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THE **CRIMINAL**
DEFENCE BAR

MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS

INTRO :

Member Name : Eva Janta, KPA Lawyers

Year of Call : 2016

QUESTIONS :

1- How did you get into criminal law?

I have been interested in criminal law since high school, when I took a law class and we learned about Stephen Truscott and his story of wrongful conviction. Before law school, I had the great experience to work as a law clerk for Phil Campbell (now Justice Campbell) which further inspired me to become a criminal lawyer.

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

I'm not sure I would say enjoy, but as a family lawyer as well, I find it satisfying to defend domestic cases. There are a lot of crossover issues, like contact for parenting time, that require both criminal and family law considerations and knowledge.



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

I've definitely developed a thicker skin than I had before I started practicing. But I think I've also become more compassionate and sensitive to substance issues and mental health issues.

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

I would get rid of all mandatory minimum sentences. Defence and the Crown should have the flexibility to work out appropriate sentences using all available tools. Requiring jail or a criminal record for everyone who commits a particular crime doesn't take into account individual circumstances and can have lifelong impacts for a first offender.

5- How do you deal with bad work days?

I vent with my co-workers. It was much harder to deal with bad days when I was self-employed or working entirely remotely. I'm glad to be part of a supportive office with great colleagues who are always willing to bounce around ideas with me.



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6- What do you think of Zoom court?

Zoom court for remands, bail hearings, and even trials has been fantastic. It lets me appear in Brampton, Peterborough, and Kitchener courts in one day without leaving the comfort of my office. This has saved me countless hours of driving (and gas), and it lets my lower-income clients appear for their matters without having to arrange rides or pay for transportation.