



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

MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS

INTRO :

Member Name : Ryan Stiles

Year of Call : 2022

Region/City : Muskoka and Simcoe regions

Board Position : Indigenous Director

LinkedIn Page: <https://ca.linkedin.com/in/ryan-stiles-b4393a12a>

QUESTIONS :

1- How did you get into criminal law?

Prior to being called to the Bar I was the Coordinator for the Restorative Justice program in Rama First Nation (Biidaaban). I then started working at Falls Law Group and began working in Criminal Defence.



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

I enjoy defending impaired, assessing Charter issues. I also enjoy defending Break & Enter cases, frauds, and thefts, assessing the evidence is usually pretty fun and making an initial assessment of RPC (from defence perspective).

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

Criminal Law practice has changed me by realizing that the rules of evidence can make or break a case, which impacts final disposition. Things aren't always what they seem.

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

I would like to see Restorative Justice practices included and utilized over what seems to be an overly punitive system. Throwing people in jail isn't always helpful and can sometimes lead to further criminal activity post-incarceration.

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



Be patient while learning and do not be too hard on yourself. Nobody knows all the rules and processes, especially new/young lawyers. Allow yourself time to develop the criminal defence skills.

6- How do you deal with bad work days?

I deal with bad work days by often leaning into co-workers who would have an understanding ear. I then also will checkout after-hours and go for a long walk outside (with my dog who doesn't care about criminal law).

7- What do you think of Zoom court?

I like the ability of Zoom Court, especially for Case Management Court. I think it could be better utilized for simple resolutions, such as Peace Bonds. I would also appreciate if there were a better system to determine the list of matters so lawyers had an idea of when their matters would be called to be spoken to. It can be frustrating waiting hours to do simple adjournments.

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

An embarrassing Court story is when I first began working as a lawyer and had one of my first Duty Counsel shifts all on my own in plea court. I had reviewed the plea sentence but when I was making submissions I forgot the counts the individual was pleading to when asked by the Judge. I felt like a deer in headlights. I ended up having to



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hold the matter down and again confirm with the client what they intended on pleading to. I have adjusted my submissions to immediately list out what charges clients are pleading to so I never have that issue arise again.

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

My role model is Jay Herbert who I have the pleasure of working with at Falls Law Group. I continue to learn so much from him and am so grateful to have him as a mentor and friend whose office is right beside mine.

10- What's your favourite song?

My favourite song changes often, currently I have been enjoying Take Me Out by Franz Ferdinand.

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

I will allow myself to checkout from lawyer life after work hours and will often spend time with non-lawyer/legally trained friends. I also enjoy reading books and playing the piano which very much directs my focus away from the legal profession for a solid break.



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12- What is your biggest legal inspiration?

My biggest legal inspiration is to become a Judge in Ontario.

13- What do you do outside of the law?

Outside of Law I spend a lot of time in my First Nation community and attend cultural events. I also work on and practice Piano.