

OPEN NINTH

CONVERSATIONS BEYOND THE COURTROOM

JUDICIAL SPOTLIGHT

MEET HONORABLE MICHAEL J. SNURE

EPISODE 149

HOSTED BY: LISA 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 Michael Snure, one of our newest judges in the Ninth Circuit. Before joining the bench, Judge Snure spent 30 years with the firm of Kirkconnell, Lindsey, Snure and Ponall where he was both an associate and a partner before leaving in 2015 to start his own firm. He had his own firm until he was appointed to the Ninth Circuit bench in September of 2021 by Governor Ron DeSantis. I’m thrilled to have you in the studio today, Judge Snure. Thanks for joining me.

JUDGE SNURE: Thank you. I think it’s a pleasure to be here. We’ll see.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: It will be an interesting discussion because I think I’ve probably known you for 30 or 35 years. So –

JUDGE SNURE: I have a story to tell on you too.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Oh, we might avoid that. We’ll have to wait and see. So tell me a little bit about yourself. Where did you grow up? Where did you go to high school?

JUDGE SNURE: I was born in Michigan, lived there till, let’s see, until I was about eight. Then we moved to Kansas City, Kansas in a little town known as Prairie Village which is near, in the Shawnee Mission District so you had Shawnee Mission North, South, East and West High Schools sprouted up there. They’ve been fairly active in being recognized for their athletic programs. Then when – in the summer between my third and fourth grade year, we moved --

between fourth and fifth grade, we moved to Winter Park. We lived in the Winter Park Pines. I went to Aloma Elementary School for my fifth grade year. They had just finished building it so we were in portables and everybody had to carry their own desk to the new classroom. And so I finished there and went to Glenridge, then a junior high but now middle school, and Winter Park High School. It had – the new school – the new high school had been opened one or two years so it was really brand new when I went there.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And did you play any sports in high school?

JUDGE SNURE: Yeah, I played baseball and football in high school.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Did you like one of those better than the other?

JUDGE SNURE: It's odd. I enjoyed football more but it was more work and I think I was better at football, but baseball had its own charm to it. It's the perfect sport for – half the time it's a complete team effort and the other half of the time it's a totally individual effort. So it had unique characteristics to it.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And you don't get hit as often in baseball.

JUDGE SNURE: Every now and then in the back of the head with a fastball but other than that, right, you don't get hit.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: What position did you play?

JUDGE SNURE: I was – in football, I was a fullback and in baseball I was a catcher.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Oh, a catcher is a tough position.

JUDGE SNURE: Well, it was a lot of up and down.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Yeah. Hurts the knees after a while.

JUDGE SNURE: And it shows now. Surely I have bad knees for sure. Yeah, it was fun and ultimately I played a little college baseball at that position. All good for keeping you out of trouble and keeping you disciplined and those kinds of things.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Yeah, my kids will tell you that I was a big – my husband and I were both big proponents of the kids playing afterschool sports because it leaves very little time or energy to get into any trouble.

JUDGE SNURE: It's shouldn't be viewed this way but if there's not a parent there to watch out for you, sports are the perfect babysitter.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Yeah. Well, you went to college out of state. How did that happen?

JUDGE SNURE: I was at Florida. I had walked onto the baseball team in 1975 – I don't even believe I just said that number. But then a coach who had coached high school here had taken over a job at a small school in Tennessee, a little school called Lambuth College. It's a small liberal arts Methodist supported school, it would probably be a smaller equivalent to Florida Southern. So you know they offered some scholarship money, and so a bunch of us from Central Florida went there because the coach had no other base to recruit from so I had three good years up there playing around in Western Tennessee, fishing and watching cotton grow. It's a pretty wholesome environment.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And what did you major in in addition to playing baseball?

JUDGE SNURE: I didn't major in that. I did major in English, English Literature. I had two great professors that drew me to that. So you take the introductory, the required courses and then you, you know, you get mesmerized by these personalities and I decided, you know, if it was good enough for them, it was good enough for me. And it worked out pretty good.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And I would imagine that's one of the places you got your writing skills from.

JUDGE SNURE: I had to write. I had to read and then write. I don't think I'm a great writer, certainly not a great legal writer, but all of that literature and the requirements of speaking in class and understanding the spoken word and seeing it done elegantly in literature helps me be a better communicator.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So what's your favorite book? I know, that was a tough question for an English Lit major.

JUDGE SNURE: It was more poetry. Most of the English works were poetry or sonnets, or you know, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* could be a book in and of itself. It's really long. And the American Literature, with the exception of Robert Frost, there were some, you know, some works, *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger, not for anything other than it seemed radical at the time and racy and if you were reading it, you could consider yourself sort of on the cutting edge. It's old school now but I don't have anything that I go back to by any stretch of the imagination.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So you – when you left college, where did you go to law school? Because obviously you went to law school, you're here.

JUDGE SNURE: I did. I did. I went to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock which is like going to a law school at UCF.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So what drew you to law school in Arkansas?

JUDGE SNURE: In the interim while I was at – in Jackson, Tennessee at Lambuth College, my dad had taken an assignment out in Little Rock for what was going to be five years. I don't think he knew the exact tenor of it. And so I could go to law school, when mom worked at the University, she worked for someone in administration, for some ridiculous number, like \$500 a semester or something really ridiculous. So when I had gotten admitted there, and they were there, and the cost was made apparent, it seemed like, you know, I wasn't very sophisticated. I wasn't weighing my chances of ever making it to the Eleventh Circuit or the Supreme Court based on the law school I went to. So I made an economic decision.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: It was a no-brainer, actually, at that cost, yeah.

JUDGE SNURE: Of course it was. We didn't – we weren't wealthy by any stretch. We just had enough to get by. And it was, in hindsight, it was really good to be in Little Rock. It's a very isolated little city out there west of Memphis about 90 minutes on the highway, I-40. But I met a lawyer out there who was a neighbor in the apartment complex I lived in because my parents ultimately moved away before I was finished. And his name was Doug Mays and he described himself as a grub worm lawyer, just –

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Now, what is that?

JUDGE SNURE: Just taking anything that came – or threshold lawyer, anything that came in over the threshold. But the one thing he was doing was writing a text for the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation people on riparian rights, water rights. So I earned some extra money, I won't

use the work clerking, but doing some research for him and fleshing out basic concepts so he could dictate or he could write his book, whatever he did. And he ultimately became general counsel for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Riparian rights are really pretty interesting even in Florida, if you're a geek, like I tend to be.

JUDGE SNURE: Yeah, you know, I did a geeky thing in law school by taking a class, I think his first name was Allan, last name Gates. He had clerked for someone at the Supreme Court. I forget now. But his claim to fame was, at that time they were coming out with planned urban developments, PUDS.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: PUDS, yeah.

JUDGE SNURE: So I took everything you could take related to that, Future Interests, I took on a Saturday morning. I was working full-time in the revenue department. Little Rock is the capitol. And so they let me go to class a couple of hours during the week. I took two night classes and a Saturday class. So for three hours on a Saturday morning for a semester, I'm in there taking Future Interests.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Wow.

JUDGE SNURE: No, wow is a mild understatement. It was mind-numbing, but that was all sort of leading to what I, you know, working with land planning and land development and none of that ever happened.

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

JUDGE SNURE: Well, they had, you know, Lambuth had a, the equivalent to a career day or career counseling and one of the professors that I was close to said, well, here's our options. You could hang around and get a teaching certificate and take this into teaching. You could go to graduate school in sociology. That wasn't really a minor but I had a lot of credits in sociology, or you could go to law school. I said, well, let me see what the GRE looks like and the LSAT. I took the LSAT first. I had no idea – this is back when they scored it on, I think the score was something in the – 800 was perfect back in that day.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Yeah, I can remember that.

JUDGE SNURE: I have no idea what my score was, but anyway it was enough to get into some law schools. So I just applied. So it was out of necessity. I was told that communicating – communication was, you know, a good skill to have and you know, my dad had the gift of gab and maybe I've got some of that.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So when you left law school, you did not go into real property or future development, any of that. What did you do?

JUDGE SNURE: Well, I almost did. I interviewed with a company in Russ – Ruston or Ruskin, Louisiana. They – and I would have been a land man, so they would have sent me out to research titles to land in hopes of patching up something where they could put together an oil and gas or mineral lease and that would have been my foreseeable future, is driving around the south and southwest researching title. So I went down for the interview and that didn't strike me as well so I came home. I came back to Winter Park, and my friend let me sleep in an extra bedroom they had and ran into an old friend who said, aren't you a lawyer? I said, well, I'm not a lawyer yet but I graduated from law school. And he said, well, go see my friend, Bob Fisher. He knows – he can



help you. So I went and saw Bob Fisher and he said, well, go see my friend Warren Lindsey. He just got hired by these guys down in Winter Park. You know maybe they got – maybe they already had too many people, I don't know, go take a chance. So I went down and met with Kirk and Chan. As it turned out they had you know the need for somebody on a temporary basis. So the arrangement was, you can stay around here until you take the bar. We'll pay you by the hour, have a nice day, show up tomorrow, right, you know.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: I guess Bob Fisher at that point was probably still at the State Attorney's Office in Seminole.

JUDGE SNURE: I think he might have been a public defender.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Was he a public – you're right.

JUDGE SNURE: I think – before he went to the state, yeah.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Yeah.

JUDGE SNURE: He was a PD for a very short period of time. So that's how I found them. I had a short interview and they had a need, and you know, off we went.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So how long did that arrangement last where you were doing piecemeal work by the hour?

JUDGE SNURE: So we – I think that started in October of '82. Took the bar in February of '83. They let me have Friday off for that by the way. They were generous. And back then you had to go home at noon on the day they – somebody would say the results were out, you had to fire home and see what came in the mail. So I jetted home and brought my results back. Leading up to that, Kirkconnell had said, hey we just want you to understand something. It's been great

having you around but there is no job here for you. You're not growing. You know, you need to find a job. So they set me up with three interviews, Joe DuRocher's office, Doug Cheshire's office. So the public defender in Orange County, Doug Cheshire was a state attorney in Seminole County, and another lawyer in the same building that we were in, the same office building. I told them at noon or when I got back at 1:00 o'clock that I had passed the bar exam. And all of these guys who had said, hey, sure, you're in. If Kirk says you're good, you're good, just let me know when you get your results and we'll hire you. In about 15 minute intervals, they all called after telling me I was good to go, hey, we're having a hiring freeze, I don't think we can extend you an offer of employment, same thing, three times in a row. So by three o'clock I had no job, had no prospects. In the meantime, Kirkconnell gives me a research project that's going to take me five days and needs it by tomorrow morning. So I'm scrambling around up there. They go, by the way, we want to have a party. We're going to get some cake and champagne and see you up in the conference room at four o'clock. I'm losing my mind.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: You're like, I don't have time for this. I need to do my research.

JUDGE SNURE: So we go up there and then they had me served with a paternity suit. A Winter Park police officer comes in with handcuffs which I realize now it's all hocus pocus. And serves me with a paternity suit and then they go, oh, it's just our way of seeing if you want to come to work here. And I did.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And it sounds as if – if they had all of that planned, they must have also called –

JUDGE SNURE: They set it up.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: They set the whole thing up and all of those, you know, government offices called you because they knew that you were going to get hired by Chan Muller and Kirk Kirkconnell.

JUDGE SNURE: Yeah. It was a set up. I got played pretty badly. I was too young to even see it coming.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Well, I had the privilege of litigating against Chan and Kirk, who were great lawyers. What did you learn from them?

JUDGE SNURE: Well, they were great mentors because in the very beginning they used to just take me with them. Going to take a deposition, what are you doing? Come on and I would go and sit there and watch. I'm going to a hearing, come on, sit there and watch. I'm going to try a case, come on, you don't have to do anything. Just take notes and so for the first, couple three years, you know, they had client responsibilities. They weren't going to turn me loose with a client unless it was traffic ticket or something like that. So they were good about that. And then they eased me into it. I went from not doing any portion of a divorce hearing on the way to Sanford with Chan to cross examining the other spouse in some sort of a hearing which was completely unexpected but it was sort of trial by fire. And then from a criminal standpoint, it was full five years before I tried my – first untethered felony. So they – while they were good mentors, they didn't turn me loose before they thought I was ready.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And I'm sure you learned a lot from them. I remember just being amazed at their ability to cross examine someone with the, you know, less is more approach.

JUDGE SNURE: Both had their own style. You know, if you have to divide them, I would say Chan was the more talkative, chummy, creative one and Kirk was, you know, a little more

pedantic and could be a forceful personality. But that and some other experiences I had early on, you know, taught me the lesson that you don't need to copy anybody, you just need to do what fits you and your personality, because you can't pull off – it would be fake to everybody if you try to be like somebody else, something you're not. So in and of itself that was a good lesson. You know as time went on, there was an interesting, as I say, Chan left after about ten years but, you know, I practiced with Kirk for 30 total years. In the beginning I just toted the bag and took the notes and then I'd do some witnesses and then you know, the whole thing flipped. Then he would come and second chair for me which was really comforting you know to have a giant in my mind you know right next to you. We used to pass each other notes. They didn't have much to do about the case. Don't screw up is the famous note I would get before some big witness. I think it was a way to try to get me off the ceiling, but the little sticky things, he would reach around behind a client and hand it to me and I'm thinking, oh, it's going to be the question that's going to win the case. It's just don't screw up.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Yeah, don't ask one question too many.

JUDGE SNURE: All those things, right.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Absolutely. And I guess during all of that time Warren Lindsey was also a constant presence at the time.

JUDGE SNURE: Yeah, Warren and Kirk, I practiced with each of those guys contemporaneously for thirty years and Warren is, you know, he is a real force to be reckoned with. You know, as I've said on another occasion, he – he is a preparer of the highest order. There's a little – there's a method to his madness because he'll come into court with a stack of papers, but he knows what everyone says and where everything is that he wants in that stack, even

though we might not be able to figure it out. But he really – I’ve never been around anybody that prepares as much as he does with the possible exception of Jim Russ who I worked with on a couple of occasions and woe be it to the person that has Russ as an adversary.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Been there, done that.

JUDGE SNURE: Yeah.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Yeah, he was a force to be reckoned with.

JUDGE SNURE: He knows the shoe size of the doctor that delivered the guy who’s the least important witness in the case and everything in between. I don’t know how he did it.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Yeah, just incredible work ethic. And I’m sure Chan and Kirk and Warren had that work ethic.

JUDGE SNURE: Everybody worked hard in their own way. Chan was famous for staying at the house early in the morning. There were no cell phones back then so if you wanted to reach him, you just needed to call him on his house number. Kirk would go home from work. I found this to be interesting. He would leave the office, run home, have dinner and then come back. And so he had sort of made an appearance, settled whatever was going on, and then he would come back and spend a couple of hours in the office getting ready for the next day. Warren on the other hand, would just grind it all the way through until he eventually went home. You could see how all of those different approaches worked.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So what – you had an incredible career, litigated for 35-ish 6 years.

JUDGE SNURE: 9.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: 39 years, who's counting? What made you decide to seek the bench?

JUDGE SNURE: That is a hard question to answer with anything profound. You know, as you go through, if you're in court, you see a million different approaches to judging. I didn't realize there was such a thing as a judicial philosophy, you know, until I thought about doing this. But as I said before, I think I've been in every county from Tallahassee east and down to Key West. I haven't appeared in any county west of Leon, and saw a lot of different kinds of judges. So the first message was, it doesn't matter who you are or what you – how you act as long as you act judicial. And there were some people who didn't act judicial. I know you'd remember this, when – back when we were early in our careers, there were people on the bench who weren't lawyers. They had been grandfathered in. I think most of those I saw in county court in some other jurisdictions. But -- so the reason I say that is this. There were – periodically, I just found in my experience to be lacking; I think I could do that better or why do we do this? Why do we all come and sit around, you know, at a pre-trial conference or whatever it was that day that I thought might be done differently. So I had that kind of an interest in it and then I had some colleagues that wouldn't let it rest because we would sit around and, for lack of a better word, gripe about it. And then when – and I had gotten the application out a couple of times. And frankly, the application was a huge obstacle. I didn't have 25 hours to sit down and fill that out and dig through old things and get case numbers and opposing counsel's current phone numbers and those kinds of things. But as the openings came this August, this past August, there were three, then four openings, three circuit positions and one county, you know, it just seemed like that if it was ever going to happen, it needed to happen now because the – you know, the odds were pretty good. Not pretty good, better than normal. And I had been on the JNC and I had seen all

kinds of people come through. Several of our current judges, you know, I vetted Keith Carsten, Wayne Wooten and Jim Craner, they came through when I was on it. And they've all turned out to be terrific. And so I thought if I could just get the application completed, I would take my chances at the Ninth. If it didn't work out, I could say I did it. I gave it a shot and if it did, then you know, I was just tooling along in private practice. It was – I had important things to accomplish. I mean, my cases were important and I needed to get, you know, I wanted to get the best results I could for all the clients. But things had slowed down. I was there by myself largely. I mean, I had staff and other people renting – renting from me. So a change was scary but intriguing at the same time.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Well, you litigated a lot longer than I did. I litigated for 18 years and was in court almost every day and I thought I knew what being a judge was all about and I was wrong. What has surprised you after taking the bench?

JUDGE SNURE: A couple of things. Since I'm in a domestic division, I'd never done a divorce other than this one thing I was telling you about and I knew what the questions were. Early on I would do a few divorces but I certainly had never handled one from start to finish. And I only knew anecdotally what went on in a case, you know, clients would come in and say, this is going on or you know talked to lawyers I knew who did it and they would say words and things I didn't understand. So the first thing that was unexpected was, you know, the subject matter.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: That's our sense of humor. We put you some place that you have never been before.

JUDGE SNURE: Then you're very funny. If that's – if that is the gauge, you're a crack up. But I'll tell you, I wouldn't – I don't want to leave it now. It's unfinished business. I'm

invigorated by the learning experience. You know, I want to say this but I don't want it to come off any way other than truthful, but I haven't done my own research in 20 or more years. If we ever had something that required a memorandum or an appeal, there were other people in the office to do that. I might tinker around and get a quick answer on something, so getting to work on Westlaw and refine your search ability and find answers, it's sort of a newly discovered joint. That was a little piece of the puzzle that had come and gone but again, harkening back to an age that nobody should ever remember, when I first started we had the old Shepherd's books. So you would look up every case in a book, then a supplement, then a supplement, supplement, and sometimes another supplement to just verify it was still good law, hadn't been overruled.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Yeah, there were no red or orange flags.

JUDGE SNURE: No.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: I love those red and orange flags.

JUDGE SNURE: What a – what a – I can't even believe how much speed and efficiency that's introduced into it. But you know it was – I enjoyed researching but that was painful. One time Muller wrote a – I wouldn't say wrote, he dictated and his assistant typed out some memo he wanted to serve on the court. I got the carbon copy, carbon copy and he said just find the cases that fit that. So it was a bunch of philosophical or legal principals and he said, go find the cases and fill them in. And that was a project for a day and a half. The other thing about being a judge that was new or unexpected is how you get your work. How do you know what you need to do today, tomorrow and the next day? So the calendaring concept was new and not always easy. And then the work that comes at you right off your computer screen, the pro se motions, the request for hearings, you know, when my assistant gets a request, she never did any of this either so she'll



send me the motion and say, do you want to give them a hearing. If so, for how long so I got to look the case up on our great, by the way, Smart Bench is a great thing. So you look it up. You do a little research. You either decide you can rule on it or you need a hearing. And that was – that has been interesting to me to see how work filters right to your desktop that you're now responsible for it. Someone in the clerk's office sends it to your, you know, Osceola 43 or whatever it might be, never – never understood that part of it. It's interesting.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And did the volume surprise you? Because I know you have things coming at you from all sides. You have domestic, you have domestic violence and you have delinquency.

JUDGE SNURE: So I won't say anything that's going to get me more work –

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: You know me too well.

JUDGE SNURE: The volume is more than I expected but not overwhelming, not overwhelming. And there are moments when I usually prepare for the next day's hearings or the day after that in the free time I have in the one or two days preceding. Might take something home if it looks complex because I like to tell the folks I read the file, marked the pleadings, let's get to the meat of it. I know what the deal is. But if there's any a time – if there's ever a time when I get to a hearing I haven't had that luxury of reviewing it, I don't like that feeling.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Yep, I understand that. I'm right there with you. Even if it requires doing some over the weekend or at night, I'd much rather be prepared.

JUDGE SNURE: I try to build that in but you know, the best laid plans don't always work out.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So what has it been like learning a new area of the law?

JUDGE SNURE: It's been invigorating. In family law -- first of all, you're just shooting the Indians in the beginning coming over the hill without any rhyme or reason, but now I see how it's a complete statutory framework. Almost everything is in the statute somewhere in some subparagraph and then of course there's a boatload of case law on it because you can imagine there are places where this is heavily litigated. So I enjoy learning that. I'm frustrated for the pro se litigants who suffer because they're pro se. You know, they aren't trained. They don't have or don't read what they need to read. They want what they can articulate but it may not be doable. Or if it is doable, they don't know how to get from A to B to make it so a judge can order that. It's a little frustrating. If there's one thing that I thought that would be in the system that I don't see, it's more help for the pro ses. I don't know exactly what form that would take but you know, something to just get them started on the right foot so that they're not -- you know, many of them are just woefully underprepared when they come to court.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Yeah. One of the things that surprised me when I was in family court was just a vast amount of discretion and the discretionary rulings that judges have to make. And sometimes with a lot of imperfect information. How have you found that process? I mean, it is -- you're deciding how much time a parent spends with a child or whether a parent can take a child to another state and in effect forever alter the relationship with the other parent. That's a lot of power.

JUDGE SNURE: Yeah. I agree with your assessment which you know is like answering a question with a question. We do have a lot of authority, a lot of discretion and part of the frustration usually with pro ses is that you don't get the kind of information you need. Even if you try to ask a direct question, there's sometimes a language barrier or a partial language barrier. You

don't get the right information to make the very best decision. So you know we're all stuck with making the best decision we have on the information we have. And you know when that turns really frustrating is when you learn after the fact that something unintended happen or there was other information that would have cleared that up had you only known.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Right. So what – you're in family now. You'll probably be there for a while until you decide that you're ready to launch on a new path. Any idea what other divisions in the court you would like to explore?

JUDGE SNURE: Well, I'm not ready to move. There's sort of a sense of unfinished business in family law. I thought that I you know would be a natural for criminal – a criminal division, but I don't really know if I want to go back to that. I mean, there's nothing offensive about it but I hadn't really thought if there's this sense that that might be you know the highest and best use of one's time, something you spent so much time doing. I don't know. Sometimes you know things – I just don't know the answer to that.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And it might have been an unfair question since you've only been on the bench for –

JUDGE SNURE: I don't know much about the other divisions, you know. I would be – I certainly would be as nervous about a civil division as I was about family because I don't have any experience in it. I think I tried five civil cases. Usually we get hired to defend somebody in a tort action, but you know all the other discovery kinds of things and the various rules that apply to civil pleadings, all very foreign to me.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: I've rotated through almost all the divisions and I've just found learning the new areas of the law to be very stimulating and a bit scary at times. It requires a lot of effort but it's certainly rewarding to do that.

JUDGE SNURE: Well, that's the feeling I'm getting in family so I'm not – but I'm not by any stretch ready to say I've mastered that. I do think it's important to the delivery of judging that service to the community, that the people doing it have some level of expertise. So I understand the concept that I needed to start in this area where I had no expertise but I'm really looking forward to building that and then – and then having the community, by the way, the Kissimmee and Osceola County community is a wonderful place to be.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: It's a wonderful courthouse to work at, isn't it?

JUDGE SNURE: Yeah, it's terrific. But I'd like to be able to deliver to them service – the service that they're entitled to and that's going to take a little more time to get a little more proficient.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: So we've talked a lot about your legal career and your judicial aspirations. What do you do when you're not working in the law? Do you have any hobbies or anything that you enjoy doing other than working?

JUDGE SNURE: You know I'm not a workaholic. So if I'm home, I'm cooking or thinking about cooking or smoking meat, barbecuing. The thing I do for recreation is I play golf. The older you get, the worse you get, the less pleasurable that activity becomes. So –

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Yeah, I tried to learn golf. It wasn't pretty.

JUDGE SNURE: If – my wife knows that if she can't reach me on the phone, I'm only one of three places. I'm at work or on my way to or from, I'm at the golf course to or from or I'm sitting in the back room and she hasn't found me yet. I don't lead that exciting of a life.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: But you enjoy cooking.

JUDGE SNURE: Some things.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Some things.

JUDGE SNURE: I – you know, I've dabbled in baking bread and you know, things that I thought were strange for me. The initial foray has come out okay, but I like to barbeque. That's enjoyable.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: We have several judges then that would –

JUDGE SNURE: I see. I see that.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Judge Dubois and Judge Whitehead, Judge Bain, they – they will each claim title to being the best barbequer on the bench.

JUDGE SNURE: Well, let me just say this, Dubois, Judge Dubois let me try some of his homemade bacon and right now he's the leader in the clubhouse. We made shrimp and grits with that and sprinkled some bacon on the top. It was super, super good.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Wow. I'll have to hit him up for some bacon then.

JUDGE SNURE: Yes, you should. It's really good.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Well, thank you for spending time with me today and telling me something about your life.

JUDGE SNURE: I appreciate the opportunity.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: And thank you for being willing to serve our community. It is important to have experienced lawyers take the bench to adjudicate these very important cases.

JUDGE SNURE: Well, thanks for that. I got a lot out of the practice of law so I have no reservations giving something back.

CHIEF JUDGE MUNYON: Thank you.

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