



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

### MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS

#### INTRO :

Member Name : Carolyn Leblanc

#### QUESTIONS :

1- How did you get into criminal law?

I never wanted to practice criminal law. I saw the system as broken and without the help of being useful to anyone. However, that changed when I saw the very important role of a skilled Defense Lawyer. I was drawn into criminal practice slowly through friends and existing clients struggling in civil litigation as a result of criminal proceedings. I realized that a lawyer who understood the impact of criminal charges on other aspects of law in life was a powerful advocate not only for their clients but the justice system as a whole.

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

I enjoy all types of criminal cases. I have represented clients against murder, assault w/ weapons, assault, sexual assault, robbery, theft, mischief, and impaired.

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

Criminal practice has been a rescue for my mental health. The work is relaxing and fulfilling. The administration side of criminal law is very low and I can focus on practicing law. Something I definitely needed after 3 years of Family Law and Policy work.



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

The useless need for every matter to proceed through the same steps. The only thing that absolutely is necessary for every file is “disclosure”, set next step (ie: CPT or JPT or Plea Date). This would hold crowns to their obligation to provide clear resolution positions in initial disclosure. Further, it would free up Crown's busy schedule i scheduling CPTs that are actually productive and useful and allow pleas to proceed quickly and efficiently.

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

Being a lawyer isn't all about earning a high income. The practice of law is less available to you the higher your earning goes. You like to practice law so keep to the matters that let you do that.

6- What do you think of Zoom court?

I love Zoom Court and wish we continued using it. Zoom keeps the practice and the courts honest and attentive during proceedings.

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

The day was running very long and I was feeling ready to not be in court when my client's matter finally was called at 3:15 p.m. The crown stood and made their position on the record and I stood up, looked at my notes, confirmed the crown's position, then jumped into my submissions. The Judge calmly reminded me I had jumped ahead and it was not time for submissions yet. I sat and waited for the reading of the charges and the crown's facts. Then when I stood again the Judge reminded me that “it still isn't time for defense submissions counsel, let's just confirm the facts.” I guess he could see I was ready to be done for the day.



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8- What's your favourite song?

I love music and all types of songs. My favourite song tends to change based on my mood and day. But "I'll Do It My Way" remains favourite no matter what I am feeling.

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

When I am stressed I go to the water. I will sit on the shore or on my boat. But I find the water to be a balancing aspect in my life. Work-life balance is difficult for a passionate single lawyer with no people in my life. My time has no strings attached to it other than work and I often find myself defaulting to work when I am bored. Being out on the water helps because I am focused on the boat and water and sky so I am less drawn to work. Also, the internet sucks on the water.

10- What do you do outside of the law?

I garden and boat.