PROCEEDINGS 1 2 (11:43 a.m.) 3 JUDGE GREEN: All right. May I have your 4 attention? It's just wonderful to have this turnout for 5 our Tenth Circuit professionalism committee meeting 6 7 presentation. At the outset I would ask that you all do the 8 9 best you can, with the food that you have, but stand 10 and let's pledge allegiance to our flag. (Pledge of Allegiance.) 11 JUDGE GREEN: 12 Be seated. 13 At the outset, I wish to thank those who made 14 this program possible, particularly Bill Lobb, who 15 is responsible for the hors d'oeuvres that you're enjoying by Terrie Lobb Catering, of course his 16 17 lovely wife. 18 And I want to thank Judge Langford and the court administrator's office for assisting in 19

I particularly wish to thank Freida Sclafani Williams' company and staff who is present doing this recording pro bono. We deeply appreciate it.

setting up the program with the podiums, the chairs

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and what have you.

At the outset let me mention that which you all

are aware of, and this is Patriot's Day. We must recognize the occurrence eight years ago on this very morning.

And, as a matter of personal privilege, I would like to mention that my youngest daughter, Miriam, who lives in an apartment building on East 57th Street, which is approximately halfway between the UN building and the southeast corner of The Plaza Hotel across from the park, was in her apartment when she heard the sirens and, of course, almost simultaneously saw what was occurring on television.

She observed thousands of people, of course there were millions of people, but her observation at that location was there were thousands of people walking, there was no traffic at that time, walking to wherever they lived. And, of course, the city at that juncture was locked down. There was no access to traffic over the bridges or anything of that sort.

And I spoke with her about that this morning, and she remembered an occurrence of a man, whose name I simply don't recall, but he directed his employees to go down -- they were in a state of confusion -- didn't realize that the Trade Center buildings were going to collapse, and he was

responsible for saving a great many lives by resisting a direction that they stay where they are.

The authorities had told them not to -- not to leave the building, but they did. And, of course, we experienced the death of more lives in the combined operations than on the occasion of Pearl Harbor.

And so we this day recognize the first responders, our armed forces, the families of the victims, and of course those who are currently serving our country in any regard for our protection. I thank you for coming on this occasion.

While this is not a dignitary thing, so we won't be recognizing anyone but the speakers. But, as a matter of history, perhaps some of the older attorneys might recall, Monte Tillis was president of the Polk County Bar Association, Tenth Circuit Bar Association, I suppose, but he was in charge of an investiture, and I don't recall the investiture, but it was well-meaning, and he ended his recognition speech by requesting that any other dignitaries he did not recognize, please stand. And so I won't do that for you.

In any event, I would remind you that CLE

credits are available for this presentation, and I hope that you get something out of the history of our Tenth Judicial Circuit, with the attorneys and the Bar.

What we're going to do is I will introduce the speakers by telling you a little something about them, primarily my own knowledge, and then they will have a presentation with respect to their recollection of the history of their profession here. And hopefully when this is completed, we'll go from right to left, Judge Campbell will be first, we'll have an opportunity for questions and answers.

And, needless to say, I see attorneys out there that ought to be up here, but based on my knowledge.

But, in any event, from my own recollection, I think I've -- at least Bob Trohn and I have done this before.

My own recollection of the difference in when I began in 1958 until now is remarkable, and I personally don't have a feeling about whether things are better now than then.

But, for what it's worth, the only specialties that we really had in 1958 in this circuit were the attorneys who only did probate, real estate, things of that sort. I don't recall anyone specializing in

personal injury, for instance, and advertising was simply forbode.

I cannot tell you some of the smallness of the criticism when attorneys did anything to bring attention on themselves. It was also forbidden to front cost money for your client, which led to some difficult situations. In fact, in a lot of instances of distress domestic relations attorneys did front small recording fees then.

In any event, I have the honor first of introducing Judge Monterey Campbell, who is presently practicing with GrayRobinson. Monterey Campbell, and I refer to him as Judge Campbell, practiced with Bill some time ago in Bartow for some number of years, and also served as a special assistant state attorney for a number of years handling grand jury and complex cases. He handled several -- several prosecutions against public officials and things of that sort.

He was general counsel for the Citrus

Commission for a number of years and was appointed

by Bob Graham to the Second District Court of

Appeals. On the court he held just about every

office possible. He was, of course, chief judge, he

was president of the conference and served on a

great number of very important committees on the Florida Bar, as chairman, for a number of years.

From my own perspective, it was a pleasure and an experience to be on a panel with Judge Campbell.

Now, I always tried to restrict panels that I worked with to staying within the boundaries of our function as an appellate panel. And, on an occasion, Judge Campbell came out with a short opinion that just straightened everything out of the case. Wasn't any question about that.

And so I took the opinion to his office and I said, Judge, don't you think we ought to direct the trial judge to do this? He'd say, "Not worth it." He'd say, "Sign it. I want to get that thing out." So I signed it and we got it out.

I'll tell you one other thing that just sent him through the roof, and that is, any kind of prosecutorial misbehavior, particularly a failure to divulge any kind of evidence, whether it's favorable to the defense or beneficial to the State.

His comment, the standing comment in the panel proceeding was, "When I prosecuted," he said, "I made my file available to the defense," and he says, "if anything of an evidentiary nature occurred, I would jot a note and get it out immediately."

Anyway, it was a lot of fun serving with Judge Campbell.

John Frost, of course, has had a remarkable career which stretches back for a number of years. As president of the Florida Bar he developed the professionalism committee. His goal in his president term was for the state Bar to become more professional, and he developed this mission through the Supreme Court.

And I can tell you that my own experience working with Mr. Frost as a trial attorney is that he was always prompt in providing discovery to his opponents, and it would send him through the roof when he had to come into court, as he would say, needlessly, to insist on discovery being provided.

His work otherwise, you just don't become president of the Florida Bar without having done a lot of other remarkable things, and he has, of course, maintained that standing since being Bar president.

Judge J. Dale Durrance comes from a long line, an illustrious political family in Polk County. He has done a lot of things on the judiciary and, Judge, it's good that we have members of the prosecution and the defense present today. So it's

a balanced -- it's a balanced audience.

But he's gotten several recognitions from
different agencies that he's worked with. He, of
course, developed teen court, was instrumental in
making that program into the success that it is
today.

He served as assistant state attorney in
Hillsborough County, the Thirteenth Circuit, and
also Polk County. Before that, incidentally, he had
a legislative career, he served on several
significant committees there, and since has been an
adjunct professor teaching in several different
locations.

The next speaker is Judge Randall G. McDonald. And Judge McDonald came on the Bench in 1969, as I recall. That was the year I was chief judge. And I'm a little disappointed that his judicial assistant's not here because I stepped in and made her all that she is today.

Well, let me tell you what happened. True story. You've got to understand that she was a young thing. And I went to her and I said, "Now, Ms. Morris," I said, "you know, things are different here. When you're in your office and other people come in, my preference would be that you refer to

Judge McDonald as opposed to Randy."

And she looked a little curt and confused and she says, "But Randy's what his name is." But she has just been a remarkable assistant, and the two of them have made a tremendous team.

But Judge McDonald's background, he was a judge advocate in the military. He practiced law in Lakeland and has done so many things. He's of course been chief judge. He has developed many programs and has worked on the Florida Bar and The Conference of Circuit Judges.

He's an avid fisherman, by the way, very successful. I hope he does as well in Las Vegas, which is one of his favorite spots.

Robert L. Trohn. I've known Bob forever, and he will always be associated with this courthouse. He took a building that cost a significant amount of money, but he parlayed that into a great deal more money through legal proceedings that a good number of people, a good number of well-placed people, thought that he could not achieve.

In any event, I suspect he will mention some of that in his presentation. I know that he did that on a prior occasion, and it is fascinating to hear him tell about those things. In my estimation, Bob, I have left sufficient space on the front of this building for the Robert L. Trohn Justice Center. It will have to be broken up because of the way that it's caving, but I'm sure they will manage. He really is a signal in what we have here today.

Believe it or not, he's a Connecticut Yankee; born in Connecticut, came here when he was young, and he served in the United States Army. He's done just about everything you can do.

He's been president of the Lakeland Bar
Association; president of The Tenth Circuit Bar
Association; he was chairman of the grievance
committee for a number of years; and chairman of the
-- of the appeals nominating commission, I mean, and
has just been remarkable. Of course, he is also
with GrayRobinson.

All right. With that introduction, I give you Judge Monterey Campbell.

JUDGE CAMPBELL: Thank you, Judge Green.

Fifty-three years ago, when I first walked into a Polk County courtroom as a practicing attorney, if somebody had told me that 53 years later I would be in a courtroom in the same county still practicing law and the oldest lawyer -- the oldest person

probably in the courtroom -- I'd have said, you're crazy. But you never know what's going to happen during your life and during your career.

And I told Jean Marie Hinny a little while ago, asking me up here to tap my memory is sort of like tapping a void.

But Oliver has mentioned Bob Trohn. I have to say to you that Bob is -- Bob is a month younger than I am. We started --

MR. TROHN: Thirty days, twenty-eight days.

JUDGE CAMPBELL: We started as freshmen at the University of Florida together. We were in the same law school class. We graduated from law school together. We came back out of the service and started practicing law at the same time together and have been good friends for all of those years. And it's been part of my pleasure for the last eight years to be able to -- able to practice with him, practice law with Bob, because we've always been good friends.

I'm, you know, we're talking about memory, and
I see a lot of people. I see Clint Curtis is
sitting out there. Clint Curtis has got as good a
memory about what's happened in this county with the
legal profession as anybody has, and he will

probably correct me as to anything I might say as we leave here. But I can give you some recollections and some thoughts about what the practice of law was.

One of the questions that was presented to us to discuss as the last question was what suggestions do you have for those attorneys who will practice in the future.

You know, that's a little bit presumptuous of me to try to tell some of you who are a lot brighter and working a lot harder than I am what to do in the future. But I think it rests within what your concept of being a lawyer is.

And Bob and I, one of the pleasures in life is to sit and have a cup of coffee in the mornings and reminisce together, and we've often said very sincerely that we feel that we were fortunate in coming into our professional life at the best of possible times. The legal profession was taking off.

I looked at somebody else's Bar number the other day. My bar number is 11,387. So you can tell by looking at the Bar numbers now how many lawyers have come and gone since that time.

Lawyers, Bob and I mentioned this, you know,

the concept of -- we had to make a living for our families. As I said, both of us had just come out of the service. But the concept of making money was not first and foremost in our minds, if it was there at all.

We didn't, you know, we didn't -- we didn't ask a client, and I practiced in a big firm, you know what I'm talking about. We didn't ask a client often, you know, are you going to be able to pay me for the work that I'm going to do for you?

A client came in, had a case, and if it was something we thought we could do, and back then most of us thought we could do anything, we would take it and worry about being paid later.

I say that simply because one of the concerns of mine over the years has been that the business of law has, to some extent, overtaken the profession of law. And I think that's a danger that you need to watch for.

I hope that you don't accept any of the things that I say today in my memory or what may happen in the future as being critical, because I don't -- I don't -- I don't reserve the right to criticize what's going on.

Oliver -- Oliver mentioned my -- part of my

career as a prosecutor. You know, this was before the time of discovery. I see Judge Maloney sitting back there, and Judge Maloney, during the latter part of my prosecutorial career, Judge Maloney was in the Public Defender's Office, and he and I used to have at it with each other. But, you know, it was always a friendly type of confrontation. As I said, we didn't have discovery, what Judge Green was referring to.

Some of you may remember Phil Haddock. Phil Haddock would absolutely drive you crazy by coming into your office, the prosecutor's office, at all times of day wanting to see your evidence.

So I had -- I had developed a practice that when we started a file in the State Attorney's office that was our working file, I had the staff, and it wasn't a very big staff, we didn't have intake, we didn't have any of that, I had the staff prepare a duplicate file, and that was partly because I didn't want to have to spend four hours talking to Phil Haddock about what had been happening in the case.

So the instructions were that when Phil Haddock came in the office, to give him the duplicate file, just give it to him, let him have everything that

was there.

You know, technology, certainly -- I can remember the first duplicating machine that we had in my law office when I was practicing law before. It was called a Thermo-Fax. Some of you may remember a Thermo-Fax.

A Thermo-Fax was a little machine about this size, and when the paper came out it was this color. It looked like it had been burned. And so technology has come a long way; the way we practice law.

When you were having non-evidentiary hearings it would have been extremely unusual, and perhaps an insult to the other lawyers there, if you had a court reporter in the chambers with the judge. We just didn't use court reporters in that way back then, if it was a non-evidentiary hearing.

Lawyers -- lawyers certainly were -- were -- I think I became a lawyer -- well, I had an uncle who was a lawyer, who I greatly respected. But I think I became a lawyer because I admired those people who were lawyers in Bartow, where I grew up, because they were all respected men, and there were no ladies at the time, ladies, no lady lawyers, and they conducted themselves in a way that you looked

up to them in the community.

I hope that we can continue that, that there will be continued respect due to the profession, and the respect is earned by the profession by us as individual lawyers.

Lawyers -- lawyers at the time we did an awful lot of pro bono work. We didn't call it pro bono. It goes back to what I said about fees. If somebody walked in your office, had a case and needed to be represented, you represented them, whether they could -- whether they could pay for you or not.

As I say, we didn't call it pro bono, but there was an awful lot of work that we did that we didn't anticipate getting paid for and sometimes didn't.

You know, I don't think it's a problem of the law profession alone and that the business of law has to some extent overtaken the profession of law.

I think the civility among lawyers was perhaps more -- and, again, I don't mean that in a critical way -- maybe it was because there were fewer of us. Maybe it was because we knew each other better and we were able to know each other personally at the time.

But some of those people I'm talking about that we admired took the time to make us young lawyers

understand that that was sort of an inbred thing within the profession.

I have to say to you, Judge Jess Wilson, and if
I have to look at Bob Trohn I know he's smiling,
because Bob admired Judge Wilson as much as I did.
Judge Jess Wilson was one of the most respected
human beings I've ever known, and certainly one of
the most respected judges I've ever known.

In 1958, I think I've got the year right, Judge Wilson, who was a practicing attorney at the time, was appointed county solicitor, which was the prosecuting arm that practiced then in the criminal court of record.

Judge Wilson -- the staff of the county solicitor's office was Judge Wilson and three assistant county solicitors. He gave me one of those jobs, Monte Tillis had one of them and Snow Martin, Jr., had one of them right off the bat.

Later Jack Edmund, if you can believe it, came in and was a prosecutor part of the time.

But I will never -- I will never forget the first day we went to work, Judge Wilson, then Prosecutor Wilson, called us into his office. And back then, in the criminal court of record, we had arraignments every -- every Monday in Courtroom 2 in

the old courthouse.

And the people being arraigned, those charged with offenses, literally would stretch out of the courtroom down around the rotunda on the second floor and we would have to arraign each one of those individuals, and we, as prosecutors, did that.

Judge Wilson called us in, before we ever stepped into the courtroom as assisting the county solicitor and said, "One thing I want to instill in each one of you," he said, "there will be a world of people come through this system and come through this process." He says, "Whoever it is, whether it's Bill Jones or Mary Jones, when that person comes up here you refer to them as Mr. Jones and Miss Jones or Ms. Jones or whatever may be. They may be charged but they're still due respect as human beings, and make sure that you recognize them with that respect."

It has stuck with me forever, and I thank him for that. That's one of the first experiences I had which he influenced a part of my life, and for a number of years after that he did the same thing. But he exemplified the civility and the respect that we, as lawyers, need to pay to each other and that we need to pay to the public in order that we can

have that respect back.

I'm talking too long and too much about just memories. I would say to you, when we talk about professionalism, and it has concerned me for a number of years, Oliver mentioned John Frost and his efforts when he was president of the Bar, and I was on the professionalism committee for a number of years. It has disturbed me how much we can talk about professionalism and how much -- how little we sometimes do about it.

So if I have to leave you with anything, I would say to you, be proud of the profession that you've chosen. I hope you chose it because you admired the profession and not just because you wanted to make some money. And let that pride show through yourself to others in the way you do the work and the way you treat each other and the way you treat people that come into contact with the system.

I was sitting out in the parking lot for a few minutes before I came in and I watched people coming in and out. And, you know, it occurred to me, I used to walk into the courthouse and I'd feel a sense of pride in going to the courthouse.

I hope that our courthouses have not become a

place of fear and concern for the public, that something's going to happen to them, rather than a place where they can come and they can be assured that their rights are going to be protected. That's up to you in how we conduct our lives.

So thank you for letting me be here and thank you for letting me be the oldest person in the room.

(Applause.)

JUDGE GREEN: John Frost.

MR. FROST: Thank you, Judge.

I came to Bartow in 1969. I had an offer from Holland & Knight. And when Chester made the offer to come to Bartow, I had to say to him, "I'm not exactly sure where that is. Could you tell me?"

So after being here now for 40 years I've learned that not only is this a wonderful place to practice law, but it has produced some of the most outstanding lawyers in the State of Florida.

I was very fortunate, and I think it's important that young lawyers know their mentors and have the right mentors, and I was very fortunate in the fact that my mentor was later to become Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, Stephen Grimes. So I got four years to work with Justice Grimes before he then went to the Second District

Court of Appeals, and then on to the Supreme Court.

But there are other lawyers, like Chesterfield Smith, who was former president of the American Bar Association from Bartow; Bill Henry, who was former president of the Florida Bar from Bartow, and the list goes on.

But I tell you, you're in an area where somebody's doing something right, because there are a lot of lawyers here that have taken to heart the professionalism that Judge Campbell talked about.

When -- you know, when I first came here, as Judge Campbell mentioned, we only had three circuit judges. And at that time I guess you -- with three circuit judges you were always accountable because you would be back before that same judge numerous times.

And I think one of the things that has led, in my opinion, to the demise in professionalism and civility is the fact that we don't know each other as well as we did back then.

There are now 80-some-odd-thousand lawyers.

When I was Bar president there were 54,000. So now there are another 30,000 plus. And I think it's because you don't deal with a lot of the lawyers you have on the other side of the case maybe once, maybe

twice. You don't go out and have a beer with them,
you don't have dinner with them, you don't know
them. And so it's -- so I think in that area it's
led to the fact that as the thing of concern to me,
and still concerns me, is the professionalism area.
In a survey that was done a while back, and I's

In a survey that was done a while back, and I'm sure it's changed a little bit now and I'm going to tell you why, but lawyers ranked 56th out of 71 professions. We were behind policemen, plumbers, construction workers, newspaper reporters, IRS officials, TV show talk hosts, cab drivers, stockbrokers. That one may have changed now.

Prison guards, investment brokers. That one may have changed now. And then we were there at 56.

But there is some good news. We were ahead of

But there is some good news. We were ahead of Wall Street executives, labor union leaders, insurance salesmen, car salesmen, local politicians, prostitutes, organized crime bosses and drug dealers.

So you can see that we have an image problem, and I think we've had that image problem for some time. And I think it's -- there are a lot of things that I think have brought that about, but we're supposed to talk a little bit about our memories from here.

And I think one of the things that had a big change in the practice of law in the Tenth Judicial Circuit was when we got out of the old courthouse and came to Mr. Trohn's courthouse. I happened to be on the other side of that case for a while with Mr. Trohn. I was fortunate to get out, but I had to pay him a lot of money, before he went and tried it and got a lot more money.

But when we had the old courthouse and you went to a hearing you had to stand around the rotunda there and you had to talk to each other. You had to see how people were doing, how their families were; you could return eight or nine phone calls right there.

And now, in the new courthouse, unless you're going to the same floor, you don't see another lawyer or anybody else at all, and I think that that had a big effect or it's had an effect on how we practice law today.

I couldn't agree more with Judge Campbell on the fact that I believe that we have become a business as opposed to a profession. I think originally being a lawyer was kind of like a call; but I think that that has changed tremendously and now we are putting the business aspect in front of

the professional part of it or being a profession.

I think that that is evident in the fact that I don't think the lawyers are as involved as they are or used to be in their community. I know it's true that they're not as involved in Bar work. I wish that would change, because I think you'll find it is some of the most rewarding things you can do is to be involved in Bar work. You make great contacts; you see a lot of people who really care about this profession, who really care about what's happening. And so I think that we need to get back into those things as we go forward.

Again, there are a lot of changes since I started; some of them for the good, some of them for the bad. There has been when I started, again, like Judge Green, there was no lawyer advertising, and I know that in my own personal opinion that's had a bad effect on lawyers.

Traveling the State I can see people talking about it, not only lawyers, but clients and other people. The number of lawyers I think has had a great effect on our profession, just the actual number there are.

Technology, good and bad. You used to be able to think about problems or you'd get a letter from

somebody and you would spend some time thinking about responding to them, and now it's not that we respond, we react. And when you react to something without thinking about it for a long time, it leads to probably sometimes not good results.

So I think technology has helped in that, you know, you can research online. I don't do that.

I'm like Justice Grimes. I'm still a dinosaur.

9 I've got to go to the books.

But I think that technology has helped, but in other respects it has hurt the profession, from the standpoint of we don't take the time to do the things that we did before.

I think there's some positive things. I think that certification, as Judge Green said, when he started, when I started, there were no specialists; you did a little bit of everything.

At Holland & Knight we started, through
Chesterfield's wishing, I believe, that we started
specialization as far as it relates to different
areas. We practiced in a trial practice setting.
We were part of the corporate setting. We were part
of Henry Kittleson's real property section. That's
not where you wanted to be. You scurried out of
there because I don't think Henry made anything but

an A-plus at the University of Florida, and you
would get your papers red-lined and checked. I know
Bob Swaine's dad practiced with Henry for many, many
years.

But, again, I think certification has helped the profession. I think it's motivated lawyers to be better in their areas. I think it's helped clients to find the right lawyers. So I think that's been a real positive effect for our profession.

As to the future, what would I suggest? And I'm like Buddy. These are just suggestions. I would hope that you would get to know your fellow lawyers. I think that would go a long way. I would hope that we would get back to being a profession as opposed to a business.

And during my year as Bar president I had a slogan that I stayed with. I don't know -- it's back now. But the Lion King was a popular musical back then. And there's a song from there that Tim Rice wrote called Circle of Life. It's about the baby lion who's about to become king and he's saying, I'm going to take all this on, I'm going to look down on all these people, and it goes on and on and -- but the line out of there that really I think

applies and what we ought to think about is that there's a line in there that says, "Never take more than you give."

And I think if you -- if we put that into practice and we never take more out of the practice than we give to the practice, that we'll be a profession that everybody will get back to, and we may rise from 56 to hopefully one.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

JUDGE GREEN: Judge Durrance. Judge J. Dale
Durrance.

JUDGE DURRANCE: Thank you, Judge Green.

It's indeed good to see all of you, excuse me; my classmate from FSU, Kent Lilly; and, Mona Green, I'm so delighted to see you. Mona and I are both Fort Meade fiery pirates, so I'm delighted to see you. I'm going to come over and hug your neck before we go today.

I want you to know that I have been to three world's fairs, doing a rattlesnake roundup, I've been uptown, downtown, I've been all around town, I've been to this county courthouse more times than you can count, to the State Capitol, to the Nation's Capitol, I've taught a Sunday school class at the

First Baptist Church in Fort Meade, but this is my first opportunity to be on such a distinguished panel as these folks that I'm on today. This is going to be the most fun.

I have to tell you it's a rude awakening when you get an invitation to be on a discussion panel and the topic is going to be history, because what that tells me is, we think you are so old and we think that you have done so much that we think you ought to come in and tell us about it. So that's what I'm here to tell you about, some things that have happened in your courthouse.

Don't worry, I'm not going to tell everything.

When I first started Quillian Yancey had recruited

me from E.J. Salcines over in Hillsborough County to

come over and be a prosecutor. Of course, it was my

opportunity to get back home in Polk County. As

Judge Green indicated earlier, I've been here for

five generations. We fought the Indians. So, you

know, we're not going anywhere. We're here to stay.

Quillian Yancey brought me over, gave me a job as an assistant state attorney. One of the first cases I tried was a serious felony charge. It was in the historic courthouse building over here on the second floor.

Judge Rick Bronson, who those of you who remember Rick Bronson, you couldn't meet a finer fellow, great guy in the courtroom, great guy out of the courtroom. Didn't like to make a decision if he could avoid it, but he was a great guy.

We started the trial. And for those of you who remember Judge Bronson, Judge Bronson was notorious when you recessed for lunch he was driving back to Lakeland to his home to have lunch, and whenever he got back after lunch he always brought his jug of sweet iced tea. And that was just Judge Bronson.

So in this trial he told us, he says, "When we come back after lunch we'll give closing arguments." That sounded good to me, so I used my lunch break to write my closing arguments. As you young lawyers are learning, that's whenever you do things, on the spur of the moment.

We got back after lunch. We were in the second floor courtroom on the east side, the one they've renovated over there. So we started closing arguments and, as the State, of course I went first. And as I began to make my closing argument to the jury, there was this whining and whimpering sound going on in the courtroom and we couldn't tell where it was coming from.

If you've been over in that courtroom, it's a giant courtroom like this, so anything echos in it.

And I could continue to hear whining and whimpering.

Well, the jury, you know, they weren't listening to what I was saying in my closing, they were looking around at everything. It was clear that there was a distraction going on in the courtroom. Judge Bronson's just sitting up there just as stoic as he could be with his mug of iced tea.

So I finally could tell that, you know, we needed to find what this noise was and remedy it.

So I stopped and I asked him could we approach the Bench. He said certainly.

So the defense counsel and I went up to the Bench, and I said, "Judge Bronson," I said, "there's this whining and whimpering going on in this and the jurors are taking notice of it and it's distracting everything." He said, yeah. I said, "Can we take a recess and maybe find out what all that is? Sure." He took the jury out. I said, "Can we find out where it's coming from?" He said yeah. He said, "It's this box of puppies I've got under the Bench up here." So help me, he had a box of puppies. He had gone home and his dog at home had had puppies

and he wanted to bring them back.

And so in that courtroom, the evidence, clerk's evidence room was right next door, and there was everything that had ever been introduced into evidence was in that evidence room. So he decided, well, we'll take the puppies in there, they'll be comfortable until we can finish the trial and maybe they won't be as loud. But we spent part of that afternoon playing with the puppies.

You know, that story needed to be told and recorded because those are just things that, you know, just don't happen. You don't think of them. But what I learned from that experience is, we all need more puppies in our life. And what I found, as a new lawyer coming in over here with the established lawyers that were here, there was this sense of kindness and this sense of helpfulness.

It didn't matter what type of law you were involved in, if you needed help in some other area it was a simple thing to pick up and you could call one of your fellow attorneys and they were quick to help you, give you forms, whatever you need, give you some suggestions, give you advice on areas that you were unfamiliar with. That was what I first noticed in the early practice of my career was the

kindness and the helpfulness amongst the members of the Bar.

What changes have I observed over the years?
Well, there has been a decline in that kindness and helpfulness to an extent. I've also noticed there's more women involved in our system. I've also noticed that electronics have invaded our world.
For those of you, the young lawyers that don't know, this is a real legal pad. This is what we lawyers used to take to court was one of these and that's what we took notes on.

Later -- and this is actually 14 inches in length. Later the Supreme Court said, we don't like that long paper so we're going to make you all use these size, so we converted to this. Now everything seems to be going electronic. I mean, lawyers are coming to court with cell phones, sometimes more than one cell phone, iPods, iPhones, laptops, power points, BlackBerries, blueberries, huckleberries. I mean, they've got everything.

There's not anything more distracting in court than to have a phone go off, and I can tell you that that's happening every day here, not with just lawyers but with people too. I mean, electronics is becoming a part of our world.

I can tell you that I'm still old-fashioned 1 2 enough, lawyers come into my chambers and they'll 3 say, well, you don't have a desktop in here. 4 said, no, this is my monitor and this is my mouse. What do you want? What do you need? That's what we 5 6 used to do, the old-fashioned way, and I still do 7 the old-fashioned way. What suggestions would I have for you as young 8 9 lawyers? I would suggest, be kind to each other and 10 to others, be kind to yourself, be helpful. each other out. It doesn't hurt anything. And put 11 12 some more puppies in your life. 13 (Applause.) JUDGE GREEN: 14 I was just saying that I know John -- I didn't know the stories about the puppies 15 that you told, but I did have a recollection, he 16 17 brought some puppies down to give away. 18 JUDGE DURRANCE: We got some that day. 19 JUDGE GREEN: Oh, you did? 20 JUDGE DURRANCE: Yeah. JUDGE GREEN: Okay. Judge Randall McDonald, 21 22 who if there's anyone that doesn't like Judge McDonald, it has to be an unfortunate litigant. 23 24 That's all I've got to tell you. Judge McDonald. 25

JUDGE McDONALD: Well, first of all, I want to set the record straight. I'm the youngest judge up here, amongst everyone, and I too was shocked to find that I was invited onto this panel. And then, second of all, I didn't come here in '69, I came here in June of '73, after I got out of law school. And I see Victor's out there. His dad, Doug Smith, and I came here at the same time; and I see Phil out there. He came here I think in '73, also at the same time. So there were a lot of young lawyers in Polk County about that time. And I recall that I started practicing law and it was like a fraternity. It was like an all -- it was just like going from a college fraternity to a grown-up fraternity, so to speak, and it was. was all pretty much white male, Anglo-Saxon men that were in the fraternity at that time.

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There were a few women. I remember Susan

Roberts was one of them and I remember Marie Crano,

and I can't remember if there were any others here

in Polk County at that time or not.

The judges back then, Judge Gunter Stephenson, bless his heart, and Billy Love and John Dewell and Cliff Kelly, they were the, to me at least, the typical southern gentlemen type. They were always

so kind to you. The other lawyers were nice to you.

And as Monte Campbell pointed out, you know, if you got a court reporter for a hearing it was like an offense to the other attorney, you know. It was like you didn't trust them or something. And why have you got this, why have you got this court reporter here? That sort of thing. And it was a very friendly atmosphere back then, for the most part, and it was a great pleasure to practice law back then.

Ken Connor and I, I think, were the only two private attorneys that were on the court-appointed list, and I'll never forget that Billy Love was appointing me to cases before I had even passed the Bar, before I was even sworn in or passed the Bar.

And I remember getting sworn in one day on the Bar, as a member of the Bar, and the next day I had to try my first case, my first jury trial, which was an armed robbery case, with a deadly weapon, punishable by up to life. And, of course, I proceeded to really mess it up, and I lost the case.

But I got some new evidence, and Judge Love was the judge, as I said, and I came back to him and he said, well, I'm not going to give you a new trial.

I said, okay, Judge Love. I said, I'm just going to

have to go before that federal judge over there on
what was then I think a Rule One, incompetent
counsel type thing, and explain to him why you
appointed me to this case and why I tried it within
hours of being sworn in as a member of the Bar.
And he looked at me and said, "okay, I'll give you

another trial."

So I tried the case a couple of months later and I won it. And then he was mad at me and said, I'll never appoint you to any other cases then, but he did, and we became good friends after that, lovely old man, and I loved to be around him.

Most of these guys have already said everything that I pretty much wanted to say, but I'll give you more of the perspective from the judicial side of it since I became a baby judge in 1977 at the ripe old age of twenty-eight.

But I came on board, from the judicial side of it, became a county judge first, for those of you who don't know me, and later on, four years later, became circuit judge.

But I too saw major changes. The first major changes were the minorities, the women and blacks and so forth were the first ones to really start to blossom, not only here, but throughout the State,

and I think we went through some transitions there that were difficult, especially for the older judges.

Judge Stephenson I remember, even when I was practicing law, women would come in and he'd listen to your side and look at her and sit back in his rocking chair and say, "okay, little lady, what do you have to say about this?" And we were not politically correct at all back then, and a lot of us got into trouble and needed a lot of sensitivity training.

And I can remember at our conferences a lot of times they would say, keep your mouth shut, keep your mouth shut, you know, just listen to what they have to say. And it was hard for the older judges to do, and it was hard even for me to do; because whenever we had hearings it was like a social thing, you know, the attorneys and the judge would be, oh, how's your son doing? How's T-ball going and how's the fishing going and all that kind of stuff. And we all knew each other and talked about all those things.

And all of a sudden the court reporters came in to just about every hearing and all of a sudden we had to keep our mouth shut because we were afraid we would say something politically incorrect that would end up on the front page of The Ledger or a JQC complaint or things like that, and I think we went through that difficult time for a while, but then slowly but surely it changed.

And I think one of the things here in Polk

County that really helped the change was what was

said earlier about the standing around the rotunda

and all talking. Then we got into this building for

about five or six years, and then we had to move out

again.

And when we went to the temporary courthouse we were all on top of each other and we were all in the hallway, all the lawyers were in the hall together, and us judges were literally on a camping trip, is the way I refer to it, because we were all together. And I think it brought everybody back together again, and it became a lot friendlier I think after that.

So there was a -- it was a forced good thing that happened to us, and Bob got a bunch of money so we could rebuild the courthouse and make everybody happy. And I think once we got back over here we separated again, and that's kind of a shame. It's a shame it's gone to that.

One of the big things from the judicial side of it that has been going on is when I came on back in '77 we had a court administrator and a secretary, and he had a secretary. Now we have a court administrator, deputy court administrators, we have all these other people. I think he's got about 150 employees under him that he's responsible for at this time. We've got all these programs, and I confess I'm part of the problem, I guess, I have created a lot of the programs throughout the years that I've been here.

And we have the drug court, we have the DUI drug court, we have teen court that Judge Durrance started. We have all these different divisions and specializations in court, the VOP court now, I think doing nothing but VOPs. We have one judge who does nothing but -- well, he does eminent domain and then other things as well, but handles all the eminent domain cases that come in. So there's been a lot of specialization.

I know Judge Dennis Maloney when he was on board from early on pushed for specialization on the Court, and I think eventually we slowly but surely have gone into specialization. Back then in civil, you did everything in civil, from the PI cases to

divorce cases, and it was very spread out, very confusing.

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The cases obviously have become a lot more complicated than what they used to be. You used to be able to do a murder case in two days; now you're lucky if you can do one in two weeks, especially if it's a death penalty type case.

But overall I think the profession is, in this county especially, has just been heads and shoulders above anywhere else in the State of Florida. always been pretty proud on all the various committees that I've been on, statewide committees, when somebody else tells me, oh, you're from Polk County? Oh, yeah, I had a really good experience there or judge so and so was really nice to me there. You guys have a really good judiciary or you guys really have a good Bar, and I think that's always been the echo that I've heard. I've never heard anything negative about anybody here in Polk County whenever I've been outside of Polk County on any of those committees, and I think that goes a long way.

My advice to you would be, yeah, try to get together more often; try to be more friendly to each other; try to use the court reporters a little less than what you might be using them for; and, you know, pat each other on the back every now and then or go out for a beer or whatever it is.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

JUDGE GREEN: Judge McDonald, I said '69. It was obviously a mistake. Bill Norris did not become a judge until 1971, so it was only a little longer; but I was chief judge about '69, either '68 or '69.

All right. So with that, Robert L. Trohn.

MR. TROHN: I'm going to try to clean up what some of the others have said. But Judge Campbell said he was No. 55 -- he was No. 11,000 when he was issued a Bar card. I was 55,000, because they did it alphabetically. We were admitted to practice at the same time.

But I have to tell you that that was some time I think late in the '60s; because when we started practicing we didn't have cards or numbers, we got a certificate from the State, the Board of Law Examiners, saying that we were admitted to practice in Florida, and then sworn in by circuit judges, and we were very proud of ourselves on those days.

Judge Campbell has been my good friend all of those years, and it's been an honor and a pleasure to know him and practice with him. We used to play golf, but I can't do that anymore. I wish I could.

Judge Green was going to curse me with this courthouse. I want to tell you about this courthouse. I happily practiced across the street.

I've tried jury cases. My first jury case was in 1957 or '58 in that courthouse.

I started doing criminal prosecution as county solicitor under Judge Kelly, then county solicitor.

Over the years I tried jury trials, long jury trials in eminent domain, government contracts, anti-trusts, insurance contracts, all kinds of contract cases, medical malpractice cases.

And I'll say this about the courthouse. It was 10 years long. I did not design this place. I've always thought it was ugly. It's been my regret that they never remodeled the old courthouse so that they could at least continue to use -- to utilize it as a courthouse, as something that we knew, that looked like a courthouse, and at least to old folks like us acted like a courthouse.

Because when we went in that courthouse we saw our friends, other lawyers, and we visited the judges, and nobody thought we were doing anything wrong. We weren't talking about the cases, but it

was commonplace to stop by a judge's office and chat with him for a while because they were friends of ours. They were in a different part of the profession, but we had common interests and we had affection for one another.

Judge Norris probably appropriately was very much concerned when this courthouse was designed with security. There was no such thing as security in the old courthouse. Everybody went in the same entrance, nobody got frisked when they went in there. We didn't go through metal detectors.

Some of that, of course, is necessary, but the construction of this courthouse separated the Bench and the Bar completely, and I think that's unfortunate. And, of course, there are so many more judges and so many more lawyers that maybe that wouldn't work anymore. But at least in our time, when we began, we had the benefit of that camaraderie that existed in the old building.

I would say that I've agreed with what everybody else has said. I have some criticisms of the practice today that have a great deal to do with technology.

Judge Campbell started with a Thermo-Fax machine, which I worked with a fellow named Roy

Searles, who was really uptown. Before he got a

Thermo-Fax machine he had a two-part liquid thing
where you could put a piece of paper in one liquid
and then put it in another and duplicate it. I

don't remember how that was done, but -- those were
ancient days.

But when you could put a piece of paper into a machine and churn out a thousand duplicates of it, collated, stapled and everything, it's easy to just generate paper after paper after paper.

When you use a computer and there's no such thing as a mistake, you don't whiteout something, you don't have to go back to a carbon and clean up that carbon, you don't have to be as careful in drafting as we might have been.

And we didn't have -- I guess we had
essentially the same discovery rules, but I don't
think we had what I would call the discovery abuses
of thousands and thousands of interrogatories and
requests to produce, all the paper that is produced
now has to be electronic, going to electronic
discovery. It never ends.

And, to me, part of the curse of all this technology is that it makes it almost impossible for a person to engage in litigation, an ordinary person

to engage in litigation. It just costs too much money.

When somebody comes in that has you think a reasonable complaint and you have to -- you anticipate what it may cost, especially when you are maybe litigating with someone else with a lot greater resources, when you give a cost estimate to the possible client more often than not the person has to throw up his hands, regardless of the merit of his claim. I don't see how you go backwards on all that stuff, but I do think that it is an unfortunate consequence of technology, and it's a big change from what we went through.

A couple of other things that I think are changes in the legal profession that tend to be unfortunate are billing by time as a standard way of handling a case. It kind of started with insurance companies that required it.

But, if I had any advice, and I do have this advice to young lawyers who have worked at the old Lane, Trohn firm that I was quite proud of, and I am retired, I'm not retired, but I am retired from GrayRobinson, so I'll make that slight correction. Don't be a slave to a time clock. Try to enjoy researching the law and preparing a case with the

| 1 | pleasure of the challenge of the case provided for |
|----|--|
| 2 | you and enjoy practicing law. |
| 3 | Thank you. |
| 4 | (Applause.) |
| 5 | JUDGE GREEN: Well, our timing is near perfect. |
| 6 | On this occasion if you have any questions to |
| 7 | direct at the panel, now is your chance, stand and |
| 8 | be recognized. |
| 9 | Any questions? |
| 10 | And I want to recognize Clint Curtis. |
| 11 | Appreciate you coming out, and you ought to be up |
| 12 | here. |
| 13 | MR. CURTIS: Thank you. |
| 14 | JUDGE GREEN: With that I want to thank Judge |
| 15 | Mary Catherine Green and our judicial assistant in |
| 16 | the back, Fran, for putting all this together from |
| 17 | the get-go. |
| 18 | And we are dismissed. Thank you for coming. |
| 19 | (Applause.) |
| 20 | THEREUPON, the proceedings were concluded at |
| 21 | 12:53 p.m. |
| 22 | |
| 23 | |
| 24 | |
| 25 | |

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF POLK I, Trina B. Wellslager, Registered Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did report in Stenotypy and electronically the foregoing proceedings and evidence in the captioned case and that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct transcription of my recordings thereof. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my hand this 25th day of September, 2009, at Lakeland, Polk County, Florida. TRINA B. WELLSLAGER, RPR SCLAFANI WILLIAMS COURT REPORTERS, INC.