



### **MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS**

#### **INTRO:**

**Member Name:** Colleen McKeown

**Year of Call:** 2016

**Twitter Handle:** @McKeownLaw

#### **QUESTIONS:**

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

I took one criminology course as an elective during undergrad and it was so interesting that I starting researching graduate work in criminology partway through the course. While I tried a few other things on for size during law school, nothing compared to criminal law.

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

Any appeal to the Court of Appeal with a somewhat decent legal issue—you can't be too picky! I like the challenge of trying to find and present compelling legal arguments in what is usually an uphill battle.

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

Criminal law has made me less trusting of authority. And I think my sense of humour has become a bit darker too.

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

I can't decide between a big big increase in legal aid funding and a re-imagining of our sentencing regime.

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

Tag along to court more often—it'll get harder to do as you get busier.

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

Talking to my colleagues about it—and then talking to my friends and family about anything else.

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

I'm grateful my matter can be called in Brampton at 11:15 a.m. and then I can still be on time for my appearance in Milton at 11:30 a.m. But I'm excited to be going back in person to argue substantive matters. It's hard to connect with the court and stay engaging when you have more than an hour to make submissions over Zoom.

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

At the Supreme Court for the first time, I knocked over a full glass of water with the sleeve of my robes. Several people saw but, thankfully, court had not yet started.

**9 - Who is your inspiration in criminal law?**

I am inspired by my colleagues, whom I get to watch most closely. But I am also inspired by anyone I see thinking outside the box rather than accepting the status quo to get a better result for their client.

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

Most of the hobbies I tried picking up during the pandemic have since fallen by the wayside, but my sports-watching has really stuck. I hope to get back to other favourite pre-pandemic activities like patio drinks and exploring different parts of the city soon.

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

I have to subsist on tea during the day as I don't like coffee!