

**OPEN NINTH:**  
**CONVERSATIONS BEYOND THE COURTROOM**  
**JUDGING BY GENERATIONS**  
**EPISODE 94**  
**FEBRUARY 24, 2020**  
**HOSTED BY: DONALD A. MYERS, JR.**

(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 Don Myers.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Hello, and welcome to Open Ninth. Today we’re going to take a slight detour from our more serious conversations exploring the intersections between the courts and society and, instead, take a fun side trip into the multigenerational impact on the work of the courts.

Joining me today and representing Generation X is Judge Kevin Weiss. The Gen-Xers, including Judge Weiss, were born between 1964 and 1979. They were known as latchkey kids and the MTV Generation, coming of age during the computer explosion. On the negative side, they’ve sometimes been portrayed as self-focused slackers and skeptics. But on the positive side, they’re known to be technologically adept, independent, resourceful and self-reliant.

Standing in for the Millennials today is Judge Denise Beamer. Sometimes referred to as Generation Y, Millennials were born between 1980 and 2000. Nurtured and pampered, they came of age during economic expansion and the Internet explosion. They’ve been portrayed as lazy, self-concerned and overly sensitive. But on the flipside of that, they’re known to be confident, ambitious and achievement-oriented.

So today, I’ll be representing the Baby Boomers. Sometime -- born sometime between 1946 and 1963, and we’ll leave it at that, Boomers are the post-war babies that grew up to be the radicals of the ‘70s and the yuppies of the ‘80s. They have been portrayed as judgmental, goal-oriented workaholics. But, because of that, they have a strong sense of self in their employment status, they are structured and well disciplined.

Because I wrote that, I get to say all those great, positive things about us Boomers.

So I want to thank you both for joining us, Judge Weiss and Judge Beamer.

**JUDGE WEISS:** Hang on. I'm just finishing up my Spacer Invaders here.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** So we had a funny incident occur as we were getting ready to record the podcast.

Judge Weiss, you have an iPhone, is that right?

**JUDGE WEISS:** I do.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** How new is that iPhone to you?

**JUDGE WEISS:** It's about a month old, and it's an iPhone 11 Maximum [sic]. And I traded up from, I think, a 6 Plus.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** All right. And you had a question as we were getting ready to record. What was your question?

**JUDGE WEISS:** My question was, how do I turn this thing off. Because in the old days, you just hold the button down and it turns off. But it started playing a song from my library.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Now, Judge Beamer is sitting next to you. I'm sitting here right across from you. Who did you ask to answer that question for you?

**JUDGE WEISS:** Well, Judge Beamer.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Why is that?

**JUDGE WEISS:** Because she knows those things, and she immediately, almost with one hand, was able to grab the phone and turn it off and say, here, you just do this. And I said, wow, that's new.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Judge Beamer, you offered to turn it back on for him when we're done, didn't you?

**JUDGE BEAMER:** I did. Whatever you need, Judge Weiss, I'll help you on the iPhone.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Let's take a step here -- a step back and let's talk a little bit about our generation and those things that we talked about and the way that we identify about that.

And let's start with you, Judge Beamer. How do you identify with your generation?

**JUDGE BEAMER:** So I know that technically I'm a Millennial, but I would like to point out a little microgeneration commonly referred to as Xennials or the Oregon Trail Generation, you know that old computer game that was around. So when I was a kid, I played that game. So we had an analog childhood. We didn't have social media when we were growing up, but we had a digital adulthood or, you know, college -- high school, college.

So that generation is -- they were born between 1977 and 1983, so there is this little microgeneration where we don't necessarily identify with all the Millennial values but I think we're on the tail end of the Generation X generation.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Classic.

How about you, Judge Weiss?

**JUDGE WEISS:** I don't necessarily identify myself with the generation that you claimed I was in. And I think when we talked about that previously, you reminded me that, being that I was born in 1969, I was directly right in the middle of that. So I think I was surprised to hear that.

But I think that certainly what you said about the generation in which I was born that, yeah, I am more comfortable with technology than some of, say, my colleagues, such as you, in terms of, you know, the fact that I grew up with an Apple II, meaning I remember when I started college -- or my senior year of high school, they introduced us to the Apple computers and some of the TRS-80 type of computers. And then I believe Atari had their own computer. So I remember that coming to be as part of, you know, learning and playing games and things like that. And that's certainly something I don't think that your generation had.

So, yeah, I think we were the beginning roots of, you know, computer information as well as gaming. The Internet really hadn't come about yet.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Right. So, yeah, by way of comparison, I typed my senior paper in college on an IBM Selectric II, and it had the ability to make corrections and that was a huge deal. I didn't -- wasn't introduced to a computer until about five or six years later when I finally got into law school. And it was there that we were really just starting to begin computer research even. The Westlaw product that -- or Lexis product that we all rely on so heavily now was really -- we were among the very first classes to be introduced to that technology, so that was a big deal.

But I clearly am not as technologically adept as many of the folks in later generations, except that I have kids. And our kids -- and Judge Weiss, I know you've got older kids like I do, college age. Judge Beamer, yours are a little younger. But our college-age kids have been wonderful teachers to us of all of the technology. I think it's the only -- really the only true reason I'm able to do the things I can do on an iPhone.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** Have you ever done legal research in the library?

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Yes. That's how we were originally trained.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** So I've never done legal research in the library because in law school they just taught us straight how to go to Westlaw to do the Boolean search. I mean, that's the start of my knowledge in terms of legal research. I don't know that -- if you gave me a cite, I don't know that I could find it in a book. I mean, I'm sure I can figure it out, but --

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Right.

**JUDGE WEISS:** Yeah. So when I started law school, they still showed us the traditional manner of research. And I specifically remember learning how to use the actual Shepard's book where you look up the cite and all the pages, and then that cite brings you to other cites. And then you go to the -- I went to school up North, so it was the Atlantic 2d -- then you went to the Atlantic 2d Reporter and you actually found it. And then the big issue was whether you had enough dimes to make copies on the copy machines, and then you'd highlight the actual case.

And then there came a time when I saw an advertisement for -- from Lexis for a representative, and I applied and I got that job. And it was one of the most amazing experiences I remember -- eye-opening experiences when I became the Lexis rep at my school, so I was given the password -- and I think I went to Philadelphia which is where Lexis was for the training.

And back then, it wasn't Windows. It was all DOS, so we used what were known as dot commands. So if you wanted to go forward, you'd do .pp, so that's, you know, dot previous page; .np, next page. So everything was dot commands and it was almost like learning another language, but to me it was fascinating.

And it got to the point where I had convinced my legal writing professor that there's really no need for these books that he kept talking to us about. And I remember him telling me that, no, we are going to learn the traditional way so that you will always have a basis.

But interestingly what Denise said, I got to the point now where I reject many of the books that are offered to us for our offices. For example, a statute book. I don't open a statute book. I see no reason for it when I can simply pull it up on my Lexis and that tells me all the cases that are tied to it.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** So contrast that, Judge Beamer, in our law school experience, the primary way that we were taught to research was in the books. And so the class was actually taught in the library. They had a room set aside inside of the library for that class.

And rumors abounded that when you were writing research projects, you had to be the first one to get to the book because there was a danger in a cutthroat environment of law school that somebody might cut the pages out of the book and then it would be absolutely unavailable to the other students for their research projects.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** Wow. Okay.

**JUDGE WEISS:** Yeah, that's absolutely true. I have memories in my first year with our papers that we had to turn in copies from the books as well as a copy of the Shepard's showing the professor, the legal writing professor, that we did not use Lexis or Westlaw.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** Interesting.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** And for you, all computer based, right?

**JUDGE BEAMER:** All computer based. I mean, my previous boss, she would say, let's look at the statute, and she would go to a book. And I would just pull up my phone, and I

was always faster than her and I would remind her that Google was much faster than her turning around in her chair, grabbing that statute book and opening it. So that was always interesting.

I do remember talking to a mentor, and he said it was great billing, going into the law library, that, you know, it was actually -- he liked going into the library and having that time to be able to research. And he would open up the books and see other related cases in the books. And I think computerized legal research is so specific and narrow that you may not see other topics.

**JUDGE WEISS:** That's true. That's true. Because when you walk into a library -- or law library and you look in a certain section regarding books that may be -- shed light on a certain area, you're going to see things that otherwise on computers you may not see because your search is too narrow, and you're going to be able to flip through the book.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** So for those who are in the law, FlaJur, West's Key Digest, those things are those topical indexes to subjects, and you could look and see -- and so you could -- you could kind of push to the borders or the extremes of an issue and look at the case law as it developed. And it is much more difficult to accomplish that on a computer.

**JUDGE WEISS:** So I remember when I was clerking during law school in Orlando, I used to go to the law library, which was at the Central -- near Central and, what, Magnolia was the main library, and the law library was there and that's where it was housed. And that's where you'd also find the Florida Law Weeklys, or whatever it was called back then. It was -- I think it was just called Southern -- was the -- or Florida --

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Southern, I think, was the 1<sup>st</sup> Reporters. In my -- at least in my time it's always been the Florida Law Weekly, which was the supplements and updates.

**JUDGE WEISS:** Before Florida Law Weekly, there was something else called -- I forgot what it was called. But anyways, it was a Reporter for Circuit Court Opinions and Trial Court Opinions.

But I remember going to that library, and that's where you'd see so many members of the Bar and people just doing research, because what they had. But that was where you'd go. And I think that is housed now --

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** At FAMU Law School.

**JUDGE WEISS:** FAMU, yeah. We heard about that.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Correct. That's right. Yeah.

So let's talk about some of our generational differences, and specifically let's start to touch on some of the ways that we may work differently or communicate differently.

In my house, because we have multiple generations with cell phones, when I pull out the cell phone bill I look to see who's got the most minutes for talking, who's got the most texts, and who is it that is using the most data. And invariably what I find for me, and I think it's generational, is most of my -- I win the contest for calls, I grossly lose the contest for data and for texts.

How about in your houses?

**JUDGE WEISS:** In my house, my kids win the text, the older kids, because they generally communicate through text, generally not email, and almost never a phone call. The little one, who's not too little anymore, but data because he's all about TikTok, YouTube videos and, you know, just watching shows. And it's generally, son, how come you're not on the Wi-Fi but rather you're using the 4G, or whatever it is. So he's the data thief. And for me, it's probably a mix of all three. But that's probably where it's cut down to.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** Well, let's distinguish, right? I -- we don't have a landline. So, you know, when you talk about phone bills, I just exclusively think cell phone bills. And when I think cell phone bills, I mean, we are just maxed out on data. We had to switch to the Unlimited Plan. I was really fighting it for a while, but it just wasn't making any sense.

Also when a friend calls, I think something is wrong. And so if I see a number that I recognize, like a girlfriend or my husband, the first thing I ask them is what's wrong. And there's -- usually they say, nothing, just want to say hi, I was in the car, you know, I have a long drive. Otherwise I would expect a text message. And so that -- it's just -- it's a very different way of looking at it, you know.

But I do prefer phone calls if it's something important, if I need -- if it's an important topic. But generally it's text messages.

**JUDGE WEISS:** So interestingly, my son, who does not like email whatsoever -- and I guess if we're going to identify an age, he's almost 18, and I'm trying to explain to him that he's applying for colleges now and when colleges -- not only when they respond to you, they're going to give you a decision or ask for more information by email, and they can actually tell whether you've opened an email or not.

So we've working -- been working together with him throughout the beginning of the year that he must check his emails at least once a day. And so what we were doing is actually sending him, Dear Jordan, you are welcome to ask me for \$5 if you check this email before 5 o'clock tonight, Love, Dad.

And I would say for the first several months, 5 o'clock would come along and I'd be like, you missed that one. But one day he did meet me at the front door, he was all excited, and he said, give me my \$5, please.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Do you have a landline, Judge Weiss?

**JUDGE WEISS:** We do because it comes with the Bright House package. But yes. I generally didn't want a landline or feel that I needed one, but my wife, I believe, insisted on one and we put it in our safe room where it's directly linked to the wall just in case something happens we will -- if we lose power, we will still have the ability to phone.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** The Baby Boomers have a landline, and we use it. The signal is so much better and more consistent than my cell phone. And I love the idea of being able to pick up that phone and know that I'm going to hear a dial tone.

**JUDGE WEISS:** But do you need to stand still when you do it?

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** I don't have --

**JUDGE WEISS:** I mean, is there a rope that allows you to walk around the house?

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** No. We're advanced Boomers and we have wireless phones in the house, so we are able to walk around and move a little bit.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** I mean, my four-year-old saw the landline in the courtroom when she was visiting one day, and she pointed at it and asked me what is that, you know, because we just don't have one at home. And there's just -- I mean, pretty soon -- I don't know how long these landlines will last. But it is a good thing to have just in case, but --

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** I think because of the Internet that folks that want them will be able to have them as long as they want. They just won't be true landlines. They're going to be voice over Internet type telephones. And so you'll still have the benefit of whatever cables that still connect our world to be able to make those calls, but it's not going to be the same. It's definitely not going to be the same.

How about what do you see in the way of the influence of technology on communication in your courtrooms? So with lawyers, with litigants, what types of things -- where do you see technology influencing communication inside of the courtroom?

**JUDGE WEISS:** I mean, I think I see it every day, especially in the attorneys who do a lot of the coverage work for the foreclosure cases, they generally use their cell phones. Some judges have had a problem with that, such that they're actually, you know, pulling out a cell phone in the middle of court.

I look at that very differently such as, well, they're just using that as one would use an iPad or a laptop or, you know, a piece of paper. They're looking at the file, they're looking at the docket. So I'm rather comfortable with it.

But I think it also helps a lot because sometimes I'll look at -- I'll say, hey, did you see in the docket that there was a notice filed. And they'll be like, hang on, Judge, let me take a look. And they'll look on their phone in the docket, and we're both looking at the same document and we're both accomplishing the same goal which is to figure out whether or not a document has been filed. So I think technology can be very helpful with that.

I think that when we're talking about trial, I think technology is incredible. I think that so long as they're prepared for trial and that the technology actually works and they've done a run-through with our Technology Department prior to trial, I think it can be incredibly helpful not only to me as the judge if they're trying to explain something to me, but also to the jury.

Because a lot of folks are visual learners, and they're much -- you know, they might grasp a medical issue a lot easier by seeing a PowerPoint presentation about how a lung functions, for example, versus, you know, going up there and trying to read through a deposition transcript how a lung functions.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Sure.

**JUDGE WEISS:** So, yes. So the more comfortable you are with technology in the courtroom, I think it can only benefit the attorneys and their clients.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** How about for your, Denise? Is that a comfortable experience to see a lawyer bring their cell phone out?

**JUDGE BEAMER:** You know, now that you mention that, I rarely see paper files -- or attorneys coming in with paper files. And now that I think about it, it's more the seasoned attorneys that come in with the briefcase, the expanding files, they're the ones that have it; otherwise it's always a laptop or cell phone. And I never took offense to it. I just assumed they were looking at their notes or coverage attorneys or any notes that they had prior to that.

I do think in terms of trial and jurors, with Instagram and Facebook, I mean, information is transmitted so quickly now that people's attention spans have definitely decreased. So any audio/visual, photos -- I mean, now I think jurors expect it, I think they prefer it. And really if an attorney is trying to persuade a group of people to do something, the best way is through some kind of visual media, because everything we see is presented in that way.

And let's be honest, I mean, I prefer some pictures or video versus an attorney talking about complex matters for a very long period of time in -- potentially in a non-entertaining way. I think it's -- if you really want to persuade, the good attorneys really take advantage of media.

I remember visiting Judge Weiss's trial and saw a recreated -- what was that, like --

**JUDGE WEISS:** It was a recreated accident involving somebody whose leg was trapped between a tire and their motorcycle.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** It was fascinating. And it really just captured very quickly how that accident happened and the injuries that plaintiff sustained.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** That's -- it's just so funny. I grew up trying cases with an easel and a pen. Okay. We -- there were no document production companies. There were no enlarge -- I mean, the biggest enlargement might be an 8 x 10 photo that we had taken, where we had to bring the negative in in order to get the -- you know what a negative is. We used to take film -- we used to take pictures on film inside of cameras.

**JUDGE WEISS:** It's the opposite of a positive.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** And that film would be developed into negatives and you could print photos from that.

Judge Beamer, stop laughing so loudly.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** No, no, no. I just -- no, I got caught -- I was caught off by why would you bring the negative in to court. But I guess that's the --

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** No, no, no. We had to bring the negative into the company to be able to print an 8 x 10 for us --

**JUDGE BEAMER:** Oh, got it.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** -- so that we could show the jury. And of course, publishing anything in that era was passing the photograph from juror to juror. And we would always have those dead times during trial while we were passing something through.

I remember very distinctly when the first presentation company came to make a pitch to us about preparing large blow-ups of exhibits and timelines and all sorts of graphic visual aids for the jury that would be helpful in presenting a case.

It still makes me a little uncomfortable when a lawyer pulls a phone out in the middle of a hearing until I see just how quickly they can get to the docket on their cell phone, how quickly

they can get to that section of their memo to be able to focus in on a case. And it really is impressive. It's been -- but it's been a learning adventure.

**JUDGE WEISS:** I remember in law school there was this one professor who was pretty funny. And the attorney -- the student next to me used to have a laptop. Now, it was a big laptop, it was a very heavy laptop. It looked like something that maybe they would bring into Desert Storm or something like that. But it was one of the first laptops that were out there, and he used to take his notes on that.

And I remember the professor was convinced that he was playing games on the laptop, and the professor every once in a while would jump over the front row where we were sitting to see whether or not the person was playing games. And he was like, no, look, I'm not. He goes, I just don't understand how you could use that in a classroom; why would you use it, you know, rather than use a notebook and a pen.

And nowadays, if you think about it, had we all taken our notes, we could have saved them and searched them by keyword and --

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** It definitely would have influenced it.

**JUDGE WEISS:** Yeah.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Let's talk a little bit about general -- generational differences in the workplace or on the bench. In our career, it seems to me that we receive a fair number of emails. Maybe not as many as I received when I was in private practice. But how do you manage those emails? Do you do it on your phone? Do you wait to get back to your desktop? I know we're all equipped with Surface Pros that we can carry around with us. And do you get notifications of those things? Do you wait for them to show up, or do you have a regularly scheduled time to review email?

How do you address that, Judge Beamer?

**JUDGE BEAMER:** So I receive my work emails through my iPhone. I do -- I receive the pop-up notifications on my home screen whenever I receive a new email. I usually send and receive emails through my phone primarily. My Surface Pro is really when I need to draft orders and check the docket and make notes. So really I think my phone is how I check my emails.

But I'm constantly receiving notifications of my work emails, my personal emails all the time via my cell phone and when my iWatch was working, that -- I was connected to that as well, so I always had it.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** So we were joking the other day about there's a feature inside of our iPhones that tells us how many times a day we pick up the phone to look at it. Do you recall what your number was --

**JUDGE BEAMER:** Oh, my --

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** -- on average? I think it was around 100 times or maybe even a little bit more. Is that --

**JUDGE BEAMER:** I think -- yeah. I think it was a little bit more. Yes. It was -- yeah.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** True confessions.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** It -- I think it was like 125, I think. And it -- I think that was only about 4:00 p.m., right, when we had --

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** That's right.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** Yeah.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** So true confessions on Open Ninth. How about you?

**JUDGE WEISS:** I don't remember what the number was, but I think it was similar to Judge Beamer's.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** And mine, somewhere in the 40s. I think it was the 40s. I had 40 pick-ups by that time of day. So more than twice as many times checking that phone.

Do you think that's the notifications that alert you of that?

**JUDGE BEAMER:** I would like to say yes, but it's also, you know, just -- you know, when there's downtime, I pick up my phone. That's the default. You know, when I have a second to -- when there's -- when I have a second, you know, back in chambers and it's just a little time to relax, it's text messages, it's email -- personal emails, it's work emails. Everything's on my phone; my prescription is coming through; my kids' daycare is sending notifications. I gotta go --

**JUDGE WEISS:** Can you watch your kids on our phone?

**JUDGE BEAMER:** We get pictures. We get pictures. I know when my son's diaper was changed, I know what time. Just to give you more specific, I know what time a bowel movement -- I mean, it's very specific. And the app tells me everything that the kids are doing.

**JUDGE WEISS:** My daughter won't let me look at that stuff anymore.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** Oh, yeah.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Do you check your phone during meetings?

**JUDGE WEISS:** I do.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** I do.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** You've had an Apple Watch, so do you use the Apple Watch during meetings?

**JUDGE BEAMER:** Yes, I do.

**JUDGE WEISS:** So I purposely did not get an Apple Watch because I don't want something that I'm going to continuously look at. So sometimes when I need to give more

attention to the person that I'm with or the situation that I'm in, it's easier for me to just either leave my phone in the car, put my phone on the other side of the desk, or put it in my pocket, because the temptation to look at it is too great.

So in the way that I organize, you know, with my phone, I've got an email for different purposes. So -- and I have an Inbox for each purpose. So for example, you know, with some of my, you know, I don't know, quasi-junk email or email that I'd use for shopping or whatever, I won't look at that as often as I would -- first thing I look at is my personal family, if they need to get in touch with me. Next I'll look at is my work. And then I'll go to the other emails. But that's the only way that I can really sort through the amounts of emails that we get.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** So, Judge Beamer, I thought I would try the Apple Watch. I really thought, what a great piece of technology, to have it so accessible and with you all the time. I sold it after two months. I got rid of it. I just couldn't do it. It was too much. It was constantly buzzing, distracting me during meetings. I would flip it up to look at it, and I think people's sense that -- sense was I wasn't present for them during that time. And for me, at least, I just couldn't manage that. That's probably a little bit of Baby Boomer Generation coming out.

You mentioned multiple email accounts.

**JUDGE WEISS:** Yes.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** What is your oldest email account? Who's the provider for it? Do you have an AOL account still?

**JUDGE WEISS:** No.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Okay.

**JUDGE WEISS:** I don't have the AOL. But I do have a cfl.rr.com account, and that was the original email account that came to town, and this was -- must have been, let's see, probably '97, '96, so I still have that.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** My brain just exploded.

**JUDGE WEISS:** And that was Time Warner, I believe.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** How about you, Judge Beamer?

**JUDGE BEAMER:** Oh, Gmail. I mean, Gmail is my go-to. But I do see --

**JUDGE WEISS:** Gmail is cool.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** Gmail is -- it's so convenient and easy and awesome, and they probably know way too much about me. And, you know -- but what's interesting, I'll email my husband about a product we should purchase for the kids, and then I'll see an ad for it on Instagram or Facebook, and that part makes me really nervous.

But I will see Notices of Appearance where it's Yahoo, AOL, and I just think, oh, my goodness, I didn't even know those email accounts were still working.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Well, we have judges who shall remained unnamed who still have AOL accounts, so don't -- Yahoo, all those, that's not terrible.

**JUDGE WEISS:** Does it still say, you've got mail?

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** I don't think it says it out loud, but I do think that the header still says, you've got mail.

**JUDGE WEISS:** Oh, that's great. I remember my mom telling me that she loves hearing that every day, that it makes her feel so happy, it's like going to the mailbox and actually pulling something out. Now it's like, you've got mail, you're like, oh, no.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** Do you remember the CDs they used to mail you --

**JUDGE WEISS:** Oh, yeah.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** -- all the time that was just junk and coasters?

**JUDGE WEISS:** Yeah.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** I couldn't wait for the next update. I don't know what you're talking about. That's how they updated the software is you would get a new disc --

**JUDGE WEISS:** Right.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** -- so you'd have to download it. It was great.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** I don't even think I have a disc drive. Except for the desktop at the office. I don't have a CD-ROM drive.

**JUDGE WEISS:** Well, interesting that you say that, because the other day I was in trial and the attorneys brought to me the jury instructions on a CD-ROM. And I was looking at it going, boy, I haven't seen this in a long time. And I said to them -- I said, you all may be surprised at this but the computers that I have, including my Clerk's computer, we don't have anywhere to put this; I wouldn't know what to do with this.

And so, you know, it's --

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Thumb drives all the way.

**JUDGE WEISS:** Yeah, I mean, I remember floppy disks. I mean, but it -- right now it's thumb drives. My guess is there's going to be something even newer coming along.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** Cloud; the cloud.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Cloud. We'll all access it, you know, remotely through the cloud and not have to --

**JUDGE WEISS:** And we'll just -- send it to me through the cloud or whatever.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Sure. Exactly.

**JUDGE WEISS:** Yeah.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Yeah, you'll get a password and be able to access it there.

We're getting -- we're coming to a time to get close to wrap this up, but I want to ask you this question. Judge Beamer, what's the most recent app you've downloaded on your phone?

**JUDGE BEAMER:** Most recent app, probably -- well, it's probably like a kid's app, like a kid's game app. But if it wasn't that --

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** How about most recent social media app?

**JUDGE BEAMER:** Well, TikTok.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Okay.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** That's the most recent one.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** TikTok?

**JUDGE BEAMER:** Yeah.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** What is TikTok?

**JUDGE BEAMER:** It's so -- it's just mindless entertainment, and it's so fast. You look at it, like -- entertaining, like; if not, swipe. I mean, it's just -- my thumb does all the work, really.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** How about you, Judge Weiss?

**JUDGE WEISS:** The last social media -- I did download TikTok. My son did it because he loves TikTok. And he goes on it and he said, Dad, look, I'll let you watch me and what I post if you let me go on TikTok. So we cut that deal. But I don't generally look at it too often, but --

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** What is your social media of choice?

**JUDGE WEISS:** Facebook.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Okay. All right.

**JUDGE WEISS:** And I enjoy Facebook because it really helps me to keep up with my friends that -- and my family and my relatives from all over the world. Because we also have a group where we all post pictures and events that happen. So I enjoy seeing updated pictures. Like my brother will post pictures of his daughter from a recital last night. He posted that. And, you know, it's just neat to see.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Yeah. And for the Boomer, it's Facebook as well. My daughter has actually has introduced me to TikTok and made suggestions for how I might become TikTok famous. I've passed on those to date, but that's probably because I just take myself too seriously.

**JUDGE WEISS:** Now, I have to say something about Snapchat. I don't understand the Snapchat thing because it disappears. And if I don't look at it -- or if I want to show someone else, hey, look at this, it's not there anymore.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** But that's the appeal of Snapchat. It's --

**JUDGE WEISS:** But it's frustrating, because if it's gone what's the purpose?

**JUDGE BEAMER:** But young people don't want the record of the text message or the video or the message, that's why -- that's the appeal. But I'm more --

**JUDGE WEISS:** But I like the funny faces you can do.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** I love those.

**CHIEF JUDGE MYERS:** Okay. Okay. Okay. We're not going to solve the world's social media challenges here today. But I do want to say thank you to both of you, so much. What an interesting conversation, and fun, lighthearted. I've really enjoyed the chance to hear about this. Sometime it would be fun to dive a little deeper, perhaps, and talk about those

influences in your life that you don't attribute to generational but perhaps to family, to experience, or other things that you've surrounded yourselves with.

Either way, I want to say thank you. Thanks for being here.

And that's a wrap.

**JUDGE WEISS:** All right. Thank you.

**JUDGE BEAMER:** Thank you.

**NARRATOR:** You've been listening to "Open Ninth: Conversations Beyond the Courtroom" brought to you by Chief Judge Donald A. Myers, Jr., and the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida. For more information about the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court, follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

(Music)