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**DEFENCE BAR**

### **MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS**

#### **INTRO :**

**Member Name :** Jasminder Singh

**Year of Call :** 2022

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#### **QUESTIONS :**

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

When I immigrated to Canada from India in 2019, I landed a job at a criminal defence law firm Daley, Byers. One of the managing partners of the firm, Kenneth Byers, was kind enough to give me this opportunity at a time when I needed it the most. After that, I learnt everything about criminal law from him and fell in love with the notion of being a 'defender' of the rights of people. I realized that criminal defence lawyers act like a wall



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between the mighty state and the common people and if that wall breaks down, the system might collapse. This idea keeps me going and doesn't let me get tired!

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

I enjoy defending all kinds of cases as, in the end, when I am able to get a good result for my clients, the happiness on their faces releases all of my stress. Every case is equally important for me and I put my 100% in all of them.

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

It has made me more patient and I have learned to remain calm in stressful situations and I do not allow my emotions to get the best of me.

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

I hope criminal defense services become more accessible and affordable in the future. There is a group of people who do not qualify for legal aid and are not affluent enough to pay trial fees to a criminal lawyer. I hope all of us, including criminal defence lawyers and the government, devise a way to make this 'essential' service accessible to more people.



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

I am still young and learning, so I would love to answer this question 5 years down the line!

**6- How do you deal with bad work days?**

I try to remind myself that it was just one day and that tomorrow would be better!

**7- What do you think of Zoom court?**

I think it is good. It has made it possible for all criminal defence lawyers to appear in multiple jurisdictions while sitting in one place and save time and energy.

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

Fortunately, I do not have one till now! I think it is because since I have started practicing, most appearances have been through Zoom and it is harder to embarrass yourself on Zoom vs in person!



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

My mentor Kenner R. Byers and Mr. Edward Greenspan.

**10- What's your favourite song?**

It is a Punjabi song- 'Sache Suche Geet' by Satinder Sartaj.

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

I think when I come back home from office, my stress automatically goes away. I do not talk about work much at home with my wife. Also, my father is a police officer in India and he also has a very stressful job. I have seen him manage stress all these years and I have never seen him bring the stress home from work. I think I am just following his footsteps.

**12- What is your biggest legal inspiration?**

Since I have studied law in India, I have looked up to a couple of lawyers during my initial years in college. One is Mr. Fali Nariman and the other is Mr. Nani Palkhivala. Both outstanding lawyers and even greater human beings.



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**13- What do you do outside of the law?**

I love spending time with my wife. I love listening to music and watching stand-up comics. A good laugh really calms me down and hits the reset button! In summers, I am all about outdoors and I love outdoor running and biking.

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

I am a national level swimmer and I used to hold a record for 50 M Backstroke back in the day!