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### **MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS**

#### **INTRO :**

**Member Name :** Jon Doody

**Year of Call :** 2014

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#### **QUESTIONS :**

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

I have been interested in criminal law since a very young age. My mother was a Crown Attorney and so there was often dinner table discussions about her work. While this piqued my interest in criminal law, I became increasingly curious in criminal defence—much to my mother's chagrin. When I finally entered law school I had one goal in mind: to become a criminal defence counsel. I was fortunate enough to spend both summers of law school with my current firm, and I clerked for the OCJ in Windsor in 3L, both of which cemented my interest in criminal law.



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

I enjoy cases that require legal argument, particularly the unique ones. Whether a *Charter* motion, or simply arguing how a specific charge should be interpreted, it is the intellectual challenge of crafting and arguing a legal argument that especially interests me. As for specific charges, I enjoy defending impaired by drug cases. The law around this section of the *Code* is still developing and presents a unique opportunity for my work to influence the law.

**3. How do you deal with bad work days?**

As I'm sure most of my colleagues can attest to, I love a good rant. Following a rough day in court, or a frustrating interaction with a client, Crown, or judge, I will often rant to whomever happens to be nearby. Ranting allows me to vent my frustration and by verbalizing it I can often move past it. I find it very cathartic, and I think that most of my colleagues often find my rants humorous, or at least that is what I'll continue telling myself. Being able to laugh about what we do, and the absurdity of it at times, is a skill that I believe helps to deal with the stress and the bad days.

**4. What do you think of Zoom court?**

I have mixed feelings about it. On the one hand I recognize that it has proven to be a valuable asset to allow trials to continue running smoothly over the past couple years, giving clients access to more timely trials than they would have had without Zoom. On the other hand, I have had a number of issues arise in Zoom trials that would never have happened in a traditional courtroom. One such incident involved a police officer witness getting locked out of the police station board room where she was testifying from, requiring us to wait almost two hours before the custodian could unlock it. Another time, in the middle of my cross-examination with her, I



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had a witness put her cellphone (through which she was testifying) down on her coffee table to walk off-screen to deal with her crying baby and speak to the babysitter. My other reservation, which I have about most new technology, is the resulting digital divide that it creates. There are those for whom access to Zoom is not an issue at all as they are never without their phone, but then there are those who are not so fortunate, and are more concerned with where their next meal is going to come from or where they will sleep that night. The most marginalized members of our society, who are already over-represented as accused in the criminal justice system, have yet another hurdle to even attend court. Like much of the criminal justice system, I think that it has obvious benefits but that more time and money is needed to ensure that it works to serve everyone equally.

##### **5. Any embarrassing court story you're willing to share?**

This is one of my favourite embarrassing court stories, although it only indirectly relates to me. When I was in grade nine, I attended take-your-kid-to-work-day with my mother, who, at that time was a provincial Crown Attorney. I was sitting in court watching a trial she was prosecuting. During the morning recess, she invited me to come sit at counsel table beside her. She was standing talking to her IO from one side of the desk, so I pulled her chair aside and sat down in it, absently minded looking around the courtroom. The Judge re-entered the court with no warning, and everyone was caught off guard. We all stood up as he entered and were then instructed to sit back down. I turned to walk back to the body of the court when I heard a loud noise behind me. My mother had gone to sit down, forgetting (or in her version of the story, not knowing) I had moved her chair, and fell right on the floor. She was rather embarrassed, and I felt terrible. Everyone else got a good laugh out of it. She still, to this day, threatens to come to one of my trials and pull out my chair when I'm not looking as payback.



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**6. Who is your role model/inspiration in criminal law?**

Growing up with two parents who were lawyers meant that I spent much of my childhood hearing about the law, and their respective cases. They were early role models that inspired me to pursue the law, and continued to serve as role models as I progressed through law school and now into my practice. At my firm, I was fortunate to work with some great mentors, including Don Bayne, Norman Boxall, Ian Carter and Mark Ertel—two of whom have since been appointed to the bench. With these inspirations so close by, I've always had plenty of role models to learn from and aspire towards.

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

The main way that I've strived to separate my work and my personal life is by doing office work at the office, and not at home. I'd much rather get up early and go into the office, or work late, if it means not having to bring the work home. This really allows me to be able to distance myself from the job while at home. Obviously Covid changed that, but as soon as our office reopened, I was back working there everyday. While I still work from home occasionally, I try to avoid it as much as possible. The physical separation of "work" space and "home" space is something that I know I need, and that works for me.

**8. What do you do outside of the law?**

When I'm not working, I'm often spending time on my hobby of reselling on eBay. Whether it's shopping in thrift stores; garage sales; estate sales; or online, in-person, or storage locker auctions, I enjoy finding items that I can resell online. It allows me a different avenue for my focus and energy that uses a totally different set of skills required of being a lawyer. It's fun and



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surprisingly relaxing, and provides a second stream of income, which is always nice. How many people can say they have a hobby that makes money rather than costs money?