



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

MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS

INTRO :

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Year of Call : June 2017

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QUESTIONS :

1. How did you get into criminal law?

I started off as an assistant/office manager for 3 criminal defence lawyers in Toronto. I quickly learned that this was the only work I could do tirelessly to the exclusion of almost anything else. Learning about criminal law woke up a part of me that I had been searching for.

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

Homicides, cases involving nuanced legal issues where vulnerable parties otherwise fall through the cracks, and all appeals.

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

It's allowed me to grow into someone that for most of my life seemed very out of reach.

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

There are 3 things I'd like to see change.

1. I would like to see all aspects of the Dangerous Offender regime challenged with far more regularity, and far fewer concessions.



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2. I would also like to see younger female/female-identifying lawyers and POC being made to feel like they belong.
Stop doubting our credentials.
Yes, I said I am a lawyer. Yes, I am sure that I am a lawyer.
Starting out it was immediately obvious to me that the system trusted my words communicated by someone that wasn't me. When I spoke, it was met with immediate skepticism.
This is not to say that we need not earn credibility with the courts. But one person should not be believed over another if the difference has nothing to do with the law.
That has to stop.
3. The tunnel vision which permeates several police forces must be taken to task.

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

If it doesn't feel right, it isn't. And kindness and strength can be expressed harmoniously – they are not mutually exclusive.

6. How do you deal with bad work days?

I take a minute to feel sorry for myself. But only 1, if that. Then I move on. And if that minute demands one guilty pleasure, so be it. Commiserating with colleagues helps too. Can't recommend it enough.



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7. What do you think of Zoom court?

Everything in moderation. In some contexts, I remain skeptical. Though administrative remands, JPTs, most bails and pleas, and otherwise uncontroversial court appearances should never default back to in-person.

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

I always feel embarrassed after appearing at the Court of Appeal.

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

James Lockyer, Richard Litkowski, Clayton Ruby and Marlys Edwardh

10. What's your favourite song?

Impossible to answer.

What I will say is that my favourite court pump up songs are Short Skirt/Long Jacket by Cake and Season of the Witch by Donovan.



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

This question always makes me laugh.
There's no one size fits all. I love what I do and I am fortunate to have a partner who champions and understands our work.

12. What is your biggest legal inspiration?

The humanity of it all.
My grandma, Jules, OB, my colleagues.
I am deeply inspired by those who remain kind despite being dealt a terrible hand. I also have an insatiable need to beat odds and prove others wrong.

13. What do you do outside of the law?

Gym, hanging out with my closest, crafts and karaoke. I don't mind a good jam.

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

A magician never reveals her secrets.