



### **MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS**

#### **INTRO :**

**Member Name :** Marco Sciarra

**Year of Call :** 2008

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#### **QUESTIONS :**

##### **1- How did you get into criminal law?**

A friend of mine in law school whose father is a prominent criminal defence lawyer said to me one day at the beginning of law school, "I have grown up around a lot of criminal lawyers, and your calling will be criminal law." The following year that same friend suggested that I intern (for credit) for a criminal lawyer that he knew who was looking for student help during the first semester. The lawyer took me back for the next 3 semesters and I never looked at any other area.

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

I enjoy acting for clients charged with murder where the Crown's case is overwhelming and the accused is despised by everyone. It is in those circumstances that I really feel the importance of my role as a defence lawyer both to the process and to the client. Having to develop a defence that calls into question what the rest of the world might think is obvious (the guilt of the accused) and being able to compel 12 people to deliberate that very issue is a really important part of the process and it gives even the guiltiest accused some hope (during the deliberations) that they may achieve freedom once again.

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

I think that the practice of criminal law has made me a more compassionate person, and less judgmental. Having to deal with people when they are at their worst requires a degree of patience, and in exercising that patience, you come to learn about those whom you represent and what led to the decisions that have brought them into your office. I never get tired gaining perspective into the human condition.

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

I would like it if politicians did not use the criminal law to achieve political ends. The damage that knee-jerk political reactions to sensational cases have on the system is felt immediately at the ground level, and the time it takes for the courts to remedy the errors of the politicians leaves too many injustices behind.

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

"Don't let your ego get in the way of your advocacy" -- stolen from Megan Savard S2E1 of The Law Garage


**6- How do you deal with bad work days?**

I think/talk about them when the wound is fresh until there's nothing left to think/talk about, then they seem to fade away.

**7- What do you think of Zoom court?**

While I think it definitely has its benefits for access to justice, especially by reducing costs on clients (or their lawyers in short administrative matters) I'm not really into Zoom court for serious cases.

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

I objected to a question in re-examination and was met with a very quick and stern "buy a book on re-examination, Mr. Sciarra, and READ IT!" 

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

Nothing inspires me more than when I see a senior lawyer litigating a difficult case with the same p\*\*s n' vinegar of a recent call. It is a reminder that complacency should never be an option for the defence lawyer.

**10- What's your favourite song?**

Glory Days -- Bruce Springsteen

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

- 1) I very rarely, if ever, work on Saturdays
- 2) I plant a lot of tomato plants and spend time with them

**12- What is your biggest legal inspiration?**

My Cousin Vinny

**13- What do you do outside of the law?**

I watch a lot of TV

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

I practice Yoga every day