



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

MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS

INTRO :

Member Name : David J. D'Intino

QUESTIONS :

1- How did you get into criminal law?

Growing up I was a big fan of *Law & Order*. I always identified with District Attorney Jack McCoy (played by Sam Waterston) and wanted to be like him. I also enjoyed shows such as *The Practice* and *L.A. Law*. I knew from a young age that I was a gifted public speaker and I never shied away from pressure or the spotlight, and I felt I would be well suited for the rigors of the practice law. Additionally, I was an absolutely atrocious math student (and still am), so that ruled out some career paths!

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

Anything that involves breaches of *Charter* rights. The moment that lawyers stop advancing *Charter* arguments and pushing back against State conduct that infringes these rights, is the moment those rights become meaningless. We cannot allow that to happen.



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

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

My practice has always revolved around legally aided clients - who tend to come from marginalized populations – and this really opened my eyes to the extent of racism, inequality and prejudice in Canadian society. Coming from an Italian background and growing up in a predominantly European community, racism, antisemitism, islamophobia, etc, were not phenomena that I was exposed to as a kid. Seeing and hearing about the way people are marginalized based on race, ethnicity, religion and so on, came as a terrifying shock to me but also helped me to understand how people get caught up in the vicious cycle of poverty, homelessness, mental illness, addiction, criminality and victimization.

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

Trust in yourself and what you are capable of. There will be ups and downs; you will be scared out of your wits at times and not everything will go as planned; but if you believe in yourself and you always give 100%, it will all work out in the end.

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

Lionel Hutz and Jackie Chiles.



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

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

The answer to both is to vacation as much as possible. I work a ridiculous amount in order to be able to take vacations for 2-3 weeks at a time. I find that travelling to Europe or to an all-inclusive in Aruba helps me to clear my mind and relax and reset. Being able to go to these places gives me something to look forward to and helps justify the long hours, the travel and the stress. You have to have short, medium and long term goals and a plan to achieve them, if you hope to manage work-related stress and envision the life you want to live. If you can do those things, and you can work hard in your 20s, 30s and 40s, then you are more likely to be able to scale back gradually in your later life without jeopardizing what you have built. At least, that's what I tell myself anyways!

7- What do you do outside of the law?

Sports such as ball hockey and soccer. I teach at a few different universities (very rewarding intellectually and spiritually). I travel and spend time with my wife, my cat and my family. I play a ton of video games, and I also enjoy playing guitar and working on my second, third, and fourth languages (they need a TON of work).

I am an avid supporter of Juventus FC, Toronto Maple Leafs, Toronto Raptors and the Green Bay Packers.