



### MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS

#### INTRO :

**Member Name :** Eric Neubauer

**Year of Call :** 2013

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#### QUESTIONS :

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

I've always known I wanted to be a criminal lawyer. Though I had envisioned being on the defence side, I started my career as a Crown – summering, articling and working as Crown counsel with the PPSC. I enjoyed being a Crown, but ultimately, I was destined for defence work. I left just after a year to open my own firm in Simcoe Chambers – a place that has come to feel like a second home for me. I've never looked back.

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

The parts of my practice that I enjoy the most are appeals and constitutional litigation. I enjoy appeals because you usually inherit the record, and can focus on the pure legal argument. I enjoy challenging the constitutionality of legislation because you can take the time necessary to design and build the record in a way that is difficult in the frenzy of normal trial litigation.

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

I find running a criminal defence business nearly all consuming. I feel like I used to be a more multi-dimensional person prior to starting in this business.

**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 defence counsel treated with the dignity and respect that befits the integral role we play in the criminal justice system. We should not have to beg for the things we need in order to fulfill our professional and ethical obligations – like meaningful and reliable access to our clients.

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

Buy a Bitcoin and the rest is pro bono.

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

I am lucky to have amazing friends in our bar who I can call or share a drink with on the bad days. They are invaluable. I am also lucky to have an amazing family. Spending time with them has a way of putting things in perspective.

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

I love Zoom court for administrative matters and for some, limited, non-administrative matters. But we are very early on in this experiment. We should be proceeding with caution, and never forcing a virtual proceeding on an accused who wishes to have an in-person hearing.

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

My first trial as a federal Crown alleged simple possession. A guy smuggled beef out of a grocery store in his pockets. He was stopped by loss prevention and searched. A small baggie of drugs was found in his pocket under the beef. I lost. Embarrassing? Yes. But I wear that loss as a badge of honour as defence counsel.

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

I won't name names, but I am inspired by my amazing colleagues at Simcoe Chambers every single day.