



THE **VOICE** OF
THE **CRIMINAL**
DEFENCE BAR

MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS

INTRO :

Member Name : Paolo Giancaterino

Year of Call : 2007

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QUESTIONS :

1- How did you get into criminal law?

I've always had an interest in criminal law going into law school having volunteered in high school with Michael Del Gobbo in St. Catharines. I think what really cemented my path to criminal law was in first year law school when my small group professor took me aside and told me I should focus on criminal law. I never looked back.

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

I really love taking on the "impossible case" – cases where the evidence is overwhelming against your client (but for one reason or another is not resolving). We've all had experience with these kinds of cases. They bring you to the limit and give you that extra motivation to push forward even against impossible odds.



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

The bad: I've become much more cynical of people since entering the practice of criminal law

The good: I find myself focusing on the good in everyone.

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

It would be amazing to pool our money together and hire a PR agency to educate the general public on the fundamental principles of justice and to help them understand just how important a role we play in society.

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

Be confident when setting out the solicitor-client relationship. This can include simple things like when to call, what is really an "emergency" that necessitates an evening or weekend call and more difficult issues like trial strategy.

6- How do you deal with bad work days?

I reach out to my close group of friends in the defence bar. They know what to say and how to say it. Whether it's commiserating or making fun of me, they know what ails me.



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7- What do you think of Zoom court?

ZOOM court has its good and its bad. I find that it has allowed me to be more efficient with my time and helped me avoid countless hours on the road listening to podcasts and satellite radio. It has also put more pressure on us to be readily available for the court on a moment's notice.

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

Very early in my career, during the Crown's cross-examination at a trial, I raised an objection to a question and asked the witness to be excused. The presiding Justice reminded me that my client (who was in the box and being crossed) could not be excused from his own trial. Took me a while to forget that one. Thanks for reminding me.

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

Too many role models to mention. I've been lucky to get to know and watch in action a great number of criminal litigators in Ottawa.

10- What's your favourite song?

Diamond Girl – Nice & Wild



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

Try to keep as active and social as possible. Hanging out with friends, being around with family, and playing sports allow me to forget the constant and ongoing stressors of our job.

12- What is your biggest legal inspiration?

I would have to say Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino. They spent their legal careers doing what was right, knowing full well that the consequences could be severe. They both lost their lives for being principled, honest and for fighting in what they truly believed in.

13- What do you do outside of the law?

I love playing competitive sports and hanging out with my friends and family. I also enjoy having the occasional glass of wine or scotch (or both)

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

I am an airplane fanatic. For some reason, I love plane spotting. I love going to airports and I'm fascinated with watching airplanes take off and land. One of my best friends in the defence bar who I've known for over two decades only found out two years ago that I have a flight-tracking app on my phone...