



MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS

INTRO :

Member Name : Andrew Perrin

Year of Call : 2001

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QUESTIONS :

1- How did you get into criminal law?

I had a life changing experience with Abraham Chris Bailey, a former Toronto police officer who was convicted of trafficking and served 7 years. He made me realize that not all people with a badge are honourable and truthful. The beating and court experience with him, inspired me in more ways than words can describe.

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

I enjoy defending any case involving mainly Police witnesses, the most. My excitement comes from knowing that professional police witnesses need to be questioned and held accountable for the things that they say and do and I know I am up for that challenge.

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

The practise has changed me in a way that words likely cannot describe. It has helped me realize that you can't always believe what you read and that editorial license can be a very dangerous proposition for a person accused of a crime. The practise has made me much more empathetic than I once was while at the same time fuelling my desire to uncover the truth about how things happen.

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

One thing that I would appreciate seeing change is the way in which we choose the people who govern the system in which we work. I would especially want to reenforce that the criminal Justice system is made to ensure that an accused person receives a fair trial and that the most important aspect of this is the presumption of innocence. I feel this is something that is waning and worthy of an "adjustment".

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

Be careful what you wish for!

6- How do you deal with bad work days?

I go fishing !

7- What do you think of Zoom court?

I prefer a bad day fishing than a good day in ZOOM court.

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

I was asked by a judge in Toronto superior court to stand behind the bar until my lawyer arrives. I was of course the lawyer (not an accused person) and the judge soon realized his oversight and apologized. I was a younger man at the time and the judge said in passing "Mr. Perrin, has anyone ever told you that you look Like Jesse Ventura?" I replied with "No sir not ever ... but it is true that he does look like me." There was a chuckle and a laugh and we proceeded to have our client released after a bail review at Christmas time.

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

My inspiration in criminal law is and always will be the criminal defence lawyers (you know who you are) who have remained true to their beliefs and who refuse to forget or disabuse themselves of the fact that everyone in this system (and I mean EVERYONE) puts their pants on one leg at a time.

10- What's your favourite song?

Folsom prison blues - Johnny Cash

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

Fishing and beer and the Leafs seem to be my go to (s).

12- What is your biggest legal inspiration?

The belief that one day MAG will fund LAO as it does the prosecution.

13- What do you do outside of the law?

I like to cook and snuggle my grandsons Jones and Beau as many times in a week as possible.

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

That I don't necessarily have a problem with authority.