so interesting and exciting. 'cause I think sometimes we think about. Environment, pollution, all these issues you're talking about in isolation from the law and of course they're linked.

[00:05:26] **Professor Duncan French:** Yeah, absolutely. And and obviously I've been looking at [00:05:30] it primarily from a global perspective.

[00:05:32] So the international treaties. Of course, most international treaties either have been implemented by domestic statutes or have been affected by domestic laws, and often what we see is a real interplay [00:05:45] between those countries that are leading a discussion, leading a debate, have taken measures, uh, domestically that affects the way that the, uh, treaties are.

[00:05:55] Developed and negotiated. I think climate change is a really good example of, you know, [00:06:00] I was around when we had the Kyoto Protocol and then that sort of fell by the wayside and we've got the Paris agreement and all the things that states are doing or not doing to meet their commitments and uh, yeah, I'm really, uh.

[00:06:13] Whilst I had to do [00:06:15] less, uh, research work now because of the current job I have, it really, I am more of an observer than perhaps an academic in some respects. I really am still keen to see that the law and the legal processes, and actually the governance part of it is also [00:06:30] really understood, uh, because they do make the.

[00:06:33] They make it work. So whilst we may have an awful lot of politics and economics around it, what actually makes the process move forward is the, the governance frameworks, be it at the domestic or the [00:06:45] international level to allow people to come together and, you know, have confidence in the system to make new commitments, to make obligations around emissions reductions or whatever the case may be.

[00:06:55] So for me it's a, it's a law is as much a language than a, a commitment, I think, [00:07:00] at the international level.

[00:07:01] **Sally Penni:** Yes. Interesting. Just on your point there about governance, you know, in an economic downturn or recession or inflation, as we see, you know, us and several global economies, including our own, not growing, uh, into, do you [00:07:15] think that this, the governance and the climate change will, will probably tend to be pushed onto the back burn as a priority?

[00:07:23] Wh when there are no, no substantial punitive measures? Really,

[00:07:28] **Professor Duncan French:** I think there were the real [00:07:30] risks that. The longer term, um, issues, be it climate change, but actually I wouldn't, I'm always very keen that actually climate change isn't talked about in isolation. So actually one of the bigger, the equally [00:07:45] complex and challenging.

[00:07:47] Situations we've got is about biodiversity loss. Hmm. Um, I think the two are interrelated, but actually the loss of species, loss of, uh, diversity within those species will result in significant challenges [00:08:00] for us as a, you know, a global community as much as climate change. And they are incredibly interrelated.

[00:08:06] But you're absolutely right. Anything which isn't. Immediately obvious is always gonna get a second, uh, you know, have secondary [00:08:15] importance. But actually we can, I suppose the best example I can give Sally is when I started off, um, we used to talk about something like the precautionary principle and the precaution principle, the key principle of the international environmental law.

[00:08:27] So, you know, we had to do things even though we weren't [00:08:30] sure that they were gonna happen. Yes. Nobody talks about the precautionary principle these days. Yes. I mean, it's so obvious that climate change is inevitable, is happening, and that we need to act with certain level of, uh, alacrity and prevention. So for me, there is, there's a non-linear [00:08:45] consequence of some of these things that we really need to be, uh, taking much more seriously than we do.

[00:08:50] **Sally Penni:** Yes. Interesting. Um, about the biodiversity side, I volunteer with a, uh, an organization called Young Citizenship. Foundation and they [00:09:00] teach children in schools about the law. And one of the ways

they've kind of been engaging with students, you know, brand rate to secondary is to talk about law, uh, as a tool and as a way to save the planet.

[00:09:11] And it's been really interesting seeing the effects. [00:09:15] Engaging them in that way. So you know, they have various toolkits and so looking at it from that side actually is really interesting to engage younger people to, you know, become engaged in protecting, protecting the environment. Interestingly, just whilst I'm [00:09:30] at it, if I was a young person thinking of going to university and I thought Lincoln and I was thinking about law.

[00:09:40] Or just law per se. It doesn't have to be Lincoln, but I'd like to think it's Lincoln. 'cause it's quite, it's a very nice campus [00:09:45] and there's a nice crown court there in the castle. But have you got any advice or tips for somebody wanting to enter into the law? I want to just ask you now, because obviously where you, your responsibilities now are a little bit broad, but the, the law which you [00:10:00] studied is still in your DNA.

[00:10:01] So any advice for sort of young youngsters wanting to enter into law? Maybe three quick tips, and there may be people who might be thinking about. Academia. And then I wanted to go back to, uh, you being a, a pro vice chancellor, [00:10:15] um, and, uh, it never been dull because you've got things like assisted dying bill now as well.

[00:10:20] Uh, so it's never du.

[00:10:22] **Professor Duncan French:** Not DLL at all? No. Uh, in terms of, um, well, if I start with Lincoln, it's, you know, yeah. I came here in 2012 [00:10:30] as head of the law school. So invariably, even though I'm no longer responsible for the law school, I have a huge amount of both familiarity with it, but also a lot of affection.

[00:10:40] The fact that I'm still here 13 years later, uh, in a different role, but very [00:10:45] much committed. To the, uh, to the students, uh, across the campus for me. Are they, it's an unusual, uh. University in the sense it's both a campus based university, but it's really in the center of Lincoln. And normally you have to [00:11:00] choose between one or the other.

[00:11:01] And for me, the other, it's the, that feeling of being able to see a community, but actually you're not isolated and you know, often, uh, UEA with a lovely campus, but you were somewhere out away from the city center. Being able to, even just being able to go off and go into the [00:11:15] shops at lunchtime is a, is always at added value.

[00:11:17] And as you mentioned, the, the castle, the cathedral, and of course the. Castle also houses one of the four copies of the Magna Carta, which I had great opportunities about 10 years ago to follow it, [00:11:30] uh, for part of its journey when it went to the, uh, uh, to the USA as part of its 800th anniversary. Uh, so there's, you know, huge amount of history in, in legal.

[00:11:39] Wow. In terms of what to, uh, advise students, it really is the most obvious things. It's [00:11:45] about being open, it's about being inquisitive. It's always to ask that question. Um. Where is the law here? 'cause there's almost no issue, which doesn't have some kind of legal dimension. I mean, it always strikes [00:12:00] me as, you know, there's, even when there's an item in the news, which may be from a political perspective or even a social perspective, uh, there's always a legal question.

[00:12:10] Um. And I think it's just having that sort of [00:12:15] willingness to think outside the box and really wanting to be prepared to, uh, to think, oh, well what are the issues here? And I think for, for me, the, the best lawyers are those who both want to know and understand the rules, but then [00:12:30] ask the question, but why are they like that?

[00:12:33] Because, you know. There's a certain framework as to why the law is as it is. And that may or may not be right. It may be you need a reform, it may need to be challenged. But having that openness to directly accept [00:12:45] that, you know, just because things were a certain way. I always remember studying, um, one of the, for some people's, one of the DRE objects land, let's say.

[00:12:54] But actually when we, it was in one of our lectures when I got asked, so why is it like this? And that [00:13:00] question basically just opens up your mind. 'cause you suddenly realize. 1224 week course I've just done on this subject, and now I'm being asked. But so why is the law like this? And that opens up a whole different, uh, set of questions.

[00:13:13] **Sally Penni:** Absolutely. Absolutely. And, and [00:13:15] for development as well. And the second part of my question was about, you know, practitioners, you know, there's a lot of practitioners who lit barristers solicitors, both in the UK and Europe, um, being in a conference in Vienna, uh, because they listen to podcasts, uh, [00:13:30] to give a law, a legal lecture, and then people in the Caribbean and America, New Zealand, all the rest of it.

[00:13:35] What if you are a practitioner, maybe 10 years plus, or you are in that middle, I call it the middle spread. They're the people that kind of like 12

years kind [00:13:45] of admission to 20, or you know, 15 to 25 like me, and they're thinking, oh, what's next? What else can I do to broaden my horizon? What advice would you give practitioners about the academic [00:14:00] life and life in academia as well as, or as opposed to being a practitioner?

[00:14:05] 'cause it is different, isn't it?

[00:14:07] **Professor Duncan French:** Yeah, it's uh. I suppose fundamental respects, it's very different. And I suppose there is a, a difference between [00:14:15] whether you want to come back to study, do a master's or a PhD, or whether you want to actually become part of the, the teaching side of things. And actually it could be a combination of the two.

[00:14:24] I suppose the same things applies, would, applies to that, you know, the 18-year-old entrant. It's what is the thing that [00:14:30] makes you excited? What are the things that make you inquisitive? Um, for me it was, um. Thinking about environmental law and its global implications. And, and by large though I have stretched it in different ways and had different, uh, asked [00:14:45] myself different questions that I've, I've kind of stated within the same, uh, overarching fundamental question, and I suppose it is for everybody has a different thing that gets 'em outta the bed in the morning.

[00:14:55] What is the, what is the question and what is the, the, the niggling issue that people want to [00:15:00] explore, particularly for a PhD, which. Historically, it's somewhere between 80 and a hundred thousand words. You've got to have a genuine interest and you are gonna have to have something that is gonna motivate you through the period.

[00:15:10] You don't really want to lose, uh, interest after three to four months. So it's [00:15:15] really something which has a burning question that you want to answer to.

[00:15:18] **Sally Penni:** Yeah. Interesting, interesting. Uh, I want to ask you some fun questions. I feel like I'm asking you quite difficult questions. Uh, uh, to start with, we know that, uh, you are inspired by LA Law, [00:15:30] the American program, which, uh, is a bit like suits for our younger listeners.

[00:15:33] Absolutely. Uh, um, but have you got a favorite legal character and a, and a favorite book? 'cause we have a book Club of women in the law. We're just restarting it again and it, we read books [00:15:45] by lawyers or featuring lawyers. And that might sound boring, but it gets lots of people on and uh, and we always invite the author.

[00:15:53] So I wondered if you had a favorite legal character or a legal b. Um, and, and then one of the things I wanted to ask you [00:16:00] once you share that, uh, with, with, with me, there's no, there's no judgment. Oh. I could ask you actually, sometimes I ask people who would play you if there was a story about your life?

[00:16:11] **Professor Duncan French:** Oh, that's a more difficult one. I'll have to think about that. Well,

[00:16:13] **Sally Penni:** exactly, exactly. [00:16:15] That's why I'll stick to the book question

[00:16:17] **Professor Duncan French:** book. Well, I'm gonna be a bit of a maverick, I think, uh, Sally, if that's okay. Okay. Um, yes. So my favorite author, and I have to say I've, I, I spend an inordinate amount, amount of time reading and rereading [00:16:30] are Agatha Christie books.

[00:16:31] Oh,

[00:16:32] **Sally Penni:** yes, yes. Dunk.

[00:16:33] **Professor Duncan French:** Brilliant. I'm very, I am a very big fan of that, sort of who done it, building up the, the story, trying to find, and the clues. So not technically legal books, but you know, KU [00:16:45] Pro and Agata Christie, and you know, Ms. Marpol. Yeah. They have to be part of my diet, of my, my reading.

[00:16:51] **Sally Penni:** Absolute. Oh gosh.

[00:16:52] Absolutely. Can I ask you about wellbeing? What do you do for wellness? You know, we all know the legal [00:17:00] sector, whether it's sort of the practitioner side or the academic side, is big responsibilities. And I wondered what you do to balance your responsibilities at, uh, at Lincoln. 'cause it's an important point, not just for you, but [00:17:15] obviously for your students whose expectations and mental health, for example.

[00:17:20] Are crucial and the challenges that have arisen post pandemic, uh, covid. So I just wondered if you can just tell me a little bit what you do and what you do, what [00:17:30] challenges there are for students.

[00:17:31] **Professor Duncan French:** Yes, and I think you're right. I think post covid have been a real notable change in the way that we need to, uh, support particularly students and prepare them for university.

[00:17:42] And I think all universities [00:17:45] are rising to the challenge, but it is a challenge. Uh, I think, uh. Sometimes I don't necessarily get it. Uh, right. I probably know a workaholic like many of us are. But definitely do recognize during covid that it important to get right. [00:18:00] I do enjoy walking. Um, I do enjoy swimming.

[00:18:04] I was out yesterday, um, uh, without, in the peak district, uh, in the, uh, and this is unfortunately how my mind works. So it was, I was walking around EAM or eam, the, the [00:18:15] Oh yeah. Village that closed itself down during the plague. And, you know, invariably, you know, I were thinking about questions about, you know, how it happened and how it was enforced and, you know, you, you can't get away from being a lawyer.

[00:18:26] Uh, but I tried to switch my off when I do these things. [00:18:30]

[00:18:30] **Sally Penni:** Yeah, no, to Totally, totally. Um, and, and tell me, I noticed actually with Lincoln, um, university that, um, they're very engaged with students. You know, the, the, well things like Facebook, so there's engagement with parents, for [00:18:45] example. It, it seems to be quite a community type university, and I know all universities are, but I, I kind of got an impression that the smaller ones.

[00:18:54] Feel a little bit more like, it's not such a big stress when you leave. It's not such a big [00:19:00] entity. Everybody counts. You're not just a number. Um, and so on. There's lots of information out there. Is that your impression, you know, from just the, the leadership point of view, has that been a deliberate decision?

[00:19:12] **Professor Duncan French:** Yeah, I think that's, I think that's very much the [00:19:15] case. Um, I think people recognize that, you know, it's really important that students feel that they're part of a community. They're able to work, uh, collaboratively, but also obviously, uh, you know, it's part of an individual effort, but [00:19:30] actually we all get most out of it, uh, from each other when we, uh, recognize that we are part of a, a, a larger whole, I.

[00:19:37] And obviously each department does that in its own way and different departments have their own, um, you know, [00:19:45] ways of doing that. But invariably I think that, and it's, hopefully, I think all universities would

try to do it. Those that are smaller and more medium sized will probably find it easiest to do so.

[00:19:55] But, uh, whether you do it from your subject level, your program level, or at your school level, having [00:20:00] some sense of. Who to be able to go to having a clear, you know, connection with a personal tutor, knowing who's within your own cohort group and that you can really rely on them. Is that, I think, becoming an increasingly important part of going to university.

[00:20:14] **Sally Penni:** Yes. [00:20:15] Nore really, really in really interesting, um, Duncan, tell me, I don't want to say what's next. I feel like we've just started, but tell me about how the, I was talking about lowering your DNA earlier. How that feeds [00:20:30] into what you're doing now, you know, as a pro VC responsible for health and and so on.

[00:20:37] How does the law feed into that? Because, and I was saying, you know, assisted dying, uh ha has been a topical, you hasn't in, in the debate and how's the [00:20:45] laws and what the requirements will be, doctors to, uh, judges or this, that access has been removed. But I wondered how law feed into your everyday nap at the university.

[00:20:56] **Professor Duncan French:** In one respect, I try for it not to, and then in another [00:21:00] respect, I very much, you know, recognize that it does. Um, so my current role is very much a, a management role. It's in terms of supporting my heads of school, uh, my directors of learning and research to ensure that the colleges as [00:21:15] successful as it can be.

[00:21:16] So in some respects, I try not to be providing the legal advice. It's not my role to be sort of an legal expert when things come up. Yeah. Invariably when things come up and you in, in initially, you think, oh, well, under the governance aspect [00:21:30] there, we've got made sure that we've got a, an appropriate paper trail there.

[00:21:33] We've got to have the right governance in place to deal with this issue. It's that kind of very, uh, broad brush, but nevertheless important issues that probably infuse away that, uh, uh, I look at [00:21:45] things rather than, uh, I would rarely. Particular legal, uh, expertise. It's, it's much more that the broader framework of how I think we operate, just simply the way we think about things.

[00:21:57] **Sally Penni:** Yes, absolutely. Absolutely. I [00:22:00] wanted actually, um, when I interviewed, uh, Lord Sump, Jonathan Sum, the former

Supreme Court judge, one of the things we talked about was about the importance of bringing other skills to the day job. So he sat on several boards. [00:22:15] Like, um, like I do and, and other experiences largely sort of arts and opera.

[00:22:19] And it's got an interesting episode about just having other things in one's life, uh, in addition to the main job, um, but also other roles whilst in it. [00:22:30] And, uh, you mentioned before about being the LGBTQ plus champion, um, at the university as part of your role, for example. Um, and I wondered, you know. That, where that arose from and what else you do [00:22:45] really to keep your interest because we're not just one person, are we?

[00:22:48] You know, when one looks at our jobs and the skills we bring, we are often many different people sitting on, you know, various different charity boards or whatever else it is. And that. I just wondered if you had a [00:23:00] view about that. You know, the skills that we bring.

[00:23:03] **Professor Duncan French:** Yes. And, uh, it, like many people have a, a range of, um, wear a range of hats both related to the university, um, or outside the university.

[00:23:14] I suppose one of the most [00:23:15] interesting ones is the, I sit on the, uh, the board of the University of Lincoln Academy Trust, which they series of primary and secondary schools in the south of Lincolnshire, uh, which is sponsored by the university. It hugely. [00:23:30] Valuable piece of work that I feel really honored to be part of.

[00:23:33] I learn an awful lot through that experience. And so I, I always come at it from a very open perspective that, you know, I don't necessarily, uh, assume that, uh, I'm bringing anything specific to the [00:23:45] table though hopefully I am. Uh, whilst at the same time recognizing that, you know, somebody in my position has the opportunity to provide a sort of, uh.

[00:23:54] Uh, a wider contribution and benefits beyond what, you know, the immediate day job? [00:24:00]

[00:24:00] **Sally Penni:** Yes, absolutely. Absolutely. Um, and tell me Duncan. What's next? Like, what's the big thing coming? You know, you are, you are speaking at this conference, you are still in sustainability, you're still in, you know, professor, there's lots of [00:24:15] exciting things happening, but what's sort of the next big thing that you'd like to do?

[00:24:19] I mean, and I mean, I see the appointment of various academics at the high court bench. Is that part of what, what's next?

[00:24:27] **Professor Duncan French:** Um, I probably will defer on that one, but, [00:24:30] um, I would really quite like to get back to some more serious, uh, writing, uh, finding the time for a next project. I, uh, have a number of collaborations with colleagues, uh, around the world.

[00:24:42] Um, and I think being able to. As you said [00:24:45] is getting that right balance between, uh, my management job, but also the state of the world's not getting any better. The opportunities, the, uh, the possibilities of using law to achieve better environmental outcomes is still there. Um, I think there is [00:25:00] a, uh, international law, it's coming under interest, um, challenge with the.

[00:25:06] The, the context in which we find ourselves, be it in terms of, uh, administrations elsewhere in the world. Uh, so for me, there's a whole range of legal [00:25:15] questions that, uh, I think I'm dying to start to get to, to grips with and to think about whilst at the same time continuing to support my colleagues in health and science at Lincoln.

[00:25:24] **Sally Penni:** Yes, abso Absolutely. Absolutely. And then just so before we finish, it was really interesting what you [00:25:30] say from conflict around the world to, you know, other issues as we, as we record this in, in Ukraine and international courts to continue. That's what I'm thinking about as you were talking, but also I wondered if you had a view about artificial intelligence [00:25:45] and what impact that might be having coming in the, in the, um.

[00:25:49] In the future, I mean, in the context that I've been asking you about in his interview, environmental law and so on, I suppose one doesn't think it's an obvious question, does it? But it will have an impact [00:26:00] certainly in all sectors, won't it? Uh, and I just wondered if you had a thought about that.

[00:26:07] **Professor Duncan French:** Uh, it's not something I've thought deeply about, but there is a couple of, uh, um, articles I've read recently and, you know, I wouldn't say [00:26:15] the, uh.

[00:26:16] The, uh, the future is all together bleak or all together? Optimistic. I think it's a way that we put in, again, it's about the walls, it's around the governance. It's a way that we recognize that most of this technology. It's best

[00:26:30] utilized when it's within a very clear framework of expectations of, uh, a framework of agreed understandings of how it's to operate.

[00:26:39] So again, goes back to this general issue of making sure that it's, you know, it's not done in a lay say [00:26:45] fairway. It's done with a agreed, agreed principles with a certain level of equity and fairness behind it.

[00:26:51] **Sally Penni**: Yeah. Yes. And, and regulation, which is the part I've been very interested in Q really? Yes. Um, you know, nevermind it's use, [00:27:00] but how are we going to regulate it?

[00:27:02] And that's been quite an inter, a really interesting, interesting aspect. Um, Duncan, it's been wonderful, um, talking law with you, uh, in this interview podcast. Um, you're an absolute legend and earth. [00:27:15]

[00:27:16] **Professor Duncan French**: No, it's been really lovely. Lovely to talk to you as well, Sally.

[00:27:21] **Sally Penni**: Thanks again to Duncan French for telling me all about his career and life in the law.

[00:27:26] In this interview on The Talking Law podcast. [00:27:30] Thanks again to the University of Lincoln for supporting this episode. Do visit lincoln.ac.uk to find out more about the university. Of Lincoln, you can visit our website to find out about our [00:27:45] upcoming events, including our conference in September, hosted at Lee Day in London, and our November conference hosted in Manchester and of.

[00:27:55] Course 2026, our annual dinner and conference hosted on the [00:28:00] 19th of March, celebrating International Women's Day for more information and to get tickets to our events and find out more about the organization. Do visit womeninlaw.uk. [00:28:15] Talking law is now in the top 2% of all podcasts. If you would like to support a Talking Law podcast, please visit [Patreon slash talking Law](https://www.patreon.com/talkinglaw) where you can donate to get in touch or to follow our work.

[00:28:29] [00:28:30] You can follow me on Instagram, SJ Sally Penney, and on LinkedIn at Sally Penney, MPE, and of course on X, Sally Penney one. There are plenty of other episodes of Talking Law for you to [00:28:45] have a listen to with guests, including Christina Black Laws former president of the Law Society, Shelly McGiven, lawyer at Adv Godard, and Moore.

[00:28:55] If you want career advice and to know more about the skills needed
[00:29:00] for a career in the law, then you can find all this in additions of the
Talking Law Book series available on Amazon. That's talking Law book series
available on Amazon. Thank you so much. Our production [00:29:15] team at
Purposeful Podcast. I'm Sally, MBE.

[00:29:19] Bye for [00:29:30] now.