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OPEN NINTH:
CONVERSATIONS BEYOND THE COURTROOM
MY NAME IS INTERN
EPISODE 29
AUGUST 28, 2017
HOSTED BY: FREDERICK J. LAUTEN

1 (Music.)

2 >> Welcome to another episode of "Open Ninth:
3 Conversations Beyond the Courtroom" in the Ninth Judicial
4 Circuit Court of Florida.

5 Now here's your host, Chief Judge Fred Lauten.

6 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** I'm here today with two special
7 guests, Kingman Fox Keating and Lauren Edmonds, and they're
8 both interning at the Ninth Judicial Circuit this summer.

9 Kingman is a fourth-generation Orlando native and a
10 third-generation University of Florida law student. And
11 Lauren is an Orlando native and a Florida State rising
12 senior. So we do have the Gator/Seminole rivalry represented
13 here. And Lauren is majoring in communications and
14 sociology.

15 And I want to welcome you both to the -- to "Open
16 Ninth."

17 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** Hi. Thank you.

18 >> **KINGMAN KEATING:** Thank you, Judge Lauten.

19 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** So, Kingman, you have a
20 connection to the court system, and I'm -- I know about. But
21 I want you to tell our listeners sort of the intimate
22 connection you have with the court system.

23 >> **KINGMAN KEATING:** Sure. My grandfather, my dad's
24 dad, was Judge Richard Keating, and he was Chief Judge
25 briefly here at the Ninth Circuit in the '60s all the way

1 up to his death in the '80s. And I believe he was here
2 working in the Greek revival courthouse, which is now the
3 history center --

4 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Right.

5 >> **KINGMAN KEATING:** -- before this courthouse was
6 built.

7 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Right. In the -- kind of
8 historic courthouse, which is now the history center, which,
9 you know, has the infamous distinction of having the
10 courthouse shooting in 1983, which is now, basically, a
11 museum. And he worked in that courthouse. And I practice --
12 appeared briefly in front of your father [sic] in 1982, I
13 think.

14 So was that your attraction to coming and interning with
15 us, in part?

16 >> **KINGMAN KEATING:** Yes.

17 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Tell our listeners a little bit
18 about that.

19 >> **KINGMAN KEATING:** Well, being at the University of
20 Florida Levin College of Law, I thought it was appropriate to
21 come back home and work in the courthouse where my granddad
22 worked and get sort of a behind-the-scenes look at how the
23 judges think and operate. And I had a great experience this
24 summer with two judges that I've been lucky enough to clerk
25 for.

1 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** And who are they?

2 >> **KINGMAN KEATING:** Judge Duckworth and Judge O'Kane.

3 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Great. So what did you -- did
4 you learn anything you didn't think you knew or did it affirm
5 things that you already knew? What kind of lessons did you
6 take from your summer experience?

7 >> **KINGMAN KEATING:** Well, it affirmed the things --
8 some things I already knew about how the judges will often
9 collaborate in each other's chambers when they have a hard
10 issue to deal with. And I learned a lot of new things from
11 my research that I conducted and through watching the judges
12 operate in court, and in ex parte hearings, and things like
13 that.

14 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** One thing we sometimes wonder
15 about the public perception of judges is that they don't
16 really see judges working in their chambers. They see them
17 when they're in the courtroom. And maybe you can share with
18 our listeners, in your experience, about how much work
19 happens outside of the courtroom for the judges that you
20 participated with.

21 >> **KINGMAN KEATING:** There's a lot. Um, Judge Duckworth
22 and Judge O'Kane would have work that they would take home on
23 the weekends, read case law about the issues that they're
24 dealing with, and come in early and stay late. I know Judge
25 Duckworth was always there before both his JA and I got there

1 in the mornings. And we both got there around 8:00.

2 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** So he -- he puts in quite a few
3 hours.

4 And Judge O'Kane, in the complex business courts, I know
5 takes home a lot of work, either thumb drives full of
6 pleadings and motions and arguments or three-ring binders.
7 And I know that you were helpful to her.

8 So great. So do you feel that that experience will
9 benefit you going back to law school?

10 >> **KINGMAN KEATING:** I think it will. I -- again, I
11 conducted a lot of research on my own on touching up a brief
12 or a -- excuse me, a memorandum for Judge O'Kane and Judge
13 Duckworth. And seeing how the judicial system operates here
14 in the courthouse definitely will benefit me going forward.

15 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Great. Great.

16 So, Lauren, you're not a law student?

17 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** I am not.

18 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** You are an undergrad. And what
19 drew you to the courthouse for summer work?

20 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** Well, last year I did an internship,
21 but it was remote, and so I didn't get a lot of the hands-on
22 experience that I wanted, like working in an office, coming
23 in from 8:00 to whatever time, and kind of working with other
24 people and collaborating. So being able to do this
25 internship was really a good experience.

1 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** So tell the listeners a little
2 bit. What did you do? Where did you work? And what
3 experiences did you have?

4 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** Well, I worked in the Communications
5 Department, and I helped pretty much with podcasts, the
6 reports, anything -- little things that need to be written,
7 pretty much everything that needed an extra person and extra
8 hands, I kind of came in and helped with.

9 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Great. And what year are you in
10 school?

11 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** I'm a rising senior.

12 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Okay. One year left.

13 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** Yes.

14 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** What are your plans after that?
15 Do you have plans or not?

16 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** Hmm. Tough question. Hopefully, I
17 will graduate in the spring, and then either I want to go to
18 grad school, a J-school for journalism, or I will start
19 applying for jobs.

20 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Gotcha. Gotcha.
21 You grew up here locally?

22 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** Yes, sir.

23 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Tell our listeners a little bit
24 about that experience. Where did you go to school? And --

25 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** Well, I grew up here in downtown. I

1 went to St. James, pretty much, right a few blocks over. And
2 then I went to Boone High School, graduated 2014. But I
3 pretty much love living in Orlando. It's been a great
4 experience. I met great people, great families, the whole
5 shebang.

6 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Okay. You two. You got a
7 Florida and an FSU -- why FSU?

8 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** Honestly, the first time I went, I
9 wasn't sure I wanted to go to FSU. But my father convinced
10 me to take a tour, and when I went -- like, the saying, like,
11 when it's right, it's right, I knew it.

12 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Right.

13 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** I remember going to the stadium and
14 standing around looking and being like, wow, this could work
15 for four years.

16 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Yeah. Great. Great.

17 Now, undergrad for you, Kingman, was Ole Miss?

18 >> **KINGMAN KEATING:** Yes, sir.

19 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** And then why UF law school?
20 That's probably the best law school in the state, at least
21 rankings wise, I know.

22 >> **KINGMAN KEATING:** I agree. It's always been where
23 I've wanted to go, growing up, seeing my dad work as an
24 attorney, and knowing that my granddad went there for law
25 school also, and knowing that I wanted to come back to

1 Florida and practice. I had fun at Ole Miss, but, you know,
2 I needed to come back here and go to UF for law school.

3 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** So the two of you have attended
4 three different football-intensive programs; is that a fair
5 statement?

6 >> **KINGMAN KEATING:** Yes, sir.

7 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** Yeah.

8 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Who's the football -- you both
9 football fans?

10 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** A little bit. Became more of a fan
11 once I came to FSU and going to the games and things. It's
12 kind of in the culture.

13 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Kind of hard to shake that.
14 And how about you, I know you're a pretty avid --

15 >> **KINGMAN KEATING:** I'm a fanatic.

16 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** -- college football fan.
17 Great. That's great.

18 Lauren, you, during -- during your high school years
19 here got involved in coaching and --

20 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** Yes, sir.

21 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** -- mentoring young women. Why
22 don't you tell our listeners a little bit about that.

23 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** Well, while I was a junior in high
24 school, I helped create the Orlando First Stick program,
25 which is integrated into the different community centers

1 around the area, in impoverished areas.

2 But basically what that is was growing up -- obviously
3 I'm a lacrosse player. I played for ten years. But even
4 though it is a rising sport within the South, there's still
5 not a lot of diversity happening. And I realized it wasn't
6 so much of minority girls not wanting to play, but they
7 didn't have the opportunity to play.

8 So I went to city hall and I gave a presentation, and
9 they liked my pitch. And so now it's been four years later,
10 and we have six different programs throughout the whole area.

11 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** So, yeah, lacrosse -- it's sort
12 of a North --

13 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** Yeah.

14 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** It started as a northeastern
15 sport, but it's pretty -- is it now pretty well entrenched in
16 high school in --

17 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** I feel so.

18 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** -- Florida?

19 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** It's growing. It definitely has
20 strides to take, but I'm seeing it more and more every day.
21 Just yesterday, I saw, like, a lacrosse commercial on TV, and
22 that's usually not seen at all.

23 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Great. So what lessons did you
24 take from that summer program?

25 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** Pretty much just learning how to

1 interact on teams and learning how to, I guess, be a better
2 coach and learn how to explain things to different types of
3 people and different personalities.

4 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Great. Fabulous.

5 I'm gonna shift back to your internship here and ask you
6 both, were there any skillsets that you learned during the
7 course of the summer as a result of your internship?

8 Let me start with you, Lauren.

9 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** Definitely learning how to write for
10 different genres. Usually, I've written for on-campus
11 magazines or just personal things. But coming here helped me
12 learn how to write press releases, annual reports, draft
13 emails, pretty much things of that nature.

14 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Great.

15 How about you, skill set or anything new or was it
16 pretty much what you thought it was?

17 >> **KINGMAN KEATING:** Um, one bit of advice I remember
18 very well that Judge Duckworth told me in his criminal trials
19 is that to win a criminal trial -- or any trial, I guess --
20 you need to be able to pick a jury and to cross-examine a
21 witness. Those are the two most important things that he
22 thought were vital to success in the courtroom. And I think
23 I'll always remember that when I go forward in my legal
24 career.

25 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Great. How many trials did you

1 get to watch this summer, if you had to ballpark it for us?

2 >> **KINGMAN KEATING:** Ballpark, around, you know, a
3 handful, five maybe.

4 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Great. Did you see different
5 styles of presentation from the attorneys?

6 >> **KINGMAN KEATING:** I did.

7 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Yeah. Yeah. So you -- you
8 know, there's that old saying, to thine own self be true.
9 I'm not sure the lawyer can act like someone else. You have
10 to be yourself. And you got to see different -- different
11 personalities in the courtroom during your experience.

12 How did you-all hear about interning here? How did you
13 even know that it was a possibility? I think from you,
14 probably your family's connection to the courthouse and the
15 law.

16 How about you, Lauren?

17 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** Also kind of the same route. My
18 father works over at city hall, and he knew Ms. Levey, and he
19 was talking to her about my summer plans and trying to find
20 an internship. And she so graciously offered me one here.
21 So that was a great experience.

22 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** So where do you see yourselves
23 five years from now? What -- what -- if you project forward,
24 what do you see yourself doing?

25 Lauren, let me start with you.

1 **>> LAUREN EDMONDS:** Hopefully, working either in
2 journalism or communications.

3 **>> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Okay. Great. Great.

4 And, I imagine, practicing law, but I don't want to be
5 presumptuous, so ...

6 **>> KINGMAN KEATING:** Hopefully, yes. I don't see myself
7 as a litigator. It was a great experience here at the
8 courthouse, but I feel like my personality is more of a
9 transactional lawyer. I like real estate and -- that's what
10 my dad does and what I've grown up around. Between Ole Miss
11 and Florida, I worked selling commercial real estate at
12 Davidson Young.

13 **>> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Interesting. Oh, that's
14 interesting.

15 **>> KINGMAN KEATING:** So that also enhanced my interest
16 for real estate.

17 **>> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Likely that you'll work for your
18 father or do you see a different path in that?

19 **>> KINGMAN KEATING:** I'm unsure. I think he'd like me
20 to work for him, and I'd like to work with him too. It would
21 be a neat experience. I know he wants to retire, though, so
22 we'll see.

23 **>> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Yeah, that might -- yeah, that
24 might not have a long-term payoff if he wants to retire
25 relatively soon.

1 Well, any advice you have for anybody else who's
2 thinking of an internship in our program?

3 Lauren?

4 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** Just really come in with an open
5 mind and be ready to work.

6 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Great.

7 Kingman?

8 >> **KINGMAN KEATING:** I agree. You have to be able to
9 work hard and be eager to learn.

10 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Great. Great.

11 Well, I want to thank you both for working for us this
12 summer. I -- unfortunately, we don't have any funds
13 available for paid internships. We probably should have
14 mentioned this earlier in the broadcast --

15 >> **LAUREN EDMONDS:** Yeah.

16 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** -- that all of the internships
17 are volunteer because we're funded by the State, and the
18 State doesn't provide us dollars for internships.

19 There is an interesting legal issue about whether
20 interns have to be paid that's floating around the court
21 system, kind of nationally. But we're very grateful for the
22 contribution that you made. I hope you felt like you grew
23 and learned a lot this summer, and it was wonderful having
24 you here. And we, of course, wish you both the utmost
25 success in your future endeavors.

1 So thanks for being with us this summer.

2 **>> LAUREN EDMONDS:** Thank you.

3 **>> KINGMAN KEATING:** Yes, thank you, Judge.

4 **>> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** You're welcome.

5 **>>** Thank you for listening to "Open Ninth." Stay up to
6 date with everything that is happening in the Ninth Circuit
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8 watch video materials on our Vimeo or YouTube channels. To
9 access these, please click on the respective icons, which are
10 displayed at the bottom of our website at
11 www.ninthcircuit.org.

12 (Music.)

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