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DEFENCE BAR

MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS

INTRO :

Member Name : Elina Marinosyan

Year of Call : 2023

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/elina-marinosyan-a0bb8b30/>

QUESTIONS :

1- How did you get into criminal law?

I was a new immigrant in 2013 with a foreign law degree and the first employment I was able to secure was in the office of a Criminal Lawyer in the capacity of a law clerk.

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

I do not have any preference in particular but I have to admit that cases involving numerous legal arguments are more attractive.



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

As a person I became more empathetic toward others and less judgemental.

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

There are many things. But I will articulate the two issues that I find are very problematic:
1) Reverse disclosure in sexual offences, and 2) penalties on Impaired Driving and Over 80 for persons who are not Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents.

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

You can't be perfect. Just do your best.

6- How do you deal with bad work days?

Go to bed early.



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7- What do you think of Zoom court?

Best thing that happened to the Criminal Bar. I was very jealous of our colleagues in California, who prior to covid had the ability to appear by video. Saves so much valuable time and is very cost-efficient to clients.

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

I have a very funny one to share.

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

My business partner, Dragi Zekavica. He has been blind since the age of 16 and notwithstanding his disability, he managed to graduate from high school, obtain two bachelor's degrees, and graduate from Queens Law. He further managed to build his practice and maintain it for 45 years before he partnered up with me. I've been in court with him every day since 2013 before I was called to the bar in 2023 and received all my knowledge and skills as a result of working with him side by side.



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

I go to the gym to release steam. Evening walks when it's warm outside. I further try to spend as much time as I can with my family. My husband and our 18 y.o. son are very understanding.

11- What is your biggest legal inspiration?

Hard to say... But overall, I am greatly inspired by my colleagues at the Criminal Bar. I will not name anyone in particular. However, I can proudly say that I am very proud to know many Criminal Lawyers, who inspire and set an excellent example for the generations to come.

12- What do you do outside of the law?

I have volunteered at a Charity on a weekly basis for the last two years.