



MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS

INTRO :

Member Name : Sherif Foda

Year of Call : 2013

Twitter Handle: SherifMFoda

LinkedIn Page: Do people still use that nonsense?

Photo: (Credit to Chloë Ellingson)

QUESTIONS :

1- How did you get into criminal law?

As early as high school I was interested in criminal law and volunteered at a defence firm. I also flirted with it a bit during law school, but not very seriously. It wasn't until after OCIs and the allure of Biglaw had worn off that I found a revitalized interest for criminal defence. It was especially pronounced during my clerkship, after which I got my break in criminal defence in Toronto.

2- What type of cases do you enjoy defending the most and why?

I'm increasingly finding fulfillment in all types of criminal cases. I have always been interested in section 8 of the Charter from an academic perspective. But I am now enjoying storytelling in a variety of cases and find it all intriguing.

3- How did the practice of criminal law change you?

Damn, this is deep. I guess it made me grow up in a certain sense (anyone who knows me would likely disagree). It's also traumatized me a few times, so it's fair to say it made me a little cynical.

4- If there is one thing only you would like to see change in criminal law, what would it be?

I would like to see more active financial support for young defence lawyers interested in doing public interest and legal aid work. I would like to see this coming from more senior members of the bar with the influence they have in their professional and personal networks.

5- What advice would you give to your younger self when you first started practising criminal law?

Your outrage is not misplaced, but everyone else has become accustomed to the conditions that have bred it. Don't be shocked when they don't care. But don't let it discourage you, either, because the outrage is human.

6- How do you deal with bad work days?

My outlets evolve over time. A combination of physical activity, solitary reflection, and time in the sun.

7- What do you think of Zoom court?

Temporary solution. It should not be normalized to the point where it can occur over defence objections.

8- Any embarrassing court story you're willing to share?

I had an OIC fall asleep then fart during a discovery. It was pretty embarrassing for him, I would say.

9- Who is your role model/inspiration in criminal law?

Too many to name. William Garrow, Clarence Darrow, G. Arthur Martin, and Terrence MacCarthy are a few.

10- What's your favourite song?

Alf Laila wa Laila by Umm Kulthum

11- How do you maintain work life balance and how you deal with stress of the job?

The only way I actually handle it is through my extensive support network of fellow defence lawyers.

12- What is your biggest legal inspiration?

That one time Richard Sherman rubbed a machete against his arm to prove it wasn't sharp in trial. (this is hearsay)

13- What do you do outside of the law?

I like to stay active, I ride a motorcycle, and I've recently gotten into woodworking.