



### **MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS**

#### **INTRO :**

**Member Name :** Jessyca Greenwood

**Year of Call :** 2009

Twitter Handle: Currently on a Twitter hiatus :) see what I'm up to on insta:

@litgationlawyer

LinkedIn Page: jesPhoto - Will attach

#### **QUESTIONS :**

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

Criminal law was clearly the most exciting part of law and it inspired me to become a criminal lawyer. From a young age I had a knack for winning debates and sticking up for the younger kids. People said I should be a lawyer. I didn't know any lawyers, and thought that this was what being a lawyer was all about. In law school, I was drawn to my volunteer work at the Community Legal Aid Clinic, and devoted myself fully to doing hearings and trials.

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

My passion is working with clients and helping make a difference in their lives. My best wins have been advocating for persons with mental illness who entered the justice system when they were unwell. Whether I am working with a client to achieve mental health diversion or assembling the expert evidence and other pieces needed for a successful NCR defence on a murder, my true love is s.16 and s.672 of the Code.

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

The adversarial nature of criminal law can have an impact on how you perceive the world. I have fought against becoming cynical by always trying to understand people's motivations and perspectives and tried hard not to lose that empathy and curiosity. However, there is compassion fatigue, and if you experience it - that's okay!

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

A better funded defence bar and legal aid system which ensures that all parties have proper funding and all persons have access to the best possible defence team.

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

Don't have kids. Just kidding. No really, stop worrying about everything all at once. To take a breath. You can only fight one fire at a time. And get more sleep!

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

I hang with my dogs. I have a spaniel-retriever mix and a corgi puppy and they are the best distraction from stress.

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

I love drinking out of my own mug rather than Styrofoam so I am okay with it.

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

I have certainly been embarrassed when I have asked the one question too many and got an answer I wished I hadn't. I try not to do that anymore, but sometimes I can't help it. Quit while you're ahead!

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

Craig Bottomley. He knows it. I also love a strong female role model. I admire Marie Henein's boldness and ability to speak out against injustices and am grateful for the many other titans of our bar (including Craig) who continue to slog it out in the trenches daily and are kind enough to pick up my calls when I am in trial hell.

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

Favourite 90s song? Jesus don't want me for a sunbeam, by Nirvana. My favourite new song, whatever my daughter says is trending on TikTok, usually Doja Cat.

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

What stress? There is no work life balance in criminal law. When you're not in trial, you have down time and prep time. When you're in trial that's all that matters. Either you can live like that or you can't. During the pandemic I expanded my practice to include

employment and regulatory defence work which helped me achieve some balance when I am not in trial.

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

I have two that keep me going: working on cases with skilled lawyers and learning new things, and secondly, securing wins for clients and watching them be able to go home to their family or leave the Courthouse unscathed. Those victories make it all worth it.

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

I try to make the most of the downtime. I am the proud mom of two awesome kids and two adorable fur babies, I play club rugby, have a cheeseboard making hobby and try to get enough sleep :)

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

I secretly love fiddle leaf fig trees and rare books.