



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

MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS

INTRO :

Member Name : Roshni Gopaul

Year of Call : 2018

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QUESTIONS :

1- How did you get into criminal law?

I wanted to be a Criminal Defence lawyer since I was 17, so I pursued law. I did not get Articling in Criminal Law, so I did one in Civil Litigation. After that, finding employment in Criminal Law proved difficult. I eventually found a criminal law position in 2021. Unfortunately, at that place, most of my files were family law. I left in July 2022 and went out on my own to hopefully fulfil my dreams to be a Criminal Defence Lawyer.



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

Sex Assault cases and cases where my clients are facing custodial time. I inspire to be a homicide defence lawyer. I find these types of matters more rewarding and more motivating for me to stay up all night or wake up early to work. However, as I only went out on my own to practice in 2021, I have not done a single trial yet. I am still new to the practice.

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

I would like to see the Crown Attorneys stop treating criminal law as a win or lose, or stop bringing their ego into negotiation. For example, I was discussing a matter with a Crown, and his next email said "I suggest we schedule trial dates" and I do believe that had I been a man, instead of a woman, and another colour, Crown are more likely to listen and review. Judges are also more likely to listen instead of one liners like "I trust Crown as he is an experienced crown, so I can make no other suggestion to you" at JPTS.



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

Definitely hold out for articling position in criminal law. Coming in without a background, no real caselaw textbooks is a disadvantage, even on the basics. + Study law in Canada instead of going abroad and coming back.

5- How do you deal with bad work days?

I signed up for kickboxing.

6- What do you think of Zoom court?

I love Zoom court – I can make several court attendances on one day, while also getting my drafting for deadlines done.

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

I don't really have a plan, but I do trust my body to let me know when I need a break and at that time, I switch off, lock my door, and sleep all day.



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8- What do you do outside of the law?

I enjoy hiking with my dog and long road trips.

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

I speak French fluently.