



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

MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS

INTRO :

Member Name : Daniella Guido

QUESTIONS :

1- How did you get into criminal law?

The easy answer to this is it is the most interesting area of law and once you start how do you do anything else. There is such a human aspect to criminal defence. I majored in criminology and studied many of the underlying causes bringing individuals before the criminal justice system. I also volunteered with the Innocent Project in law school assisting with case review of applicants. You learn about people, their backgrounds, their truths and their hardships. Your role as their counsel is to navigate them through this complex system. We are literally shielding our clients against the enormous weight of the justice system, ensuring fairness, respect and dignity for them at all stages of the proceedings.



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

I like any case with a good charter argument, I'm probably not alone in this.

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

I think the practise of criminal law has made me more open minded about the circumstances of others. I have much more compassion and empathy.

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

Every great criminal lawyer started where you did, take every experience for what it is, an opportunity to learn something from it. If it worked well apply it. If it didn't, improve upon it. Also I would tell myself to ask more questions because the criminal defence bar is very generous with their time.



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

I don't do this well, and it is not for a lack of trying. I think many criminal lawyers struggle to find a balance in this profession especially female lawyers with young families. Criminal defence is a very all consuming area of practise. For me personally, I am lucky to have a fantastic support system that allows me to prioritize working when I need to. When I'm not working I try to fully engage in whatever else I'm doing.

In terms of dealing with the stress of the job after a bad day, I find it helps to call up another criminal lawyer to talk to. If you are on my list of people to call, I'm sorry but thank you. Spending time with my family also has a way of putting things in perspective.

6- What do you do outside of the law?

I'm a mom to young kids, I watch a lot of Cocomelon.