# William and Lonsdale – Lives in The Law

# EP 86. Justin_Hannebery KC

**Voiceover:** [00:00:05] This is William and Lonsdale, a podcast about the legal ecosystem and the fascinating people who make it tick. Today, your host Michael Green speaks with Justin Hannebery KC, one of Victoria's leading criminal barristers and immediate past president of the Victorian Bar. Justin has spent almost three decades in criminal law. He signed the bar role in 1998, took silk in 2018, and then, in 2020, Justin's career took a significant turn when he was appointed a judge of the County Court of Victoria. Less than two years later, he made the unusual decision to leave the bench and return to the bar, which had significant implications, including not being able to appear in the Victorian Magistrates Court or County Court for a five year period. But as we'll hear today, Justin loves being a barrister, barrister, and he knows that ultimately he made the right choice. He has appeared in more than 100 jury trials and speaks with great passion about the unique experience, describing the roller coaster of pressure, self doubt he feels every single time, never more so than when he got a last minute call up to run his first jury trial in country Victoria.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:01:17] Like most people who do their first trial, I picked it up on the Friday night before a Monday start down at Bairnsdale. The case against my client could be described as on the stronger side. And one of the, difficulties with the case was an unfortunately placed fingerprint of my client on the sticky tape that was the location where the cannabis was being harvested. And when it came time to effectively reveal to the jury what the explanation for that fingerprint being there was. And I think, if I recall, something to do with reusing a bit of sticky tape from another location. In my first ever jury trial, there was an audible guffaw from one of the jury members.

**Michael Green:** [00:02:31] Our guest this morning in Lives in the Law is Justin Hannebery KC. Good morning, Justin. Justin, I find very interesting that you had a short period of your career when you were a county court judge, and you decided it wasn't for you, and I think made a very courageous decision to resign as a county court judge. What brought you don't give us all the detail now, because I really want to go into it in a

bit of detail later, but why did you decide to do that? And and was it difficult? Was it really stressful?

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:03:05] Can I say it was logistically difficult to do what I did? But in terms of the way I felt about it, it wasn't difficult, and I always equated, and I thank you for saying it was courageous, but I don't consider it in that way because to me, it was more a compulsion that this was not the right situation for me. And so even though there were going to be clear difficulties for me, first, the actual physical act of going to resign from a job that is objectively a great job and objectively a real honor, and the people who do it and do it well serve the community so well, and I felt a great deal of guilt that I was no longer going to be doing that. But at a personal level, it was simply the wrong job for the wrong person and the wrong fit for my skill set. And on the alternative, being back at the bar and being able to practice as I was or in fact very differently as it's turned out was a much better fit for me both professionally and frankly at a personal and emotional level as well.

**Michael Green:** [00:04:12] And we should point out that you're not the first person to do it, because I can remember in the last ten to fifteen years, both a Supreme Court judge and a Federal Court judge making the same decision. Yes. There are a small club of us.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:04:25] I think most particularly for my situation, Julie Condon resigned from the county court in 2019, and I always give her enormous credit for her decision because at the time she made that decision, it was not one that had really been made by anyone before. And when I was feeling unhappy in my situation and I was feeling that this wasn't right for me, I always give credit for the fact that had Julie not made that decision, I wouldn't have probably seen it as a viable option as I did. Should I also say I'm in extremely fortunate circumstances that because of my wife, Sarah, always being professionally more successful than me, that did provide me with options that frankly other people would not have had. So I've got to acknowledge that as being a huge part of my decision making as well.

**Michael Green:** [00:05:14] Okay. Well, it's it's interesting. We'll go into that in more detail later, but I guess we better start at the start. So what about family and school and things like that? Where did you grow up?

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:05:25] I grew up down in Williamstown, which was a fabulous part of Melbourne to grow up in. It was a great place that I lived until I was in second year university. So mum was a school teacher and dad was the local solicitor. And far more importantly for me, he was president of Williamstown Football Club, and I can tell you that his involvement with that was a far, far bigger influence on me than, anything he was doing professionally in the law.

**Michael Green:** [00:05:53] Williamstown is a a village, and even to this day, we've been in Melbourne, a city of 5,000,000 people. It's still its own village, isn't it?

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:06:00] It's got the geographical quirk of being a peninsula. So no one ever drives through Williamstown. So what it tends to mean is that if you're in Williamstown, you're there deliberately. Yeah. You didn't stop there on the way to somewhere. And I think also amongst all Melbourne suburbs, Williamstown has one of the most distinct characters. So So when I was growing up, it was still a a dock town. So it was still at, you know, three in the afternoon, the siren had gone, the Nelson Place would get full of cars and that everyone at the school, everyone in the local area, it was very much a small country town style community, and it was a great place to grow up in.

**Michael Green:** [00:06:44] And yet you went to secondary school on the other side of town in Hawthorne.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:06:48] I did. I did. I went... I was very fortunate to go to Scotch College from year seven, which was a fairly big cultural jump from Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Weymstown. I think there were, more boys in year seven at Scotch than there were in the entirety of Saint Mary's. And having had such a great time amongst my mates at... Down at Weemstown playing, you know, footy and cricket and going for a swim after school. It was a big cultural leap going to Scotch College, but I'm very, very lucky to have been given that opportunity educationally.

**Michael Green:** [00:07:28] As well as being president of the Williamstown Football Club in what was then the VFA, Idab was also the local solicitor. Yes. And therefore, were you always destined to be a lawyer?

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:07:39] I wouldn't say that by any means. Certainly, having dad as a local solicitor and as president of the footy club in a in a small country town kind of

way that made him a bit of a local celebrity. So it was, being the son of somebody who was well known in town was always something I was very, conscious about and especially in town like Wiemstad, which at the time was, you know, a pub on every corner and it was a very small town feel to it. His professional work as a lawyer though did not interest me at all. I can recall, when I was young, I dropped by his office a few times. I think I got told off for using a cafe bar machine and basically got in the way. But in terms of being interested in the law or interested in what he did, I'm not sure I a 100% knew for most of the time, but I knew in great detail everything that was going on with Williamstown Football Club, and I knew in great detail everything to do with his role there.

**Michael Green:** [00:08:42] Now you're not the first person... Not the first guest we had on the show, Justin, who appeared or early days was more interested in journalism than in the law. And you were keen on journalism, and you thought about maybe a career in journalism.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:08:54] Yeah. That was the career that I had my heart set on from a very early age. I think in grade six when I did my confirmation at Saint Mary's, you had to write down what your career was going to be. I wrote down journalism, and that was an ambition I maintained throughout my secondary schooling and indeed throughout my my time at university. And I ultimately was unsuccessful in my mind in getting to where I wanted to get to there, and it was really only after I'd, in my mind, expired my career options in journalism that the law as a career became an option for me.

**Michael Green:** [00:09:35] You applied for a cadetship at the age?

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:09:37] I did. I got through the entirety of university being extremely mediocre in my law marks.

**Michael Green:** [00:09:45] Can I just break in there? Mhmm. But you got 90 for civil procedure.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:09:49] I did. I did get 90. I got 50 in the first... Sorry. 40 in the first year and 50 in the second, so I I think that was a pretty solid mark out of 200. But Sorry. Back to journalism.

**Michael Green:** [00:10:00] Yeah. With the with the age, you were applying for cadetship there.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:10:03] Yeah. I'd always sort of been interested in that. I I did a little bit of writing for the school newspaper at Scotch, and then over my time at university, I'd done a little bit of community radio covering VFA footy for a community radio station, do a bit of round the grounds work. I actually called a few games of footy as well, which if anyone still has the tapes of them, I sincerely hope they are destroyed. But I think I called a VFA reserves grand final, Michael, so you can imagine that was really hitting the big time.

**Michael Green:** [00:10:36] Who played in it?

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:10:37] I think it might have been Coburg and Preston considering

**Michael Green:** [00:10:42] Would have been pretty willing in those days. Yeah.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:10:44] It was. It was at Victoria Park, and I had to do the call from the box of Victoria Park, which was actually a pretty cool thing to do, albeit my calling skills were terrible. And I can assure you, which are incredibly hard skill to have. I also did a little bit of writing beyond that as well. And even when I was doing my articles, I did some work for the Western Times. The main feature of which was that I did a interview with the person who was then our new local member in Williamstown, which was Steve Brax. Steve was very nice, but it's fair to say the article was not exactly Michelle Gratton's standards. It was 500 words of sucking up to Steve, so I'm sure he appreciates... He appreciated that article when it came out. It was not exactly hard hitting, political analysis. I did that and ultimately from that, those I applied for cadetships. I applied for a cadetship at the Herald Sun and didn't get an interview. I went through the process at the age whereby you have to do an exam, and then you get invited along for an interview. And I think there are about 12 of us being interviewed for seven spots. And the moment my career in journalism ended was during my interview for that cadetship where I had what would have been the world's worst job interview, where basically by the end of the interview, both the interviewer and myself had pretty much determined we did not like each other. And that as a result of that, I walked away realizing, okay. My strategy for where I was going to go seems to have hit a bit of a

roadblock, and I might have to rethink. So I should also point out that I didn't... That that was my sole goal during university, and it's fair to say that my lack of interest in law was reflected in the minimalist approach I took to study and the fact that I regarded any mark above 50 as being a sign that you had wasted effort, and that as long as I got 50, I could move on.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:12:53] I had a couple of moments during university where, to be honest, I really did think this wasn't for me and I should move on, but... And I feel very guilty now that, you know, having been given the great opportunity straight from school as to going to do law arts at Monash that I didn't understand that opportunity for the great privilege it was. But at the time, I couldn't have been less interested in the law, and it really was only after that interview at the age that I sort of realized, well, I'm not sure if this is going anywhere. And the other thing about it was that in my final year of university, I was able to do the professional practice subject down at Springvale Legal Service. And for somebody who had not been captured by the academic study of the law, being at Springvale Legal Service and having the opportunity to have clients come in, we had a we had a great bunch of people from the university who I became friends with who were really great to work with. We just had a really great couple of semesters there. And I think somewhere in my brain that gave me an insight into the fact that there is more to law than the study of the law, and that it really is, in a lot of ways, a people orientated profession rather than what it sort of perceived it until then, which was sort of a dry academic study.

**Michael Green:** [00:14:21] Interesting, isn't it? And that... Yes. It's a... Every game's a people game, and the law's no different, without a doubt. So, Justin, you learnt a very important lesson at the Springvale Legal Service Clinic, but you've said you also learnt a very important lesson, working part time jobs in retail and hospitality. Yes.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:14:42] I was very fortunate that for a period of time, my family owned a hotel in Williamstown, the Crown Hotel, and that I was able to start working there at a pretty young age and got some skills and experience in hospitality. And the great thing about working in an... In a place like a pub is that you're forced to deal with anyone and everyone. And the experience of being public facing, the experience of having to manage people and situations and deal with things, that's incredible learning experience that you don't necessarily get if you're cloistered in an environment where

you're only running into people who, you know, are fellow uni students or only running into people who are fellow young lawyers. It was a fabulous experience. I was also working in retail at, David Jones. So I had all of those experiences, which I think when I look back now and I think about the experience I draw on from things I've done in the past, those retail and hospitality experiences have really provided me with a skill base, which I would say vastly exceeds the academic and legal knowledge I got from university in terms of what has helped me in doing this job that I do now.

**Michael Green:** [00:16:05] Moving on, starting with your career in the law, you do your articles with your dad in Williamstown, then you get a job here in the city with Bernie Barber, who I would have thought had a not dissimilar practice to your dad.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:16:16] He did. That was right. I I was basically what you might describe as a semi employed hospitality worker at the time when it was strongly suggested to me at home that I should at least get qualified in the law. I hadn't actually applied for articles anywhere else or shown any interest anywhere else, and it is fair to say that my lack of interest probably reflected in my performance. As an article clerk for my father, I always say that whilst I was the beneficiary of nepotism, he was the victim of it. And it was a year in which I didn't hit any great heights. But by the end of that year, I'd had a bit of experience in family law, and I'd actually been offered a job at Matiglone and Chisholm, and I'd all but signed on the dotted line there when, I was told that Bernie Balmer was looking for someone, and obviously Bernie was someone who was a friend of my dad's, And Bernie was somebody who, at that time, had a very busy criminal practice. He only employed one solicitor at a time, so only had one employee solicitor. To that point in time and looking back, Bernie had had an incredible strike rate with his draft picks. I think in order, his previous employees had been Sarah Dawes, who's now on the county court, Dermot Dan, now Casey and arguably one of Australia's top criminal barristers, then Trish Riddell, now on the county court, and then I followed that.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:17:49] So they were four consecutive employees that Bernie's at and he's had plenty of magistrates and other judicial officers since then, but it was an unbelievable opportunity. It was a incredibly busy criminal practice. It wasn't unusual for Kate Dugan, who ran the, practice at the time to hand me a sheet that had up to 15 to 20 matters listed in the Melbourne Magistrates Court on a particular day. You got very good at working out how to do a bail application on three minutes worth of instructions.

You got very good at working out how to be nice to the clerk in court seven because when they page you and you're on your feet in court nine, you can't be in two places at once. I would say for the first three or four months that I was at Bernie's, it was an absolute whirlwind where my adrenaline and stress levels were at peak for most of the time. But funnily enough, you sort of... You do settle down a little bit and you do realize after a while that the worst possible thing that you think is gonna happen is probably not gonna happen and that you do work out that the court's probably not gonna proceed without you there. And whilst the magistrate might get cross at you, if you maintain good relationships with court staff, you will hopefully get looked after, and once again, it was an incredible learning experience over the time at Bernie's.

**Michael Green:** [00:19:19] As well as a learning experience, did it open you up to the possibility of, hang on. I really enjoy this. This is... I can see myself doing this for the rest of my life.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:19:27] I'm not sure, Michael, I had actually reached that level of maturity at the time. It... It's fair to say I I would like to think I was a slow developer, so I didn't think strategically about my career. I think, ultimately, it was, at a basic level really good fun. I mean, I think in criminal law, we can really focus a lot on the difficulty of the subject matter and often the very difficult circumstances of our our clients. But at a really basic level, I think what gets underestimated is that day in, day out in criminal law, things happen that if they happen to somebody else in their career once, they'd be telling that story for the rest of their lives. With us, it's a regular Tuesday. And, I think the sheer fun, joy, and, enjoyment of being part of a busy criminal practice and being able to do fabulous things day in, day out in front of different magistrates, in front of the different county court judges. I think Bernie sent me to the county court to do an appeal for a woman who it's fair to say, knew the court a lot better than me at the time.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:20:40] I did a county court appeal, I think, on my second day admitted as a practitioner. So I had to wear my robes from Bernie's office in Hardware Street down to the court. Now to say I had some impostor syndrome, it was extraordinary. I was lucky. I can't remember the judge I had, but the judge was very kind to me, and we got a good result for the appeal. Other times, and this is why Bernie was a great boss to have, I remember the first time I had a client who went from being at liberty to being in custody after I'd done a plea on his behalf of the magistrates' court.

And I remember I got back to the car, and my hands were shaking. I was so shaken up by it. I was so worried by it. And, course, when you're that early, you don't know if it's something you did or this person's now in custody because of your incompetence or something like that. But the great thing about Bernie, when I got back to the office, he said, don't worry, buddy. Good for the appeal practice.

**Michael Green:** [00:21:42] For those who know Bernie, it's no surprise he would say that. So, Justin, you have two years with Bernie. You learned to swim when he threw in the deep end rather than drown. Yes. And you come to the bar.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:21:55] Well, I really didn't even have two years with Bernie because I started in September 1996, and I started at the bar in the readers course of March 1998. So I went from basically not wanting to be a lawyer and pursuing another career, and I can tell you if I had have got a cadetship, I would have happily never practiced. Law wouldn't have given it a second thought. So it was really only twenty months from being in that mindset to being at the bar.

**Michael Green:** [00:22:26] So something... I mean, apart from the, you say, the wild things that happen on a daily basis in that sort of a practice, something's happened within you to all of a sudden think, hang on, I'm a fit for this, and this is a fit for me.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:22:39] Yeah. I think it's one of those things where if you do something and you are not terrible at it, even if it's not something you perceived before that you wanted to do, everyone likes feeling that they're good at something, and you get attracted attracted to the things that you are competent at. And it was probably a process of me sort of discovering something in myself that I didn't get completely overwhelmed by being on my feet, and I didn't get completely overwhelmed by either the workload or the nature of the work. And whilst, of course, don't get me wrong, I don't wanna rewrite history here, I was absolutely plagued with self doubts about whether you're doing the right thing or not. It is not the case that you just turn up with some magical amount of confidence, but it is basically being drawn to the place where you've got opportunity. And, obviously, from Bernie's, there'd been a number of his previous employees that had gone to the bar, and they seemed to be having fun, and they seemed to be successful. And I was at a stage... I was just turned 26, and I was, you know, living in a share house, no mortgage, no children, not married.

**Michael Green:** [00:24:01] Living the dream.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:24:02] Well, I didn't really have any massive strategic goals or anything. I didn't have any overt financial burdens on me beyond funding my lifestyle at that point in time. So it wasn't the situation like it is now where I had to plan to come to the bar in one or two or three years' time. There was no bar exam. I decided to go to the bar about halfway through February 1998, and I started the reader's course on the 03/01/1998. And I'm sure anyone listening who is either on the waiting list to come to the bar or is planning to come to the bar, they will feel extremely jealous about that. But in 1998, the... I think it was 55 people in our readers' course represented the entirety of the people who wanted to come to the Victorian bar at that particular time. It wasn't the case as it is now where we... We're managing, you know, three hundred and four hundred people trying to get them to the bar when we've got readers courses only twice a year of 60 people each.

**Michael Green:** [00:25:07] You mentioned there having self doubt and not being full of confidence in yourself, but you made an interesting comment about it's putting yourself in those situations where you are lacking confidence and have self doubt, which actually leads to growth and progression. Could you explain that to me? I really found that really interesting, Justin, and I think for young lawyers in general, and barristers in particular, it's really worth hearing.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:25:30] The reality of being a criminal lawyer is that we are put into uncomfortable situations often. It is the case that you are going to be dealing with difficult people, difficult clients, difficult opponents, difficult magistrates, and oftentimes you are going to be in a position where, for example, you might be running a contested hearing where the odds are very heavily stacked against you and that if you had been in the client's position, you might not have made the same choices about running the matter. Being at the bar and being a criminal advocate is about becoming more comfortable in those uncomfortable situations. And the reality is that only really comes from experience. And I think, Michael, one of the reasons why at the bar experience is still a really coveted quality is that the nature of advocacy is shaped by the fact that you've been in a situation before. You've got through a difficult situation at the... And at the end of it, you are a little bit stronger than you were before that, and then the next difficult situation that comes along. I can say certainly that was the case in relation to

doing your first jury trial that once you have done it, you never have to do it for the first time ever again. And the reality is that having got through what is, I can say from my experience, an incredibly terrifying experience to manage a jury trial and then address a jury for the first time. Once you've got through that, everything else in the law seems a little bit easier. It's just not quite as hard again.

**Michael Green:** [00:27:18] Speaking of your first trial, was the case involving the the Mormon people and hash cookies, was that your first trial?

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:27:26] It wasn't my first trial because that was a magistrates court hearing, but it was probably the first time that I had to do a matter where there was significant public interest in it. It was a case where both of my clients had been happily at home cooking hashish laced cookies and were happily enjoying them when a couple of the most naive, lovely young men from Utah aged about 19 came knocking on their door, and my two clients thought it was an excellent idea to invite them in and offer them a biscuit. I've always said it's a very strange thing to me that if you go into a stranger's house that you would then consume 12 of those biscuits. That seems a lot even if they were Tim Tams, but what then happened is that, it's fair to say the lovely young men from Utah experienced some fairly significant medical complications that landed them both in hospital. And when that case got before the Dandenong Magistrates Court, there was a lot of media interest in it. At the time, I was still driving a 1982 Toyota Corolla with a door that was painted a different color from the other doors because it got damaged in a crash, and I realized if I just got the door put back on without getting it repainted, I could pocket the the remaining money. And, when I was getting followed by the cameras as I walked out of that court, I can assure you there was no way known any camera was going to catch me putting my keys into that heap of junk, and so the cameras dutifully followed me as I did a lap of the car park at Dandenong, and then they all looked at me like, why did you do that?

**Michael Green:** [00:29:13] You couldn't find a Mercedes to pretend you were getting into it. Another interesting comment, Justin, you made is that as a young barrister, it's hard to be yourself to find your own voice. What do you mean by that?

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:29:26] What I've learned over my time at the bar is that ultimately, you can only be yourself as an advocate. It is a very long career to fake

being someone else or to be unnatural in the way in which you communicate or an unnatural in the way in which you advocate on someone's behalf. However, especially in your early days at the bar when you might observe other people who are progressing faster than you because they might be being perceived as more aggressive. They're being perceived as putting up a greater fight than you are. It's very hard not to want to try to be something different than what you are. And I certainly, in my early days at the bar, when I'm seeing other people who were my peers, you know, walking to the Supreme Court with famous gangsters, and I'm going out to Broadmeadows Magistrates Court to do another contest mention, you do think to yourself, well, I'm doing something wrong, and they're doing something right. And the thing that I'm doing wrong is that I am not fighting hard enough or being aggressive enough or being loud enough or being cartoonishly oppositionalist enough. And so for a period of time, I self consciously tried to toughen myself up. I can tell you that probably peaked in the Melbourne Magistrates Court one day where I had a very unpleasant exchange with someone who was objectively a difficult and unpleasant magistrate. So it wasn't entirely unjustified the way I felt.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:31:00] But after the event and when I looked back at the transcript or the... I think it might have been the tape that I got after it because I was so upset about what had happened in court that day, I must admit I was mortified by the fact that I had clearly lost control of my emotions. I had clearly stopped acting in my clients' interests and started being self indulgent to my own. And really at that time, I realized you can only be yourself and that when you are selling yourself in this marketplace, that's what people are buying. And some people will like you and some people won't. Of course, you should be the best version of yourself. You should be the most prepared version of yourself. You should be the version of yourself that has worked on your skills as an advocate to the greatest degree you can, but being cartoonishly like what you perceive an angry barrister should be like, that isn't going to work, and it certainly didn't work for me. And in fact, once I got to that moment, I think that perversely gave me permission to say, well, I'm gonna do things my way, and if it works, it works, and if it if it doesn't, it doesn't. But I don't have the stomach or desire to try to fake being someone else for the rest of my career here.

**Michael Green:** [00:32:18] I hope that advice is given to people in the readers course. Now, Justin, I have found among my notes here details of your first trial, and it wasn't about the hashish cookies, it was about a cannabis crop.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:32:29] Yes. It was a cannabis crop that I think, to be fair to me, I'm giving myself a bit of credit here, like most people who do their first trial, I picked it up on the Friday night before a Monday start down at Bairnsdale. The case against my client could be described as on the stronger side. And one of the, difficulties with the case was an unfortunately placed fingerprint of my client on the sticky tape that was the location where the cannabis was being, harvested. And when it came time to effectively reveal to the jury what the explanation for that fingerprint being there was. And I think if I recall something to do with reusing a bit of sticky tape from another location. I'm not quite sure it was the most compelling explanation. In my first ever jury trial, there was an audible guffaw from one of the jury members. And when I finally got to the end of that trial, I don't know if people know Bairnsdale Court. It's sort of a... It's like a little hall unto itself, and I had to walk from there to the main street of Bairnsdale to grab a coffee after the jury got sent out. Before I was able to hand the money over, I got a call. Jury's got a verdict.

**Michael Green:** [00:33:48] And you optimistically thought, well, I've let him off.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:33:52] No. Look. It wasn't an event that filled me full of confidence that I was gonna have a career as a jury advocate. But once again, as I say, the jury trial is the unique experience that this job offers. Everything else in the law is a bit like something else in the law. The jury trial, though, is like the ultimate reality TV show. It is incredibly dramatic. I still look back now, and I've never lost this no matter how many times I've done it before. I look back now at the red exercise book I keep that I keep all my notes in. And whenever I've written down, you know, jury returned to court, you know, 03:17PM, and I write the name of the charges. And then as the jury says their verdict, I write down, you know, g or n g. I can still see when I look back at those notes that my hand is shaking. I can see it in the way I write the g, and that's something I've never really lost. It is an extraordinary experience being part of a a jury trial. It is a really special and unique thing that only those of us in the criminal law ever really get to be a part of, and I feel very lucky to be in a job that offers you that.

**Voiceover:** [00:35:14] William and Lonsdale is brought to you by Greenslist, one of the leading multidisciplinary barristers lists in Australia. Greenslist believe in promoting conversation around the ideas and issues that shape not only our legal system, but our wider community.

**Michael Green:** [00:35:34] Continuing on with your experiences and telling people, and I'm thinking particularly of young lawyers, about those experiences so they can learn from them, You make the point that most of the trials in the county court are sex trials, and you say they are even harder than a murder trial. In fact, I've heard people say murder trials are easy, easier than most other trials.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:35:56] Yeah. I think the challenging thing about a murder trial is that the consequences are so enormous that when you're thinking about whether you're ready to do a murder trial or not, the question isn't, am I professionally skilled enough to run this trial appropriately. The question is, if I lost this trial and I have to walk up that spiral staircase in the Supreme Court and then sit with someone who is facing the rest of their life in jail, is that something you can psychologically handle? Are you gonna be comfortable enough that you were ready to do that trial such that you can get through that moment and be okay with it? But in terms of the actual technical difficulty of running a trial, in a sex trial, invariably, you are compelled to cross examine the person who is accusing your client of the acts that are the subject of the the charge, and that does not happen in a murder trial, which is almost invariably a circumstantial case. In a sex trial, you are forced to confront someone who may well be publicly describing the most distressing and intimate and difficult moment of their lives, and you have to put to them that that account that they've just given is false.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:37:22] That is incredibly confronting, and that is a difficulty that makes those sort of trials more difficult even before you factor in the plethora of other difficulties, including the challenges around the admission of tendency evidence or the admission of coincidence evidence, all of the different directions that a judge has to be conscious to give now. It's an incredibly challenging environment, but in a lot of ways, sex trials now are the last trials where you really do see old fashioned cross examination of someone and old fashioned confrontation of someone who is accusing your client. Because the way criminal trials are now, there are very few trials now where, for example, there isn't CCTV. There's not phone records. There's not text

messages. There's not triangulation of someone's location as a result of where their mobile phone is. A lot of the areas that in different trials used to be the subject of cross examination are now almost beyond that because of the evidence. But in a a sixth trial, it is still the domain of the accused and the accuser, and that's where, as a barrister, you really are forced to be in that purely confrontational situation.

**Michael Green:** [00:38:41] But, Justin, I assume you need a special technique because you couldn't bash up the accuser, the person who's, or the victim, the alleged victim, because surely that would be counterproductive in front of

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:38:52] The jury. That is my view. I've always taken the view, or certainly took the view after I'd been doing this for a while, that every criminal trial is effectively a mathematical exercise, namely the prosecution have to prove their case beyond reasonable doubt. They have the burden of proof, and that if they are short of that, then you are successful. In a sex trial, invariably, the prosecution are heavily reliant on a single witness to prove their case, often a single witness who is saying something contrary to your client. So if that is the case, the jury could acquit because either they don't believe the complainant or they might acquit simply because they say, well, there were two people saying two different things. I'm not saying if someone's a liar or if they're untrustworthy for some other reason. However, the mathematical equation of proving the case beyond reasonable doubt means that there has to be an acquittal here. And so for that reason, I have always been of the view that if you view the cases through that mathematical lens, you don't wanna do anything that will increase the probability that the complainant's evidence would be accepted. And to me, if the jury have a complainant who's been cross examined extensively for days and days has been confronted aggressively, you may well have achieved the effect of saying to the jury, well, I wasn't sure about her evidence when she first gave it, but two days later of being shouted at, I'm now pretty convinced she's a good witness. So that to me has always been one of the ways I've used these sort of trials. And to some extent, I think that's immunized me a little bit from the difficulty of such confronting subject matter. I think if you view it in that somewhat dry and mathematical way, you're viewing the matter differently than if you are engaging in what is unquestionably often really awful material.

**Michael Green:** [00:40:54] And I assume if you emotionally engage in it, you're not helping your client. I think on occasions,

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:41:00] You might think you're doing what the client wants, but I think what I would say to any young lawyers out there is that your ability to advocate with your client for the course of action that is most in their interests is one of the most important bits of advocacy in this job. Advocacy isn't just with the court, it's also with your own client. So if they understand that you adopting a certain strategy or you choosing to approach things in a particular way or choosing not to cross examine in a particular way is in their interests, if you can convey that to them, that's extremely important bit of advocacy that I think will set you up for a more successful trial.

**Michael Green:** [00:41:48] So Justin, you take silk in 2018, only a couple of years later, it's only been in silk for a couple of years, you get that offer to go onto the county court. Did it come out of the blue? I mean, were you aware this was a possibility or took it completely by surprise? I I know

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:42:06] It might sound oddly naive now, but I did not think I would ever be offered a judicial role. I didn't aspire to it, and it wasn't something I thought was in any way suited to me nor did I think... And I would think I was suited to it. I was... Took silk in November 2018, and 2019 was a really amazing year. I just loved being silk. It was when I took silk, a senior silk said to me, being a silk at the Victorian bar is the best job in the law, daylight second. Can now confirm that. But I was gonna say, Michael, I don't know if you recall, but in 2020, there's a little bit of a pandemic going around, and that was an absolutely terrible year to be a criminal barrister, especially one whose core practice was in jury trials. Like in Victoria, we didn't have jury trials for the best part of two years. And certainly in 2020, it was really difficult to envisage when things would get back to normal again. And as somebody who had been silk for a year, but I was still in that part of my career where you were still solidifying your new spot in the marketplace, it was incredibly difficult. It was really, for me, like for many people, it was the complete undermining of our business model as barristers. And it was in that context that in November 2020, I got rung up unexpectedly about the county court. I initially got rung up by a judge who I knew, and I recall specifically asking them at the time, oh, not sure. Is the job a bit lonely? And, they were very nice in responding to me about that.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:43:57] But from the time I got that phone call to the time I was sworn in was less than three weeks. Now normally, there's a a much greater lead in time for that, but it was also three weeks at a time when I was at home because we were still in the, end periods of the second lockdown we had in 2020. So I didn't see it coming, but at the time, I realized quite quickly a couple of things. Firstly, you cannot presume you will ever be offered this job again. I know people say, oh, well, you're a bit young to take it. But what you realize is when you are being given this offer in the moment, that if you are saying no, you've got to accept that you might be saying no forever and that you have to put your mind to a place where if you wake up one day at age 61 or 62 and, you know, you might be perceived that you're now too old for that, that you were comfortable that you never wanted this job and that you never wanted to do it. So at the time, I said yes. And and at the time, to be honest, I said yes, being excited for the new opportunity because I didn't necessarily know what the job was gonna be like. And compared with what the previous eight months had been like being a criminal barrister in COVID affected times, it was an incredible opportunity to do something different that provided, you know, great security to my family.

**Michael Green:** [00:45:23] So that... That's the reason you accepted it. Looking back, do you think you were prepared for it? Well, I mean, could there have been better preparation? I guess I'm asking. Could there have been greater assistance coming from the court and those in the court? When I say, I don't mean the other fellow judges, mean more support people within the court and in our system. Mean, people... It's a strange one where to take on this enormously important job, people get a phone call, and three weeks later they've turned their life upside down and are taking on one of the most important jobs in the community.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:45:52] I would think most people though had probably either turned their minds to it at least or actively sought out the job. And certainly now there are processes for expressions of interest. So you probably would have fewer people like myself who are just purely tapped on the shoulder and probably even fewer that were tapped on the shoulder having not gone through that process. And I think certainly even if I had gone through some sort of process, you don't know until you're there. It's like everything. You can speculate from the outside as to what a job job might be like. You can speculate as to whether it might suit you or not, but it's very difficult until you live that situation. And certainly for me, it took me a little while until I realized that this was...

And there's two aspects to it. It was a job that seemed to highlight my weaknesses and not take full advantage of my strengths in my perception. And it was also a situation where as we were coming out of the pandemic, I was really mourning my previous life as a silk, and I really hadn't had the time as silk that I wanted to have. So there were sort of two aspects to it, the unsuitability of the job itself and the opportunity cost for my career at the bar. And those two things were were combining in a way that I really did have a a visceral and uncontrollable reaction about, wanting to leave. I remember at one point in time, I went and spoke to the court psychologist about it because I was of the mind that, well, this is a normal feeling I've got now and that, I will get over it and people, go through this phase and then they're perfectly happy a little while later. I remember speaking to the court psychologist about it and expecting her to tell me those things. And she said to me, you sound like you know yourself very well. I'll be interested to see what you do. At which point in time I thought

**Michael Green:** [00:47:56] Sort of confirming the feelings you were having.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:47:58] Yeah. Basically. And I I can say for the first time in my life, I was actually feeling psychologically not in control of myself. I really had a reaction. So that's when... If somebody says to me it was a courageous decision to leave, I think that overstates the amount of conscious choice I had in the matter. I really just had to leave because I wasn't suited to it. Can't tell you. The other judges on the bench were all lovely to me. The court staff were all lovely to me. My two associates, Jack and Tegan, I had at the time, I'm still very close to. They're both at the bar now. I felt awfully sorry for them that having come to me from very long term experienced and might I say extremely conservative judges, they've found their way to a judge having an existential crisis that's led to him leaving the court. Gosh. They were they were pretty unlucky, Michael. I can tell you that. But it's a, a a really important challenging job, and I have great admiration for the people who do it well. There is an element of sacrifice in being a judge, albeit the fact that, you know, your conditions are great and, you know, you're well paid and well respected. There is though a large amount of sacrifice in terms of the way in which you have present yourself, the way in which you have to accept that you are no longer the star of the show here.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:49:27] You are letting other people do it even when other people may not be doing it precisely to your taste. You have to have a level of restraint

and not get too frustrated by that. And just frankly, that was just really, really challenging for me. And I really did feel that whatever skill set I had, it could best be used, elsewhere. And also, felt a degree of guilt that I was taking up the spot on the court of another person who would, a, be better at it and, b, enjoy it more than me. I didn't wanna just be one of these people who hung around, became increasingly miserable, and just counted down the days until I retired. That didn't seem like a viable option for me, and thankfully, because I was already silk before I went there, that did give me some viability for a practice after I came back with the restrictions I was gonna have to endure. And I emphasize again, I am extremely fortunate that I have married a professionally more successful, capable person than myself. And I'm very fortunate that I had Sarah's support in every way that enabled me to make a choice that was right for me. You're on the court for two years? Eighteen months and three weeks. Not that

**Michael Green:** [00:50:46] You were counting. You quickly realized that you weren't cut out for it, but then you gave it some extra time just to be doubly sure to be fair to everybody. Is that how it worked?

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:50:54] I did. Once I decided to leave, I realized that this was an irreversible decision and that it was a big deal. And so I just wanted to make sure that I had some margin for error, namely give myself an opportunity to change my mind, give myself a chance to really throw myself into it to see whether it was just simply maybe the slightly different workplace that existed because of COVID restrictions, the slightly different workflow because of COVID. I spent 2022 trying to absolutely throw myself into it, do every trial I possibly could. And I was planning on maybe holding off my decision until the end of that year. I got to July and I had a county court appeal with a self represented person that was listed for twelve days. I think about day six of that, I said, no, I think this might do me at the end of this one. And the self represented person who was, it's fair to say, very experienced in the courts and enjoyed all aspects of litigation, including appeal, I finished

**Michael Green:** [00:52:04] His person wasn't... He wasn't a prisoner at the time?

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:52:06] No. No. No. No. Wasn't. It was a county court appeal for a theft matter. And by the time it got to the end and dealt with this self represented person for twelve days, I sentenced him. I didn't send him to jail. And I said to him, I

know you'll want to appeal, but life's too short. Adjourn the court. They were my last words on the counter court bench.

**Michael Green:** [00:52:28] Were they the last time you saw that man?

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:52:30] It was not the last time I saw that man because about six months later, when I was back at the bar and doing a matter in the Supreme Court, I was wandering on the Ground Floor, and I ran into this individual. He turned around and looked at me and said, you. I left him alone. Ten minutes later, went back down. I could see he was still wandering around. And I said to this person, I'll call him mister Rex. I said, mister Rex, are you lost? He said, yes. I'm looking for Court 13. I said, you wouldn't believe it, mister Rex? I'm in Court 14. I'll take you there. So he and I walked up the stairs to Court 13 And 14 in the supreme court. And as we got to the top of the stairs, he turned around and said to me, I'm appealing you. I must've... I thought to myself at the time, I said, look, If only you know, and I'd pretty much checked out of the building by then. There's every chance I got it wrong, so good luck to you.

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**Michael Green:** [00:53:56] So, Justin, you come back to the bar in 2023?

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:54:00] In July 2022.

**Michael Green:** [00:54:02] July 2022. Judges leaving their court to come back to the bar or go... To come back into practice have restrictions upon them, don't they? Yeah.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:54:11] The bar rules mean that I can't appear in the county court or any court that has appeal rights to the county court, so that is the Magistrates Court of Victoria, for a period of five years. So that was the environment that I was returning to practice in that I was going to have to establish a practice that didn't involve the Magistrates Court of Victoria or the County Court of Victoria, which prior to my going to the bench would have accounted for a huge proportion of my practice.

**Michael Green:** [00:54:40] Most trials in Victoria take place in the County Court, don't they? That's correct. So you're excluded for five years from most trials, which in Victoria limits you to the Supreme Court, in theory, the federal court, but there's no crime there that I know of.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:54:54] No. Was sort of hoping there'd be a bit more, Michael, but sadly not.

**Michael Green:** [00:54:59] And so what have you done to develop a practice? Where have you developed a practice?

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:55:03] So I've been very fortunate in that since I've come back to the bar, a practice that was mainly Victorian based before I became a judge. I think I'd done one matter in Adelaide and that was all. I've now appeared in six states and two territories, and I think I should get like a scout badge from robes or something because of that. But I've been very fortunate that I've been able to practice in interstate jurisdictions, has been... I've been very fortunate, but it's also been an absolutely fabulous experience. You do realize when you are living and working basically around William And Lonsdale for decades on end that for those of us who've been around a while, when you go to court around here, you're invariably in a very comfortable environment. You're invariably in front of a a judge that you know, a magistrate that you know, an opponent that you know, probably a police officer that you know. There's a lot of real comfort you get in your home jurisdiction. Practicing interstate strips all of that away. It's like going back to becoming a reader again, and it is a really great challenge for your advocacy because you can no longer rely upon that little hint of familiarity you get when you're appearing before someone who knows you, you've appeared in front of before, and it's been a really, wonderful experience, all the chances I've got interstate, and, I've been very, very fortunate to do that. Obviously, the travel from time to time has been challenging, but overall, it's been a really wonderful and enriching professional experience. And I guess it... Yeah. It'll build your resilience walking a bit like coming back to the first day

**Michael Green:** [00:56:51] At school. You're the new kid.

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:56:52] Oh, yeah. That's that's right. Well, I had a I had a judge in Adelaide who got my name wrong for about three days, and I was too scared.

**Michael Green:** [00:57:00] What's hard about Justin Hanabry?

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:57:01] Well, I think she's gonna be Justin Hanabryg, so I think it must... Might have been my handwriting that did it. But I went for three days. She was a very nice judge. Should say that Adelaide is a very lovely place to practice. There's a lot of, a real culture of politeness in Adelaide, which I like very much. But the the, judge was calling me Justin Hanaberg for three days, and ultimately, my junior got sick of me not correcting her. And, my Adelaide junior went and told her associate, and she then came on the bench and she was off very apologetic about... I said to her, said, look, you know, your honor, I'm kind of a big deal in Melbourne. She had a chuckle at it. Yes, she did.

**Michael Green:** [00:57:41] Now during this period also, your hiatus... Not hiatus, of course, but the the period when you couldn't appear in the county court or the magistrates' court, you have been president of

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:57:50] The Bar Council. Yes. Yes. So that was also a very unexpected development. I went back on to bar council in 2023 or the end of twenty twenty three, and I must admit that was quite a big deal me taking that step. I thought I'd sort of finish with that part, but going back on bar council then really was a big part of me feeling like a a barrister again. It was actually really... It was really nice to be back contributing again. And then in the end of 2024, Elizabeth Bennett was made president of the bar, and I was made vice president, which I was very happy about. I was... It was really a real thrill. And then about two weeks after that, now Justice Bennett and myself were walking out of a meeting, and she turned to me and said, you're vice president of the bar. You must have aspirations to be president. And I immediately said, well, no. That's a lot to think about. I'm not sure. You know, I'm still practicing interstate a lot, etcetera, etcetera. And she said, it's just that the opportunity might come up sooner rather than later. I'm getting appointed on Thursday. So from that, I ended up serving the rest of, that term as president of the bar, and it was... For the first forty eight hours before I could tell anyone, it was Except Sarah. Except Sarah. It was basically blind panic because I was aware of how big the role was and how many demands there were on the president in terms of meetings and events and decision making and having just really got back to the bar a couple of years earlier, having...

**Justin Hannebery:** [00:59:30] Not having the luxury of being able to alter my practice so that I couldn't go interstate. I was really worried about how I was gonna make it work, but I realized quite quickly it was just a once in a career opportunity that I had to take, and I was incredibly fortunate that I had great people around me to assist me, great people at the bar office, great vice presidents, a number of really good people on bar council who helped me. And I got to do some really fabulous things that year. I was incredibly lucky. During my period, we had welcomes for the new chief justice of the Supreme Court, Richard Nile, and the new chief judge of the county court, Amanda Chambers. Now they are once in every fifteen year event, and I had two of them on my watch. So getting to do the welcomes for them, I got to do the welcome for my my former housemate, Adrian Finanzio, when he went to the Supreme Court. It was a really special privilege to be part of it. Also, it sort of validated my decision to come back because clearly the bar was the right place for me, and it was the place that I felt most at home, and it was the place that I was at my best.

**Michael Green:** [01:00:41] Justin, is it... I mean, I'm assuming from the outside that to be president of the bar council is an onerous position, which might add twenty hours a week to your workload. Thirty? I've got no idea, but, mean, I'm assuming it's it's a lot.

**Justin Hannebery:** [01:00:54] I would say it's basically a full time job on top of a full time job. It is a very heavy diary in terms of events you have to go to, events you have to speak at, meetings you have to attend. Meetings you have to chair, I assume, and then

**Michael Green:** [01:01:10] You gotta prepare for them in cheering them.

**Justin Hannebery:** [01:01:11] Plus the preparation of it, and there's also, as anyone who's fulfilled the role knows, an extraordinary number of things that no one from the outside can ever see. Like, for example, you're an administrator of the Barriss' Benevolent Fund, which is the the fund that the members of the bar contribute to to help people out when they're, in difficulty. Now that's that that is an extraordinary responsibility. You are the first phone call for any number of different dramas Yeah. That if you are doing your job well, we'll be known by you and about two other people from now until eternity, but it is nonstop. That said, once again, it's an absolutely joyful job as well. It's an incredible privilege to be getting to meet the people you got to meet.

Going to a bar dinner and getting to sit between the governor and the attorney general, you think to yourself, well, this is a this is a really, really special job. Having said that, I think it's probably unsustainable for someone who's working full time in their practice to do it for much longer than that.

**Michael Green:** [01:02:20] Well, that's what I was gonna ask. How do you maintain a practice?

**Justin Hannebery:** [01:02:22] You sacrifice other things. Now, you know, at a basic level, what's the easiest thing you sacrifice? Well, you know, you're probably not playing golf, or you're probably not going out for dinner with your family as much or you're probably not catching up with friends as much as you did. Your social activity is probably concentrated in your job. Like all things, it's... You do your best to make choices about what's expendable from your diary and what isn't. But as I said, you're very lucky if you've got great support around you, and

**Michael Green:** [01:02:53] I had I had a really great executive of people around me who really supported me and made the job a real pleasure. Justin, one thing which crossed my mind about the Bar Council, when I was a clerk, which now is eight or nine years ago since I was a clerk, there was a story of a barrister who was having health issues and mental health issues, and I guess, not to put too fine a point on it, early stages of dementia, and someone had to tap him on the shoulder and say, look, I think you really should stop. Can the Barre Council help? Mean, we look at our society and the demographic of our society, we're living longer, dementia's obviously becoming a bigger issue all the time. Therefore, must affect the bar as well. Can the bar council play a role in that?

**Justin Hannebery:** [01:03:38] The bar council used to have the responsibility for disciplining barristers. So we used to have the responsibility of investigating and pursuing people for ethical breaches. The bar council no longer has that, but what the bar does have is responsibility for what's called fitness to practice. So if you're getting a practicing certificate, you have to be someone who is fit and proper to practice and fit and proper can involve obviously character issues. It can also involve maybe health issues and certainly over my time, one of the great responsibilities that you have on bar council is that you do find out some incredibly confidential and sensitive information

about people who may be having issues that go towards their capacity to practice, be they health issues, be they drug issues, mental health issues. Oftentimes it might be manifested in, for example, a criminal charge against someone if they've got an alcohol problem that might emerge in a point zero five charge. If somebody's having mental health issues, it might come to the surface as a result of what you describe Michael as somebody bringing it to your attention that somebody's had a particularly bad experience in court or it might come up because as you would know as a client, somebody's finances might be in a shambles and it's only when a bankruptcy notice gets served or something like that that you realize that this person really is struggling. The bar over recent years has really put an emphasis on the welfare of its members. The bar's got full time psychological staff and access to psychological services that are part of the membership of the bar. And I can say from my experience on bar council, there's always been that effort to fulfil our role as to making sure that people who are unfit to practice don't practice.

**Justin Hannebery:** [01:05:38] But on the other hand, if somebody can perhaps have a period out of practice and receive appropriate treatment, appropriate help, that's been something that's been relatively common. We're now more than 2,100 members at the Victorian bar. I think we've even been more than... I think we might be the biggest bar in Australia now. And the reality of having that many members is that you are going to have a certain proportion of people who from time to time have got challenges, and I think we've been really lucky at the Victorian bar that we've got a really great system of clerks, and the clerks are often the first port of call for engaging with people who might be having difficulties. We've also got some great chambers. I said... And when I came back in 2022 and a former reader of mine let me put a desk in the corner of his room in a reverse reading situation, I felt extremely fortunate to be back part of chambers. And being a barrister can be a very lonely job if you choose it to be. It can be that you would bear the burden, be it financial, be it professional, be it, mental health by yourself if you don't have those opportunities that I've been lucky enough to have said through the clerk, through chambers and through, you know, a broader network of colleagues to be able to share this experience and be... Share what is, on occasions, a really difficult job, really difficult job. And that's why I feel very, very lucky to be part of the Victorian bar, and I think ultimately that's what drew me back here.

**Michael Green:** [01:07:20] Justin, have you got any thoughts about your future? Are you... I mean, you haven't been a strategic thinker about your career, I think, from what you've told us, and therefore, are you happy to take what comes middle of next year, you're back fully able to take briefs here in Victoria and just played by

**Justin Hannebery:** [01:07:37] You? Well, I would say I probably did become a strategic thinker about my career probably five years into it. I think once I started to get to a point where I felt I had a a skill base that you're then thinking, well, what would you like to achieve? 2027 is going to be a different year for me because on the 07/01/2027, that will mark five years since I came back from the county court, and that will mean that I'm no longer restricted in what briefs I can accept in Victoria. So I can accept briefs in the Magistrates Court of Victoria again, and I can accept briefs in the County Court of Victoria again. So at a professional level, I'm hoping that that will enable the marketplace of people who might use my services to increase. And I'm really quite looking forward to that. It's been like, it's been a long time since I've been a normal barrister. It's been a long time since I've had the opportunity for people to ring me up and offer me something, and I haven't had to calculate in my head whether I can appear in that court or not. I really do hope that I continue to maintain my practice throughout Australia because that's just been a a wonderful experience, but I'm also hoping that I can reengage with the market fully in Victoria and that, that'll provide some opportunities for professional growth and happiness.

**Michael Green:** [01:09:04] And on that note, Justin, we'll close and say thank you very much for telling us about your life in the law, the ups and downs of it, the differences you've had. It just opens up for all of us an understanding that the law is a place that is a spot for everybody, really. There are many, many, many homes within the law, and yours has been one of them, an interesting one.

**Justin Hannebery:** [01:09:26] Thank you, Michael.

**Michael Green:** [01:09:27] Thank you, Justin.