



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

MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS

INTRO :

Member Name: Ashley Sewrattan

Year of Call: 2018

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QUESTIONS:

1 – How did you get into criminal law?

I majored in criminology in undergrad and loved it. Some of my professors were defence lawyers and it was obvious how much they enjoyed their job. I went to law school open-minded about exploring other areas of law, but ultimately nothing compared to criminal law.

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

I enjoy defending sexual assault cases. They are increasingly complex as the legislation and case law evolve to reflect societal norms. This makes them very interesting but also a little frustrating.



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

Practicing criminal law has made me more patient. It has taught me not to assume. You never know what sort of battles people are facing behind the scenes.

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

The section 276/278 regimes.

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

Sometimes you have to slow down to speed up. Working hard is important but so is setting boundaries.

6 – How do you deal with bad work days?

I let myself replay the bad part of my day in my head a few times because I can't help it. Then I try to distract myself by listening to music, getting fresh air, or spending time with friends and family.

7 – What do you think of Zoom court?

Zoom court is great for administrative appearances. It saves a ton of time that can be spent more productively. Trials should be in-person unless the defendant consents to a Zoom trial.



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

Once I was so nervous doing a set date as a student that I misspelled my last name. The double T is tricky sometimes.

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

I am inspired by Justice Heather Pringle and Margaret Bojanowska. They mentored me as a summer student, articling student, and associate and showed me what it means to be a fierce and compassionate advocate.

10 – What's your favourite song?

Right now it's Anti-Hero by Taylor Swift.

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

I destress by venting to friends and colleagues who can relate to my stress. I try to maintain work life balance by surrounding myself with people who are not lawyers, particularly family. This can be difficult when your law partner is also your brother.

12 – What is your biggest legal inspiration?

The wrongfully convicted.



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13 – What do you do outside of the law?

I like to explore new restaurants, especially after being cooped up inside during the pandemic. I also like to watch trashy reality TV.

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

I am one of the five people who still play Wordle every day.