

MEET LOCAL LAWYER TED YOANNOU



Ted Yoannou is a criminal lawyer based in Collingwood and Toronto, representing clients across southern Ontario.

He and his family have roots in Simcoe County dating back to the 1960's, spending every summer on the beach. He was a co-owner of the Wasaga Waterworld waterparks in the late 1990's / early 2000's, and you may recall his famous waterslide race against Mayor Walter Borthwick in 1997. Or maybe not.

More recently, he's become notorious for embarrassingly high scores at our local golf courses and singing along very poorly with the tribute bands at the Gayety Theatre. He recently participated in this Q & A session.

Q. What made you become a criminal lawyer?

A. I really enjoy the variety, strategy, and negotiations involved. Helping clients who come from a multitude of different backgrounds and experiences and who find themselves in all sorts of difficult situations. Working with Judges, Crown Attorneys, the police, social workers, court staff, counsellors, law students, etc. They are all unique and interesting. It's challenging, and there's never a dull day.

Q. What kinds of cases does your office handle?

A. Literally everything from the most serious criminal behaviour to relatively minor transgressions. Our most common cases involve various assault related allegations, as well as all driving related offences, both criminal and traffic. We also help clients clear their past records, which could be hindering their employment and travel aspirations.

Q. What is your worst quality?

A. My short attention span. Sorry, what was the question again?

Q. What is your best quality?

A. Not my golf swing. In all seriousness, I think it's the focus we have in our office on client service. In addition to protecting our clients' legal interests effectively, we strive to communicate in simple language, not "legalese". The criminal court process is complicated, and we try to simplify it for our clients as much as possible. We treat our clients the way we would treat our family and friends, and the way we ourselves want to be treated. The number one complaint I most often hear about other lawyers is, "I don't know what's going on with my case and my lawyer never gets back to me." That doesn't happen in our office.

Q. How do you deal with clients that you know are guilty?

A. I'd like to consult with my lawyer before I answer that!



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