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**OPEN NINTH:**  
**CONVERSATIONS BEYOND THE COURTROOM**  
**FIGHTING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC - PART 2**  
**EPISODE 34**  
**NOVEMBER 6, 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. Now here's your host, Chief Judge  
5 Fred Lauten.

6 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** I'm here today with Jessica  
7 Finn, who is a graduate of the Osceola County Adult Drug  
8 Court, and she's here to talk to our listeners about her  
9 journey to recovery. And it's very courageous for Jessica to  
10 join us.

11 So, Jessica, I want to welcome you to "Open Ninth."  
12 Thanks for being with us.

13 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Thank you for having me.

14 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** So tell me a little bit about  
15 yourself, a little bit about your background. Where are you  
16 from? How did you get to Florida? Give me a little bit of  
17 biography for your background.

18 >> **JESSICA FINN:** I'm from New Jersey, and my family  
19 moved here when I was like 12. And I had an abusive  
20 stepfather growing up. And then, um, I think later in life,  
21 like, I resented him and things like that. So that's part of  
22 the reason I think I got into drugs.

23 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Can we talk a little bit about  
24 your path to that? So you grew -- you moved here?

25 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Yeah.

1 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: Grew up here. And went to  
2 school, I take it, in Osceola County?  
3 >> JESSICA FINN: Mm-hmm.  
4 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: Where did you go to high school?  
5 >> JESSICA FINN: Osceola. Osceola.  
6 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: Great.  
7 >> JESSICA FINN: Mm-hmm.  
8 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: Go to college?  
9 >> JESSICA FINN: No.  
10 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: Went into -- I understand into  
11 working in the airlines?  
12 >> JESSICA FINN: Yeah.  
13 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: All right. What did you do with  
14 that?  
15 >> JESSICA FINN: I was a flight attendant with AirTran.  
16 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: And how long did you have that  
17 job?  
18 >> JESSICA FINN: Six years.  
19 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: Was it in that job that you  
20 first started --  
21 >> JESSICA FINN: Yeah, I started --  
22 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: -- abusing substances of one  
23 form or another?  
24 >> JESSICA FINN: Mm-hmm. I started drinking and  
25 taking -- I started drinking. And then my dad passed away

1 from an overdose, and my best friend passed away from an  
2 overdose, and I was on a plane that caught on fire. And I  
3 guess from those traumatic events, I started to want to black  
4 out those feelings.

5 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** The pain that you were feeling  
6 from those losses?

7 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Mm-hmm.

8 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** So drinking, legal, not  
9 uncommon. But you started to combine alcohol with what?

10 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Pills, Percocets, Lortabs, Vicodin.

11 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** And did you do that because  
12 mostly you wanted to numb your feelings or was it a high that  
13 was euphoric?

14 >> **JESSICA FINN:** A combination of both.

15 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Was the flight attendant  
16 lifestyle kind of a partying lifestyle or not?

17 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Yeah, definitely.

18 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Is that common -- is that common  
19 to that lifestyle?

20 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Yeah.

21 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** All right. Do you mind if I ask  
22 about how old you were when this all --

23 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Twenty-three.

24 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** -- started happening.

25 So you were very young?

1 >> JESSICA FINN: Mm-hmm.

2 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: Flying with the airlines, flying  
3 all around. Had those -- those traumas.

4 >> JESSICA FINN: Mm-hmm.

5 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: Started taking alcohol and then  
6 pills. And pills -- I think you might have mentioned, but  
7 what pills did you mix?

8 >> JESSICA FINN: Percocets, Lortabs, Vicodins. And  
9 then later it got into Oxys.

10 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: Oxy being OxyContin or  
11 oxycodone?

12 >> JESSICA FINN: OxyContin.

13 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: OxyContin, which is an opiate?

14 >> JESSICA FINN: Mm-hmm.

15 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: And then how long were you kind  
16 of engaged in that behavior?

17 >> JESSICA FINN: Well, I wound up losing my job.

18 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: Because of it?

19 >> JESSICA FINN: Because of it. And then I winded up  
20 starting to get into the criminal, like -- like, I got into  
21 trying to obtain a controlled substance under fraud. And  
22 I -- my whole life just changed. Like, I lost everything. I  
23 became a felon. I lost my job.

24 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: So let's talk a little bit about  
25 that, if I can. And we can stop at any point if I'm -- you

1 know, if I go into an area that you just are uncomfortable  
2 talking about. Just tell me.

3 Okay. So you want to get these prescription drugs?

4 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Mm-hmm.

5 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** But certainly there was an era  
6 where it was harder and harder to get them when the State  
7 cracked down on pill mills and doctors who were conscious  
8 about I can't write these scripts anymore.

9 So people who were physically addicted to the  
10 substances, was it -- it wasn't uncommon that they would form  
11 a prescription, and that's what you did?

12 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Mm-hmm.

13 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Any other criminal activity,  
14 theft, things like that?

15 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Yeah. Mm-hmm.

16 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** And tell me a little bit about  
17 that. That, I think, is not uncommon for someone who is  
18 physically addicted.

19 >> **JESSICA FINN:** I just winded up getting a lot of  
20 charges, theft charges, possession charges -- actually even a  
21 battery on a LEO. It was pretty --

22 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** So your life's spiraling kind of  
23 out of control.

24 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Right. And then once I was at a  
25 certain point, it was like I felt so guilty and so ashamed,

1 that I had to stay in that high just so I didn't have to face  
2 the wreckage that has happened.

3 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Okay. How -- Jessica, how  
4 quickly or how long did it take you before you felt I'm  
5 physically addicted now to a substance?

6 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Like, probably after a year I felt  
7 that way.

8 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** All right. And the addiction  
9 was mostly to opiates?

10 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Yeah. And then at the end, it started  
11 to be with crystal meth and opiates, but in the mixture of  
12 it. But I also tried to get off of it with methadone, which  
13 was just another way to get high, and then Suboxone.

14 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** So we'll go into that in one  
15 second.

16 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Mm-hmm.

17 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** So you obviously had to go to  
18 the streets to get crystal meth. And were you addicted to  
19 heroin? Did you try heroin?

20 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Mm-hmm. Yes.

21 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** And I saw in a little briefing  
22 that I got that you tried fentanyl, um, and Xanax and  
23 morphine and -- so kind of the cocktail of drugs in the  
24 opiate family.

25 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Mm-hmm.

1 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** And how did that make you feel  
2 when you were taking those?

3 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Like I didn't have to worry. I didn't  
4 have a worry in the world, like -- but at one point, it was  
5 just to not feel -- just to feel normal, because I started to  
6 not be able to -- it didn't even really -- I didn't feel like  
7 it was a high anymore. I just felt like I was trying to feel  
8 not sick and normal.

9 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Right. So at some point, then,  
10 you go into treatment for these addictions. And tell me,  
11 first, how that happened, where you go from the street into  
12 sort of addiction programs.

13 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Well, I started -- like, I would get  
14 so fed up and my family -- I was just really -- my family was  
15 really hurting about it. And I would go into rehabs, try to  
16 get help. Or I'd get arrested, and I'm like, when I get out,  
17 I'm gonna -- you know, I'm gonna do good. I'm gonna do good.  
18 And I had every intention of stopping and doing good. But as  
19 soon as I got out and was left to my devices, I would go back  
20 to that.

21 And then, um -- but this last time was whenever I got  
22 put into drug court. And I -- in the beginning, I was trying  
23 to, like, sneak around and do stuff and still get by. And,  
24 um -- and then they put me in a 28-day program from there.

25 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** In drug court they did?

1 >> JESSICA FINN: Yeah. It was a sanction that I got.

2 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: Now, had you done a residential  
3 treatment program before that?

4 >> JESSICA FINN: I had.

5 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: How long was that program?

6 >> JESSICA FINN: I've done a six-month twice before  
7 that.

8 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: And that's not uncommon for  
9 people to go into treatment, relapse, go back into treatment.  
10 That's not an uncommon path --

11 >> JESSICA FINN: Mm-hmm.

12 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: -- as we know. While you were  
13 in treatment -- so you were on -- you were on methadone for a  
14 while?

15 >> JESSICA FINN: Mm-hmm. While I was in treatment, I  
16 detoxed off everything, so I wouldn't have anything in my  
17 system.

18 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: Okay. So -- but you mentioned  
19 that you attempted to get healthy with methadone and  
20 Suboxone, and that didn't work for you. And I'm wondering  
21 along the path, where was that? Was that before you were in  
22 a --

23 >> JESSICA FINN: Before --

24 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: -- residential treatment  
25 program?

1 >> JESSICA FINN: Yeah.

2 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: You were in an outpatient  
3 program?

4 >> JESSICA FINN: Mm-hmm.

5 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: Okay. What did the methadone  
6 and Suboxone do for you?

7 >> JESSICA FINN: It just kept me in a fog still. I  
8 mean, it didn't -- it kept me away from those other drugs.  
9 But then I was mixing -- with those drugs, I was mixing drugs  
10 that would work because they're blockers. So I would mix,  
11 like, other drugs that would work with them so I would still  
12 be --

13 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: So you're taking methadone and  
14 at some point Suboxone, but you were then going out and  
15 getting --

16 >> JESSICA FINN: Like meth or coke or stuff that --

17 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: Right. Right.

18 Okay. And then you get into the Osceola Drug Court  
19 Program?

20 >> JESSICA FINN: Mm-hmm.

21 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: You had a 28-day, in-patient  
22 rehab practice?

23 >> JESSICA FINN: Mm-hmm.

24 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: And what treatment protocol were  
25 you given when you were in that 28-day, in-patient program?

1 >> JESSICA FINN: Like --

2 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: You said you withdrew  
3 completely?

4 >> JESSICA FINN: Yeah. And then --

5 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: Okay.

6 >> JESSICA FINN: Yeah. They just suggested Vivitrol.

7 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: All right. Let's talk a little  
8 bit about that.

9 >> JESSICA FINN: Yeah.

10 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: So you're in that program. They  
11 suggest Vivitrol. And I know what Vivitrol does, but maybe  
12 you can tell our listeners, what does Vivitrol do, for  
13 example, that Suboxone doesn't do?

14 >> JESSICA FINN: I felt like it really cut my cravings.  
15 Like, I didn't -- I didn't have any cravings, and, um,  
16 actually, I felt like I went back to the way I was before I  
17 ever drank or got high.

18 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: And is Vivitrol a treatment  
19 protocol for good? Forever? Or is it --

20 >> JESSICA FINN: For -- I did it for a year.

21 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: -- temporary?

22 >> JESSICA FINN: And I was scared after the year to  
23 stop because I was scared to get off drug court because it  
24 had helped me. And then I got that done with. And then I  
25 was supposed to get off the shot after a year, and I was

1 scared. But -- now I'm gonna have two years in February  
2 clean and sober.

3 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Well, great. Congrats. That's  
4 wonderful.

5 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Yeah.

6 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** That's fabulous.

7 So let's talk a little bit about the Osceola Drug Court.  
8 So you go into it. It's presided over -- when you entered  
9 it, who was the judge that was in charge?

10 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Whitehead.

11 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Judge Whitehead, who's the  
12 problem-solving court judge for our circuit.

13 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Mm-hmm.

14 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** And a phenomenal judge and does  
15 a great job.

16 And so what -- what lessons or what sort of mantras were  
17 they teaching you in the Osceola Drug Court?

18 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Well, they made suggestions to go to  
19 meetings and get a sponsor, which I did that. And that's  
20 part of my recovery is -- is that I have a sponsor and to  
21 help other women. And I -- actually, I go into the Osceola  
22 County Jail and bring meetings to the women in there.

23 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Did they talk to you about  
24 changing the people, the places --

25 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Oh, yeah. I had to change everything.

1 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Completely had to sort of  
2 reorient with --

3 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Yeah.

4 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** And let's tell our listeners a  
5 little bit about that. So when people say people, places,  
6 and things have an effect on your addiction, what do you  
7 understand that to mean?

8 >> **JESSICA FINN:** That I just can't hang around the same  
9 people. I'm gonna have the same problems that I had. And  
10 that I want to hang around people who are successful and have  
11 things going on in their life, because that's where I want to  
12 be at.

13 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** So people -- are there other  
14 things that are triggers for you that might lead you back  
15 into that drug culture if you aren't careful? What --

16 >> **JESSICA FINN:** I think, like, becoming complacent.  
17 Because I feel like I have the -- I have the disease of  
18 addiction, and I have to do something every day for that. It  
19 doesn't just go away. Like, I can't just put the stuff down  
20 and be like, okay, I'm good. I got this. Every day I have  
21 to do something --

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

23 >> **JESSICA FINN:** -- for my recovery.

24 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** You mentioned Vivitrol  
25 injections.

1 >> JESSICA FINN: Mm-hmm.

2 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: So Vivitrol was a shot. How  
3 often did you take it?

4 >> JESSICA FINN: Once a month.

5 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: And you did that for a full  
6 year?

7 >> JESSICA FINN: Mm-hmm.

8 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: And then did the doctor say,  
9 okay, we think you don't need to take Vivitrol anymore?

10 >> JESSICA FINN: They said it's suggested a year. If I  
11 felt like when I got off of it, if I still needed it, that I  
12 could do it -- that I could do it again. But I felt okay. I  
13 felt good. And ...

14 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: Well, I heard that you got your  
15 driver's license for the first time in --

16 >> JESSICA FINN: After 11 years.

17 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: -- ten, 11 years.

18 >> JESSICA FINN: Yes.

19 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: Congrats. That's great.

20 >> JESSICA FINN: Thank you.

21 >> CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN: And are you working?

22 >> JESSICA FINN: Yeah. I've had the same job for two  
23 years. Um, I go into -- the rehab that I was in, I bring a  
24 meeting into there with other recovering people to share  
25 their experience, strength, and hope. And I just -- my life

1 is, like, amazing now.

2 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Great. So you go to the Osceola  
3 County Jail?

4 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Mm-hmm.

5 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** And you talk to women in jail?

6 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Yeah. Because, like, I spent so much  
7 time there that I want those ladies to know that they don't  
8 have to keep doing this. Like, there's a solution. And  
9 that -- that if I can do it, they could do it. Because a lot  
10 of them know me. They're like, oh, my gosh, you know, I  
11 can't believe that you're here doing this.

12 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Can you give us a thumbnail of  
13 what you tell them? What's the message that you bring to  
14 them?

15 >> **JESSICA FINN:** That I was -- I thought there was no  
16 hope for me. I thought I was hopeless. And -- and that  
17 there is -- that it's possible to change. For me, it has to  
18 do with God too. But it's possible to change. And that --  
19 and then once you -- you can help -- once you start helping  
20 others is whenever that change will happen. Because, like,  
21 once you're concentrating on helping someone else, it's hard  
22 for you to be stuck in your own, you know, misery. It's a  
23 great way to live.

24 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** How long have you been going  
25 into the jail and doing that work?

1 >> **JESSICA FINN:** About six months.

2 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Great. Great. Well, thanks for  
3 doing that.

4 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Yeah.

5 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Did this journey that you're on,  
6 did it result at some point in any alienation with your own  
7 family?

8 >> **JESSICA FINN:** It did. My family wanted nothing to  
9 do with me.

10 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** For how long? About how long a  
11 period of time?

12 >> **JESSICA FINN:** It was getting to that point. But at  
13 the -- at the end, they're like -- they threw -- they're  
14 like, we don't want you coming around here anymore. And when  
15 I was in drug court, the counselor said can she please come  
16 home? And so they let me. But my mom's like, so relieved.  
17 She used to have to say that I -- that I would have to think  
18 that you died. I had to mourn your death because I didn't  
19 know where you were and what was happening with you. So now  
20 she has her daughter back, and it's, like -- it's -- it's  
21 like my living amends to her for what I put her through.

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

23 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Because it was ...

24 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** And how big a family did you  
25 come from?

1 >> **JESSICA FINN:** I have two sisters.

2 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** And either of them struggle with  
3 addiction?

4 >> **JESSICA FINN:** My sister is not around. She's -- we  
5 have her three kids. She's out there somewhere, and I pray  
6 for her because I know what that's like.

7 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** And she has an addiction to --  
8 to illegal drugs?

9 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Right. With all the people that are  
10 dying, it's just ...

11 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** So let's talk a little bit about  
12 that. We know from a previous podcast that we did that --  
13 that opiate overdose deaths now are exceeding vehicular  
14 homicides, deaths, or even automobile accident deaths, and,  
15 um, and murders in the community. So there's an epidemic  
16 both in our Central Florida community and in the state of  
17 Florida and in the United States because of opiate overdose  
18 deaths.

19 Tell me what you know about that and what the chatter on  
20 the street is about opioids and addiction.

21 >> **JESSICA FINN:** I just -- it seems like people  
22 don't -- don't care. Like, a lot of times it would be like,  
23 oh, that must be good stuff if people are dying from it.

24 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Mm-hmm.

25 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Now that I'm on the other side, I'm

1 like, I can't believe this. This is so weird to be on the  
2 other side when you were that.

3 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Right. And today, I know that  
4 opioids are being mixed with fentanyl or carfentanil. It's  
5 hard to know precisely what you're getting.

6 You mentioned that you tried fentanyl. How do you get  
7 your hands on fentanyl?

8 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Um, somebody from an -- got it from --  
9 from an older -- elderly people or someone that was diagnosed  
10 from, like, a terminal disease.

11 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** I see. Mm-hmm.

12 >> **JESSICA FINN:** I've done things to where I would --  
13 it's embarrassing to share this, but I -- I couldn't find  
14 anything. I was sick, so I, um, pulled down the attic stairs  
15 and laid on the ground and called 911 so that they would come  
16 and bring me something to make me not feel sick.

17 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Like a fentanyl patch? Did you  
18 ever have a patch?

19 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Like -- like Dilaudid and stuff like  
20 that. So -- I mean, that's just insane.

21 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** It is looking back on it.

22 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Yeah.

23 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** When you're in the middle of  
24 that physical addiction, though, you think entirely  
25 different.

1 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Right.

2 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Right. So what message do you  
3 have for people about drug court and addiction? If you could  
4 say anything to our listeners about addiction and then about  
5 the drug court program, what would you share with them?

6 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Just that I was really hesitant. I  
7 almost was gonna take the time over drug court because I was  
8 like, oh, I can't do this. It's impossible. And now I'm --  
9 the fact that I took all the suggestions, like, going to  
10 meetings, getting a sponsor, doing what they ask, going to  
11 groups and everything, it's like I learned so much about  
12 myself. And when I was sitting in drug court about to  
13 graduate, I -- I was like, oh, my gosh. Because I was -- you  
14 sit up where the jurors sit -- or where you sit when you get  
15 sentenced.

16 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Right. In the well of the  
17 courtroom?

18 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Yeah. Because that's where they bring  
19 us from the jail to sit there. And I was like, oh, my gosh,  
20 this year I'm actually, like, not getting sentenced. I'm  
21 actually graduating something. This is amazing. And, um, it  
22 was. It was -- it changed my life. And, um, like I said  
23 about -- addiction is something that you don't have to do  
24 alone. Like, you don't have to be alone to fight that.

25 Like, it's not -- there's people out there that will

1 help you, and your life can be better than you ever thought  
2 possible. Like, my life is -- exceeds what I thought could  
3 happen. And I feel like there's only so much more that's  
4 gonna happen in my life, because if I stay on this path, that  
5 it's -- it's good.

6 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** You know, I'm tempted to end  
7 there, but I do want to loop back because I want one other  
8 message to our listeners, if they know anyone who's got a  
9 physical addiction. It sounds like your path included  
10 attempts at treatment that failed and then a relapse and then  
11 attempts at treatment, failed relapse. And now you're in a  
12 really healthy place.

13 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Mm-hmm.

14 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** So it's not uncommon for people  
15 who have an addiction to fail at their attempts at treatment,  
16 but to keep going.

17 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Right.

18 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** And how -- I'm gonna let you  
19 deliver that message to our listeners about not giving up.  
20 Because you might not succeed the first time. But,  
21 ultimately, there's a path to success, isn't there?

22 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Mm-hmm. It took me 20 years. I was  
23 using for 20 years. And I tried and I -- I -- and I didn't  
24 think I could. I don't think anybody else thought I could  
25 either. And, um, the fact that I can, it's -- it's possible.

1 It definitely is possible.

2 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Great. Great. Any other  
3 message you want to deliver to our listeners? You've been so  
4 courageous to come in and talk to us. And you've been so  
5 forthright and open with this. We really appreciate it.  
6 Anything else you would like to say before we close this out?

7 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Just that there's a whole bunch of  
8 people out there that are, like, willing to help you if you  
9 reach out and -- and that's it.

10 >> **CHIEF JUDGE LAUTEN:** Jessica, thank you so much for  
11 joining us today and sharing your story. And I know that  
12 it's a mixture of pain, but you can also tell by looking at  
13 you, a lot of pride in coming as far as you have.

14 So congratulations. And anything we can do in the  
15 Osceola County Drug Court to help you, let us know. But,  
16 really, I think at this point, you're paying us back by jail  
17 visits and by being a spokesperson for the success of the  
18 program.

19 So thank you and best of luck in your future.

20 >> **JESSICA FINN:** Thank you.

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

22 >> Thank you for listening to "Open Ninth." Stay up to  
23 date with everything that is happening in the Ninth Circuit  
24 by following us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Or  
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2 displayed at the bottom of our website at  
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4 (Music.)

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