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THE **CRIMINAL**
DEFENCE BAR

MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS

INTRO :

Member Name : Nadia Chaabane

Year of Call : 2016, started as a criminal student and articulated with David Bayliss and Dan Brown in 2013.

QUESTIONS :

1- How did you get into criminal law?

I was hired as a summer student at a criminal law firm and I became passionate about it.

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

I love a botched search warrant as well as a youth in a very serious case where I win on a *Charter*.



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

I'm less tolerant now haha but I think it makes me feel like I am playing a part in contributing to my community and advocating for my clients by standing my ground throughout this revolving door of changes over the years.

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

There are a lot of things but I would say right now, the bail system and constitutional challenges to the overbreadth of the *Cannabis Control Act*.

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

Pace yourself.

6- How do you deal with bad work days?

Unplug. I try and use a different part of my brain by going into nature and /or doing something physical be it exercise or working on a project.



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7- What do you think of Zoom court?

I am a fan in most circumstances with the exception of sexual assault trials and trials where the credibility of the witness is in issue.

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

I have a bunch but what comes to mind right now is one of the first times I attended court for an adjournment as a summer student. The JP asked me if I wanted to waive the reading of the charges. I had no idea what that meant and had a miniature mental panic while conducting this Q and A dialogue in my head about whether the client knew what he was charged with and whether he should hear it again, resulting in a long awkward silence in a courtroom full of people and counsel. I finally came to an affirmative conclusion which was very exciting for me at the time whereby I exclaimed "YES!" which must've been the most exuberance the JP saw in 106 court in Oshawa from a member of the defence by 9:30 in the morning that day.

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

So I don't really have a role model *per se* but I do really admire many of the lawyers to focus on mental health work as I know that it can be thankless and the cases are often difficult and/or draining.



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I also admire a few senior defence lawyers who I call for advise because I admire the quality of the work that they do as well as their work ethic such as David Bayliss and Katie Scott.

10- What's your favourite song?

How on earth could I decide this? I listen to A LOT of jazz but I also listen to almost every genre except for modern pop. I would say that the 60's and 70's rock and brit rock would probably be my favourite; Zeppelin and Ozzy, those guys.

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

I have 2 little boys so I don't work anywhere close to what I used to. For example, I don't work on Saturdays anymore. And I try and delegate what I can. I am pickier about the cases that I take. I also try and spend a lot of time outside and exercise, travel etc.

12- What is your biggest legal inspiration?

RBG.



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13- What do you do outside of the law?

I'm an introvert so I tend to avoid social situations but I am involved in some local community organizations, going hiking, and travel a bit.

Recently, I've also been building a lot of marble tracks and vacuuming rice Krispies off the rug. Glamorous I know.