



THE **VOICE** OF
THE **CRIMINAL**
DEFENCE BAR

MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS

INTRO:

Member Name: Yuvika Johri

Year of Call: 2020

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QUESTIONS:

1. How did you get into criminal law?

I am originally from India where I joined law school at the age of 17. It was a dual degree program and I was the youngest in my batch. I interned with a lot of lawyers and I particularly enjoyed working on criminal cases compared to any other area of law. I knew I wanted to learn more about this field so I specialized in criminal law during my LL.M. program in the United States. I went on to get my J.D. thereafter, and joined the office of the Public Defenders in Atlanta, Georgia. This is where I put my knowledge to practice. I co-chaired two murder jury trials within a few months after graduation and it was the most exhilarating experience of my life. I knew I wanted to do this for the rest of my life.

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

I do not have a preference. If there are interesting issues to fight, you have my attention.

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

I have developed empathy. Getting charged with a criminal offence can take a toll on a person's mental health, and a good chunk of our practice involves listening to our clients vent out their frustration, anger and fear. I think I have become a good listener with a lot more patience than before. It's been a humanizing experience.

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

Normalizing the use of technology in our practice. It shouldn't take a pandemic to revolutionize how we do things.

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

Buckle up, it's going to be a bumpy ride.

6. How do you deal with bad workdays?

I paint. I love acrylic oil painting and liquid pouring. It pacifies me.

7. What do you think of Zoom court?

I love it! Not having to drive hours away for a set date has been great! However, there's also a human element to the process which cannot be ignored. I really hope they continue zoom court even after the pandemic is over, but reserve in person trials/hearings when requested.

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

None yet! Fingers crossed.

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

Joseph A. Neuberger.

10. What is your favourite song?

All the way up by Fat Joe, Remy Ma featuring French Montana.

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

I love going on long drives. When I have a stressful day, I drive off to remote locations to find peace. I also like strength training. It helps me channel my energy into something constructive.

12.What is your biggest legal inspiration?

Growing up, I always pictured myself as Alan Shore from Boston Legal. I was fascinated by him. I thought I will make submissions like him in court one day. Then I was introduced to a thing called- the record.

13.What do you do outside of the law?

If I was not practicing law, I would be a chef. I love food. When I have spare time, I write recipes I grew up with. I have an Instagram page and a blog dedicated to food. It is called [Lawyercancook](#).

14.What would your defence bar colleagues be surprised to learn about you?

I am an avid console gamer. I enjoy open world role playing games like Assassin's Creed, God of War, Witcher III, and many more!