



### MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS

#### INTRO :

**Member Name :** Maria Rosa Muia

**Year of Call :** 2018

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#### QUESTIONS :

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

As an international student I had to wait a few months once I finished law school to write the NCA exams. I was given the opportunity to work as a student at a criminal defence firm which had office space in a busy chamber. Seeing all the defence lawyers running in and out, the exchanging war stories and being pulled into their offices to show me what they were working on was mesmerizing. That's when I realized there was nothing else I would rather do. Also, my ethics professor in law school said I'd be an excellent criminal lawyer.

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

I enjoy 'he said she said' cases, single complainant vs my client. Cases where the complainant has their version of events and I have to find and break down all the inconsistencies and challenge the evidence using their own words.

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

The practice of criminal law has opened my eyes to the holes in our justice system, specifically, the treatment of marginalized individuals, it has made me more compassionate and given me the confidence to advocate for those who can't advocate for themselves.

**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 a greater emphasis on rehabilitative measures for individuals dealing with mental health and addiction issues. Getting help to address such issues should be easier.

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

You don't have to answer every phone call, text or email immediately. Some things can wait until tomorrow.

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

I vent to my law bestie, take my dog on a long walk, get some exercise and binge trashy reality TV!

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

I enjoy the flexibility Zoom court provides. I can speak to multiple client matters in different jurisdictions in one day without losing time and money that comes from driving to each jurisdiction. Otherwise, I would prefer in person trials.

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

I get embarrassed so easily it's terrible! As a student I was helping with a large 11(b) application and there were boxes of materials that needed to get filed at 361. When I got to the Crown office, I got a large paper cut as I was handing things over and got blood on some materials, the secretary had to give me a band aid. As a student I was mortified!

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

I have a lot of wonderful mentors that I look up to but I find the most inspiration watching senior lawyers who continue to be excited about the profession many years after they have been called.

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

My taste in music swings from reggae to EDM and everything in between so I don't have a favourite! Right now, Fast Car – Jonas Blue is on repeat.

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

I try to work 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday – Friday, of course there are days where that is not possible but I try to save working outside those hours and on weekends for important and urgent matters. I feel that this gives me balance to enjoy my personal life

without any guilt. I lift weights and practice yoga daily to relieve stress and spend a lot of time with my dog!

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

Legal aid lawyers and lawyers who take on marginalized clients.

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

Exercise, spend time with my family and dog. I am also trying to learn and perfect as many of my Nonna's recipes as possible!

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

I am a huge nerd when it comes to astrology and numerology etc. I am also a fairly decent tarot card reader!