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DEFENCE BAR

MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS

INTRO :

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Year of Call : 2013

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QUESTIONS :

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

I enjoy anything with an interesting *Charter* issue and an opportunity to cross-examine non-compliant police officers. The job is most fun when you can muster a little righteous indignation.

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

Meaningful repercussions for police who lie on the stand. Also, hold 278.92 applications *ex parte* or with appointed counsel advocating for the complainant at arm's length. Having the



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Crown's central witness forewarned about harmful impeachments is a recipe for wrongful convictions.

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

The most clever argument is rarely the most effective one. The goal is not to get the trier of fact to say "I never would have thought of that", but to say "yes, obviously".

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

Sean Robichaud showed me it is possible to be creative and zealous and ethical in advocacy. And my father – though not in criminal - modelled for me that being a lawyer is about unpretentious hard work for your clients.

5- What's your favourite song?

Hard to pick one favourite song. But to keep it on theme, a few great "criminal law"-related songs: the Grateful Dead's version of "Mama Tried" and The Band's "Long Black Veil" (for my money, the greatest song about an alibi defence ever recorded).

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

Can be hard not to take work stress home when you're really in it. But I have two young children and their interest in my litigation problems is mostly superficial. Plus my 3-year-old is oddly pro-Crown, so we mostly avoid talking about work which helps me disengage.



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7- What do you do outside of the law?

Like what do I do that is illegal? Basically nothing. Nothing serious.

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

I recently delivered my child in a car at the side of the road. Stressful on par with waiting on a jury. Would not recommend.