

OPEN NINTH:

CONVERSATIONS BEYOND THE COURTROOM

JUDICIAL SPOTLIGHT

MEET HONORABLE JOHN E. JORDAN

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HOSTED BY: LISA T. MUNYON

(Music)

NARRATOR: Welcome to another episode of “Open Ninth: Conversations Beyond the Courtroom” in the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida.

And now here’s your host, Chief Judge Lisa Munyon.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Hello, and welcome to Open Ninth. I’m here today with Judge John Jordan, one of our circuit judges in the Ninth Circuit. Judge Jordan joined us in 2005, beginning his time on the Orange County bench in the criminal division. But in 2011, Governor Rick Scott elevated him to the circuit bench. Over the years, Judge Jordan has served in many different divisions, but he currently serves in our business court. I’m thrilled to have you in the studio today, Judge Jordan. Thanks for joining me.

JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you, Judge Munyon.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So tell me a little bit about yourself. Where did you grow up and what was your childhood like?

JUDGE JORDAN: Well, as I like to tell Judge Marques, that I’m one of the Latin judges here having been born and raised in North Cuba. Most people refer to it as South Florida, jokingly. So I’m from the Homestead Redlands area. It’s a rural area. You had the Homestead Air Force Base.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: A lot of farming there.

JUDGE JORDAN: A lot of farming, a lot of nursery and my brother is a tomato farmer, in fact. I used to work on the farm. And so it was a great place growing up in South Florida.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And I assume that since you ultimately went to law school, you were good at academics in elementary school, middle school and high school.

JUDGE JORDAN: Well, I'm not going to brag but I did letter in high school. It was for the debate team but I did letter.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Well, I was going to ask you about athletics as well.

JUDGE JORDAN: I played junior high tennis. But I've always played golf and racket sports and things of that nature.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And you were on the debate team.

JUDGE JORDAN: I was. I won the first debate award for our high school way back when. And thoroughly enjoyed debate. It was so much fun.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So what – you left high school in Homestead. Where did you go to college?

JUDGE JORDAN: So while I was in high school – back up for a second. Although we were, you know the most southern high school before you hit the Keys, it was a very liberal arts approach to our school. And so in high school, when it was three years back then, 10th, 11th and 12th grades, I was in a program, I had the same teachers in three core subjects all three years.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Wow. That's pretty unusual.

JUDGE JORDAN: It was and they took us to you know Broadway shows in Coral Gables. We read all the Greek tragedies and essentially by 12th grade, we would read a book and do a full multi-page report every Monday. And there was no internet back then so you couldn't cheat. You had to actually do the work so –

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: You couldn't do Shakespeare for Dummies.

JUDGE JORDAN: You could not and so you know took the CLEP test, which is the first year, you know, didn't study for it. Passed just because of the education I got in my high school. So when it came time to decide for college, I applied to all the three major schools, got accepted. But if you know Homestead back then, it didn't have the super highway so I had to look at the drive and Florida and FSU, got dorms but no air conditioning.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: That is true.

JUDGE JORDAN: And then, so I ended up going to South Florida, loved that and then Florida law school.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: University of South Florida in Tampa.

JUDGE JORDAN: Yes.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And you went to UF law school.

JUDGE JORDAN: Yes, I did. And thoroughly enjoyed that.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So what made you want to go to law school?

JUDGE JORDAN: So you know the debates part of it, I enjoyed that back and forth but my father was an attorney and a federal magistrate.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Was he.

JUDGE JORDAN: Yes, and so I would – I used to go with him downtown and watch him litigate or try cases, you know, like if a criminal offense in the National Park, you would go in front of him. I would just sit there and laugh at people, things they would say to get out of doing

what they did. I didn't realize the lobster tail was that short, you know things like that. And enjoyed that. And then I enjoyed watching my father help people. He would literally bring home a Shetland pony, a jeep, stereo system, produce, instead of money, and I was –

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Right, in trade for his work.

JUDGE JORDAN: In trade for his work. And I was impressed by that. So I felt the calling there.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So you grew up hearing about the law across the dinner table your whole life.

JUDGE JORDAN: Yes.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And that inspired your interest in being a lawyer.

JUDGE JORDAN: It did.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: What – when your dad was practicing, what kind of law did he practice? I mean, Homestead was pretty small back then. Was it pretty much whatever – whatever people needed?

JUDGE JORDAN: Well, so when he came out of World War II he met my mom at a bomber Air Force base out in Texas. He was in the Army Air Corps and she was a civil servant. They got married. The only full time law school back then was really the University of Miami. So he ended up going to the University of Miami. There were two attorneys in Homestead. They invited him to come down and that's how we ended up in Homestead. But you got to remember, he graduated in '53 so take 1970 for example, my dad was throwing a party or going to a party every Friday night. My dad and my mom. He knew everybody. The reason why is, there were

12,000 attorneys in the entire state of Florida in 1970 so it was quite different than what it is today.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Was Homestead different then? I know it took a major hit when Andrew came through.

JUDGE JORDAN: Yeah, we lost the Air Force base and it became a reserve base.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So did it change a lot between when you grew up and after Andrew it?

JUDGE JORDAN: Yes, so they call it St. Andrew because there was so much money put into Homestead after Andrew.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Oh.

JUDGE JORDAN: That I mean, if you see the downtown Homestead city area, I mean you wouldn't believe all the money. I mean, they've got the baseball stadium, the race track. They put in a lot of money down there and people are moving down there now because it's less expensive than downtown Miami. But still big farming and nursery area. You want an orchid, this is mecca, this is where they are. Lots of orchid nurseries.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Lots of orchid nurseries. Probably lots of bromeliad nurseries too.

JUDGE JORDAN: Bromeliad, you name it. All my friends were either farmers, nurserymen or military brats.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So I bet when you were growing up you had to work on the farm on occasion.

JUDGE JORDAN: I've worked – I was driving a tractor at age 14 on the public highways so thoroughly enjoyed it. My cousins in Texas, they all farm too. So I almost went into farming.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: It is good honest work but it's hard work especially in Florida in the summer.

JUDGE JORDAN: Well, the thing about Homestead is, they don't grow in the summer. Okay, so it's a winter crop based only.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Oh, that's kind of nice.

JUDGE JORDAN: It is nice and you know so I still get to go to my brother's cabin up in North Carolina when he's not using it in the summer. So yeah, it's not a bad life.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Yeah, I can remember one summer when I was in high school, I volunteered to help a group and we picked cantaloupes in the summer in Florida. That's hot, dirty work.

JUDGE JORDAN: Yeah.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So your dad inspired you to go to law school. When you got out of law school, what did you do with your law degree?

JUDGE JORDAN: So, you know, I was very active in law school in the legal societies and things of that nature. And I wanted to clerk for a civil litigation firm so I ended up clerking for Beckham, Macalilli at their Jacksonville office. And Robert Beckham, Jeff Wood, Buddy Schulz were the attorneys there. And we were in trial every week in state and federal court, Florida and Georgia, and it was the most wonderful experience being in the courtroom.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And that brought you up to North Florida.

JUDGE JORDAN: Yes, so we were going – in fact, now my wife Beverly, she was going to Florida too but she ended up getting a dental hygiene degree. Her doctor offered us \$5,000 if we would stay, apply it to a house but Buddy Schulz had played baseball with Ned Woolfolk who was down here, Woolfolk and Estes, and knew him, and they did litigation and we had family here in Orlando so we came down, loved it, and that's what brought us here.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And you were in private practice for quite some time before you took the county bench.

JUDGE JORDAN: 21 years, yeah.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: What kind of law did you practice?

JUDGE JORDAN: I did everything. So I started off at insurance defense, but I told them, look, I did plaintiff's work, I did FELA, Federal Employer's Liability Act, Jones Act, Longshoreman Act, general negligence, so I'll do your defense work, I'm just going to do plaintiff's work too and they said, sure. Never had a conflict. And then it expanded to products liability, construction. I did medical malpractice defense work. You name it, I was a prosecutor for the construction industry licensing board, where the state would hire to prosecute so I did a lot of different type of claims like that.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: When you're doing both plaintiff's work and especially work for the defense in those sorts of cases, you're – you travel all over the state doing those cases.

JUDGE JORDAN: Yeah, I tell people, look, I tried more cases in Polk County than I did Orange. I mean, I was in Fort Walton Beach, Dade County. I had one carrier, I did trucking

work. I did the entire state of Florida for them. So lots of travel, which is one of the reasons I became a judge.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So what made you want to be a judge? I mean, your dad was a magistrate and you got to see how he could help people doing that.

JUDGE JORDAN: Of course, back then it was a part time gig.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Oh, okay.

JUDGE JORDAN: Yes, they didn't – you didn't go full time till later on and he didn't do that because they didn't pay enough. So he did both. I think what led me to be a judge is you know, prayed about it. My wife and I prayed about it. We discussed it because it was a big financial hit.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: It's a pay cut for most people to take –

JUDGE JORDAN: To leave and give up your clients. That's hard. You have to give up all your clients and so you know, and then also, I was kind of disappointed in some of the judges back then. Just like they didn't care. And they'd do these cattle calls and you could be 5:00 o'clock before you're called and yet we were there at 8:30. I always felt you know we could do better. And we had such good judges here in Orange County, you know, fantastic judges. Emerson Thompson, Diamantis, Joe Baker, he was a great judge. So just felt the call to make the transition to go into public service. I have no regrets, 17 years later.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So what made you seek the county bench first?

JUDGE JORDAN: Well, the interesting story is I didn't. There were two openings. One in circuit and one in county, and I applied for both. They interviewed me for the circuit and I

said I'll see you next week for the county. And they said, no, you don't need to come back. Okay. And I got Jeff Fleming's county seat. And Jeff got the circuit seat. So I guess – I got the county and he got the circuit one and so that's how I ended up in county. And you know what, I did a little county work for my partner. He did some landlord/tenant, you know, small claims stuff. Wasn't my bailiwick, never did criminal. So of course, as soon as I got here, they put me on the criminal bench.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Absolutely. You can't avoid criminal in either the county court or the circuit court, but especially the county court.

JUDGE JORDAN: Well, the best part is they saved up some special cases.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Did they.

JUDGE JORDAN: Till the new guy came around. And so Judge Snure was my trainer because he had these big time county criminal cases that he was trying in front of me. So he helped train me how to be a better judge when he was a defense attorney.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So what was the thing that you liked best about county court when you were a judge?

JUDGE JORDAN: The people. The pro ses. I think dealing with the high volume, with pro ses and letting them know that you're listening to them. And try to explain what you're doing, I think makes a big difference. I mean, everybody knows I'm a big seventh amendment proponent. I want to protect the right to jury trial in civil cases and I think access to the court. Attorneys are expensive. And so I really enjoy – because procedurally, I could tell them the procedure, I couldn't help them with legal questions, but I could procedurally tell them. That was very enjoyable.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Is there anything that strikes you or that you still remember from your first few days on the county bench that you just didn't necessarily expect or fully appreciate until you found yourself standing there or sitting there with a robe on?

JUDGE JORDAN: So my first day was VOPs.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Oh.

JUDGE JORDAN: And my question was what's a VOP? And that was explained to me.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Those are violations of probation.

JUDGE JORDAN: Yes, violation of probation, I learned that and so I get up there and I had studied it, you know, I was studying hard. Alan Lawson taught me that. He said just study the heck out of this and in six months you'll know more than 95 percent of the attorneys. And I agree with that. And I get in there and I'd say, you know, plea, or would you like a hearing. And they go well, you know, my last judge said I could come in, I could talk to the judge and then we'd come back later. I said, I'm sorry, would you like to plea or would you like a hearing. So it was kind of you know everybody has their way of doing things.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Right.

JUDGE JORDAN: And mine was not to talk to you every three to six months about how everything is going. That was a wakeup call.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Yeah, I get it was. So you were on the county bench for six years.

JUDGE JORDAN: Six years.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And what made you apply for the circuit bench?

JUDGE JORDAN: Well, I had thought about it before but I really enjoyed being a county judge. But my practice was circuit. That was my wheelhouse and so I finally felt led to put in for circuit.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And you went through the entire appointment process again. This time was it with a different Governor.

JUDGE JORDAN: Yeah, so Jeb Bush was my first one. Rick Scott was this one.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And what – was there anything about moving to the circuit bench that surprised you?

JUDGE JORDAN: Well, I mean, we have a lot of different divisions that you never experience in county.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: We probably put you in criminal or something. Or family.

JUDGE JORDAN: Where did you all put me? Yeah, you put me – yeah, in fact, I went – I volunteered to go to Osceola and they put me in family. And so that was –

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Yet again outside your wheelhouse.

JUDGE JORDAN: Outside my wheelhouse but you know family is a place where nobody wins. You know, it's really sad. So you try to do your best but it's just sad.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Except adoptions, that's it.

JUDGE JORDAN: Other than adoptions, there's nothing happy about that. The parties are never happy and the cases live on and on. And so that's –

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: You can also do a lot of good.

JUDGE JORDAN: You can and I've had people thank me afterwards, but it's a different division and I'm sure people who have practiced there do a great job and enjoy it.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So what divisions have you been in since you've been on the circuit bench?

JUDGE JORDAN: The circuit.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Yeah.

JUDGE JORDAN: Oh, wow. Okay, so I started out in family in Osceola.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: I would assume in county you did both the civil and criminal at various times.

JUDGE JORDAN: And I did the initial appearances at the jail.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Okay.

JUDGE JORDAN: I got a great story about that by the way.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Okay, well, tell it.

JUDGE JORDAN: Okay, well, so November '07 I go out to the jail and Mike Murphy is out there. And so all of '08 I'm there and so I was Casey Anthony's first judge.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: I think I remember that barely.

JUDGE JORDAN: When no one knew anything about her. And then she had all her other charges and filings. She had her you know first-degree murder charge. So I'm trying to get her in and out because of all the media. And the interesting about that thing was that she – after I told her first-degree murder, no bond, the guard came up and said, hey, you won't believe what she

said back there and I said, well, I don't want to hear what she said to her attorney. Oh, no, no, she said this in front of all the prisoners, the guards and everybody else. And okay, and what I've learned since finding out what that answer was, kind of explained the case itself. And she essentially said how does my hair look. And that explains a lot about that so that was an interesting time.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: I bet that was because it was -- the media attention around that case was second only to OJ Simpson or something notorious like that.

JUDGE JORDAN: Yeah, and the other interesting thing, when I first saw her, you know, when she had taken them out to Universal Studios and showed them around and said, by the way, I don't work out here, she had a thousand dollar bond on child neglect. State was fine with it but we didn't know where Caylee was. And so I had questioned her, I said, look, she wasn't charged with murder or anything. I said, tell us where Caylee is and she didn't say so I wouldn't give her the thousand-dollar bond. And she got a bond eventually downtown for like half a million and home confinement. But that same day a person at Sea World called the clerk's office because they had missed a court date and they were threatening the clerk and everything. You know, I'm going to bomb the clerk's office and stuff and they arrested him. They brought him in and of course, the state then now wants a gigantic bond but it turned out the guy had no history at all. And he was just frustrated with the process. So I went against the state on that one as far as it goes so then I enjoyed being a judge. That you know, they make -- there's bond recommendations and things of that nature but you get to look at the total facts to make a decision so, and you could be criticized for it. We all have --

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And the call is ultimately yours.

JUDGE JORDAN: But the call is mine and I kind of enjoy that. I like that freedom to make that call.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So we left off on your assignments in circuit court.

JUDGE JORDAN: Oh, gosh, almost everything it seems like. I did family down there. I did family up here. I did delinquency down there.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Down in Osceola.

JUDGE JORDAN: Osceola. I did civil, probate, guardianship, Marchman, baker act.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: In Osceola.

JUDGE JORDAN: In Osceola. And Marchman act, I got to admit it was my favorite thing I did as a judge. The fact that you can help people that have drug and alcohol problems and actually turn them around, that is one of the most rewarding things I've ever done as a judge.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And I agree with you. I can also say it's some of the most frustrating work because you have very few tools with the Marchman act.

JUDGE JORDAN: True. But when you do make a difference and they come in later and the family comes in, it's like an adoption.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Right.

JUDGE JORDAN: It feels good. So and then I've done criminal here. I've done circuit civil, business court. I mentioned family here. I don't know. What else have I done? Seventeen years, I can't –

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So basically, you've done everything but dependency.

JUDGE JORDAN: Correct. Although I did cover two dependency hearings for Judge Dawson. Does that count?

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: We all do dependency on the weekends and in emergency duty.

JUDGE JORDAN: And you trained me, if you don't recall this, but I got – I started in October of 2005 so they had of course assigned me Thanksgiving which means, for those listening that means for four days I had to be at the jail to do initial appearances. So Judge Munyon took me out and showed me how to do initial appearances.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Did I.

JUDGE JORDAN: I still have our notes, if you'd like to look at them because I knew nothing about criminal and nothing about initial appearances so you trained me. You're responsible for everything I do at IAs.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Oh, well, thank you, that explains a lot.

JUDGE JORDAN: Yes.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So what changes have you seen over the years since you've been on the bench? Changes in the judiciary, changes in lawyers, changes in our legal culture.

JUDGE JORDAN: Well, I think you have to start with the judiciary. I think it's great that we have – that we draw from a pool that has different backgrounds like yourself. State Attorney, courtroom experience. I think we've added more civil people since I've been a judge, and I think that's a good thing. I think we need a mix of people here and they should go outside their comfort zone. I mean, you've done business court, you've done everything, so – but I think that's

good that we have more people like that. And of course, the revolt of 2005 where we changed our rotation system for the circuit judges. I wasn't part of that. But –

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: I was in that meeting.

JUDGE JORDAN: Yes, you were in that meeting. And I think that was good because that allowed judges to go to divisions they would like to but because of seniority, they perhaps were prohibited from so I think that's good that we can do different things. So I enjoy that and of course, I tell people, COVID, it's kind of like Hurricane Andrew. It's called St. Andrew in Homestead. COVID kind of pushed us into the 21st Century.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: It has.

JUDGE JORDAN: It made us use audio/visual devices, you know, it was kind of rare. Remember, we'd get court call and they'd charge the parties 60 bucks an hour. I forget what it was. But now it's common. Everybody's used to it. The juries are used to it. The juries love to be down here and talk to a person in person where at home you know perhaps it's still remote. So I think the technology is great and can be a big part going forward of helping resolve cases and keeping costs down.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: I don't know if you've noticed a change in your trial since we started doing jury trials again post COVID, or in the new COVID world, whatever you want to call it. But almost every jury trial I've had there has been some witness that has appeared remotely through audio/visual technology. Has that been your experience as well?

JUDGE JORDAN: Well, as you know for business court, we are all over the world so we've had people from Brazil, England, China, Australia, Portugal testify using a WebEx system

and it's worked out great. And again the juries are used to seeing people remotely now. And so I think it's just positive all the way around. We need to keep using it as much as possible.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Have you noticed any change in lawyers over your – or the legal culture over your years on the bench?

JUDGE JORDAN: Well, you know we've always pushed professionalism and that's always been number one with me. You know, it's like I tell the new judges, you know, if you're going to do WebEx, you handle it as a judge, fill in the blank, that's what's shown. You're not going to sit at your pool in a t-shirt, okay. You're going to wear a robe whenever you're on video and you're going to have a background, you know two flags and a seal because you've got to set the tone. The problem we're having is because of COVID, we've got a generation of lawyers that have not been in the courtroom. They've not sat in a Claude Edwards hearing room and watch him shred people apart and they learn from that. And they're missing out on that. So my courtroom, the way I tell people is look, this is a public facility and I'm a public official. My courtroom is always open. And you could appear by WebEx if you want but I encourage people to come down because the young lawyers need to learn how to be lawyers and that's part of it, the hearing process.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: I think we've lost a lot in having courtrooms with lots of lawyers in there because you're right, young lawyers learn from watching the mistakes of other young lawyers and watching how things are done well by experienced lawyers. And you know when you have people segregated in virtual rooms and they can't see that, it really – they lose something.

JUDGE JORDAN: They absolutely do. I'm worried about that. You know, we can do the voluntary bar associations, like Inns of Court, but that's not the courtroom. We can talk around the dinner table about what a good lawyer is but you need to see it. You need to see someone mess up and how to recover from it. So when it's your turn to appear in front of the judge, you'll have a good idea of what to do.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: You do a lot of volunteer work for legal organizations.

JUDGE JORDAN: I do.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And so tell us about some of those, and what your roles have been in those organizations?

JUDGE JORDAN: Well, this weekend, I'm one of the business court representatives for the American Bar Association Business Law Section, so I was in DC for the section meeting and I spoke on one of the panels. But I went around to meet people and talk to them about it. Of course, Inns of Court, I was in it for years and did things. I work with ABOTA –

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: You were on the board and president at one point.

JUDGE JORDAN: I was president of the board, yes, so very active in expanding our duties so we could get to that platinum level. It's a great organization for especially young lawyers to meet judges and attorneys, state and federal. Of course I worked with ABOTA, the American Board of Trial Advocates, put on the 7th Amendment Symposium, which you're going to be speaking at next month, no, November.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: November, yes.

JUDGE JORDAN: Yes, I'll remind you again.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Thank you.

JUDGE JORDAN: You're going to open up for us.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: I appreciate it.

JUDGE JORDAN: And again, the 7th Amendment, wow, it is so important because so few countries use a jury system. I'm sorry, the only thing stopping the FBI from jumping in here now and taking one of us away and never to be seen again is the ballot box and the jury box. We've got to protect our right to trial by jury.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And the judiciary, a strong judiciary.

JUDGE JORDAN: Yes, but if we didn't have a jury system –

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Yes.

JUDGE JORDAN: - we'd always be concerned about, not that we wouldn't do a great job, but you know what I'm saying.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Yeah.

JUDGE JORDAN: So that's big to me. We need to protect that.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So what advice do you have for young lawyers starting out in their career after you know spending so much of your life both as a lawyer and as a judge?

JUDGE JORDAN: So I have to swear in an attorney today. He was part of our Boy Scout troop and I was an assistant scoutmaster. We actually have three lawyers out of the group.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Oh.

JUDGE JORDAN: We used to do the law merit badge here so whatever –

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: I remember that. I remember that, yeah.

JUDGE JORDAN: Yes, so and I told him, I said, look, your best friends are going to come from the attorneys on the other side so don't do anything stupid. Don't send these emails. Don't respond. Talk to them. Ask them out for coffee because people, once they get to know you, they won't give you a hard time. And build those relationships because that's what the practice of law is, building relationships, you know, you may have a judge who's really tough and whatever, but if you stand up for your rights when you're correct and you do it, they'll respect you and things will go a lot smoother for you with that judge. So that's number one, professionalism is everything and again, I told him, I said, you need to get down here, you need to sit in the hearing rooms and listen and watch and see how the lawyering goes. Start there.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And one of the things I tell lawyers much like you do, is that you – you have to – you will always be an advocate for your client but that doesn't mean being argumentative on behalf of your client.

JUDGE JORDAN: Right.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: You can agree to disagree on the law and the facts with opposing counsel. That doesn't mean that you want to run him through with a sword.

JUDGE JORDAN: And we are all colleagues, all 120 plus thousands of us and so they have to remember that.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Well, as you know we have a lot of new judges on the bench. What advice would you have for them?

JUDGE JORDAN: Well, I'd start with, don't do WebEx from your pool, okay. Keep it professional. If you don't set the tone, the attorneys will you know, they'll appear in their jammies and things of that nature. You can't put up with it. You got to draw the line. But being a good listener. You know, you may think you know the answer and you just want to get through the hearing quickly. Stop. Do not interrupt them. Let them do what they're there for and never embarrass them in front of their clients. If you listen and if you tell them, look, I've never done a VOP, help me through this, I'm going to study. They're excited to provide you the law and guide you through it. But when you act like you know everything and you don't, they know that too.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Well, none of us know everything.

JUDGE JORDAN: No, but Albert Einstein said, I don't know everything but I know where to look.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Yeah.

JUDGE JORDAN: And that's the key. We know where to look.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Absolutely. Well, Judge Jordan, thank you so much for joining me here today in the studio and telling us a little bit about your story.

JUDGE JORDAN: Well, thank you for inviting me. I'm glad I finally got a chance to do this after all these years. I'm kidding. I've been avoiding them, but I'm glad I came.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: I'm glad you came too.

NARRATOR: Thank you for listening to "Open Ninth: Conversations Beyond the Courtroom" brought to you by Chief Judge Lisa Munyon and the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of

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