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THE **CRIMINAL**  
**DEFENCE BAR**

### MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS

#### INTRO :

**Member Name :** Kevin Kaczmar

**Year of Call :** 2018

**Twitter Handle:** I don't have Twitter. I merely use it to creep all of you guys.

**LinkedIn Page:** n/a

#### QUESTIONS :

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

In high school I went on a field trip to Old City Hall and I saw what a prosecution looks like. It left a bad taste in my mouth. Fast forward a few years, and I met Hilary Dudding at a U of T Law alumni pub night. Fast forward a couple of Mooseheads, and an introduction had been brokered with Reid Rusonik. Fast forward a quick interrogation, and I'd secured a summer student job at RORRA (or RORRGA, as it then was). The rest is history. Never looked back.



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

Ones where I get to cross-examine unsavoury witnesses who have the audacity to level accusations against my clients. Those are always the most fun cross-examinations!

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

Other than being stressed more often, I'm not sure it did.

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

Improving conditions in our jails, to begin with.

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

Go watch senior lawyers run trials whenever you have time to do so. Easier than ever to do now with Zoom trials.



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

The same way I deal with the good ones: with a frosty Eastern European lager.

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

Instead of driving to Barrie for assignment court, you mean? Yes, I love it. I also like Zoom for many (but not all) trials. I certainly hope bails continue via Zoom.

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

My first ever time appearing in court was when I was still a student at Downtown Legal Services. I appeared before Justice Reinhardt in Scarborough on a cold winter morning. I was so nervous that I forgot to take off my parka. Justice Reinhardt was too nice to say anything, but I'm sure that I looked like a total muppet.

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

There are honestly too many to mention. One of them is Hussein Aly though. I read transcripts from his trials for fun.



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

It changes every day. I try to listen to as many genres as I can, from as many parts of the world as I can. The playlist can transition very quickly from Bad Bunny, to Pavarotti, to Golec uOrkiestra. But I think the glue which holds everything together is 90s hip hop like Big L and Smif-n-Wessun. That said, try pulling up to the Brampton courthouse on your way to a trial and blasting "Ederlezi" by Goran Bregovic in your car. The Crown never stood a chance.

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

I play soccer several times a week. Slide tackling someone every once in a while and yelling at a referee takes the edge off (at least for me).

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

The wrongfully convicted. And the rightfully convicted, too.

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

Play soccer and travel.



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

My first language is Polish. Also, I've been learning Spanish since COVID started and I'm getting pretty good at it!