

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MOORE

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
FILE NO. 26CV000199-620

TODD MANESS,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.)
)
DEBORAH ANNE J DUERRING, and)
DONNA ELIZABETH TANNER,)
)
Defendants.)

DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF FILING

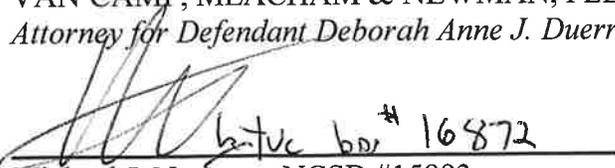
NOW COME the Defendant, Deborah Anne J. Duerring, and Defendant, Donna Elizabeth Tanner, by and through their undersigned counsels of record, pursuant to Rule 5(e)(1) of the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, and hereby file with the Court the following document to be made a part of this action:

1. Transcript of Audio Recording of Conversation Between Judge Stone and Judge Tanner.

This, the 24th day of February 2026.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the undersigned has this date served the foregoing **DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF FILING** in the above-entitled action upon all other parties to this cause via Odyssey eFile & Serve properly addressed as follows:

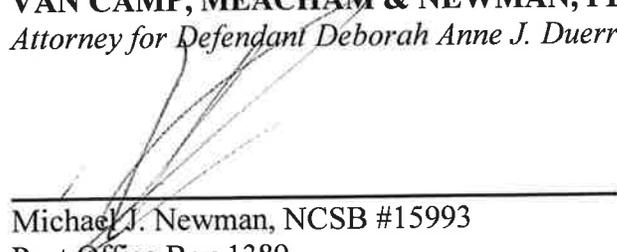
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This, the 24th day of February 2026.

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**1. Transcript of Audio Recording
of Conversation Between
Judge Stone and Judge
Tanner**

Transcript of Audio Recording of Conversation

Between Judge Stone and Judge Tanner

Recorded January 18, 2025

Transcribed by:

Cynthia L. Hall, RPR, PO Box 52, Southern Pines, NC 28388

1 JUDGE STONE: It's fucking eight or nine o'clock in
2 the morning. I wanted to call you because I wanted to talk
3 to you.

4 JUDGE TANNER: I don't have anyway to record this.
5 He's like a friend.

6 JUDGE STONE: Because I want to talk to you. No
7 one's prompted me to call you. In fact, in fact, the better
8 part of me said don't call her. But I'm telling you, that's
9 the way this whole thing's going to run down.

10 JUDGE TANNER: That Sharlene --

11 JUDGE STONE: And --

12 JUDGE TANNER: -- is going to run against me and
13 that you -- and that you -- I mean, I guess my goal is I just
14 want to understand, I mean, Judge Stone, I just want to
15 repeat, like I just want to do a good job in district court,
16 and I've expressed to you what my concerns are right now with
17 leadership in my courthouse.

18 JUDGE STONE: No one's saying -- no one is saying --
19 no one is saying you're not. I'm talking -- didn't you
20 know -- you know, I remember a conversation in the summer of
21 2023.

22 JUDGE TANNER: Uh-huh.

23 JUDGE STONE: And I said to you, what do you need?
24 What do you want? I -- I'm not here to -- I'm not your
25 enemy, for Christ's sake.

1 JUDGE TANNER: Great. And then I'm telling you,
2 what I need and what I want is for me to be rotated through
3 both counties. And what I need and what I want is for me to
4 be assigned --

5 JUDGE STONE: Okay. That is --

6 JUDGE TANNER: -- to juvenile courts --

7 JUDGE STONE: That is --

8 JUDGE TANNER: -- consistent with what the -- the
9 juvenile certification that I've already been approved to get
10 and am getting, and consistent with the fact that my School
11 of Government colleagues think I'm good enough to teach some
12 of the classes there and be involved in some of the panels
13 there.

14 And I appreciate that the chief district court judge
15 makes those decisions, but I also appreciate that you can
16 contact the chief district court judge and let him know that
17 you think I'm an excellent judge, and that we should --

18 JUDGE STONE: Listen --

19 JUDGE TANNER: -- not disenfranchise the voters of
20 Moore County anymore.

21 JUDGE STONE: Are you -- are you -- are you going to
22 listen to me? Are you going to listen to me?

23 JUDGE TANNER: Absolutely I'm going to listen to
24 you, but what I've heard this morning is that you're ready to
25 come after me for reasons I don't understand.

1 JUDGE STONE: How? I'm not ready to come after -- I
2 don't give a shit. Let me -- let's be very clear. You want
3 to run against me? I'll beat you like a fucking drum, if you
4 want to come against me. That's number one.

5 Number two, I don't even want that. I think you're
6 a good judge. I think you got issues with your chief
7 district court judge. Okay?

8 JUDGE TANNER: Then exercise your leadership and
9 talk to him about it.

10 JUDGE STONE: I -- I have -- listen to me. I have.
11 And he's pissed off at you.

12 JUDGE TANNER: For what?

13 JUDGE STONE: Because of shit you said with regard
14 to him -- I don't even know what you said, but you said some
15 shit with regard to him about him not -- him and the politics
16 of it. I don't know -- I don't even know. I don't even know
17 what the fuck was said.

18 JUDGE TANNER: I don't either. I've never said
19 anything about Skipper.

20 JUDGE STONE: Okay. Well, that's between you and
21 him. I don't know. I don't care. But I'll tell you this.
22 I'll tell you this. A, you want to run against me? I'll
23 beat you like a fucking drum.

24 Number two, if you stay in your lane I will support
25 you and help you.

1 Number three, number three, um, this whole deal
2 on -- on your reelection with these other people, whether it
3 be -- I don't even know who the fuck's in the running, what's
4 her name, the D.S.S. woman, what's her name? Um --

5 JUDGE TANNER: Sharlene is who you said.

6 JUDGE STONE: Sharlene. If she -- if she runs
7 against you I think you're going to be fine. What you need
8 to do is relax, relax, campaign, and win your seat back.

9 And -- and -- and I -- and I'll tell you something
10 else. If you really think about things, I'm the only guy
11 that's talking to you legitimately and honestly. The other
12 people aren't going to talk to you. The other people aren't
13 going to be honest with you. They're not going to talk to
14 you honestly as I have. And you should have some goddamn
15 respect over that, because they're not going to fucking talk
16 to you like I'm talking to you.

17 JUDGE TANNER: Do you feel like I don't respect you,
18 or your position? I certainly feel like I -- I do that. I
19 think we otherwise -- I mean, I agree with you, Judge Stone,
20 about one thing. I think when we have worked on things
21 together we have been able to achieve great things. I think
22 that's true. I mean, I think -- I mean, truly in Moore
23 County --

24 JUDGE STONE: That's what I'm trying to --

25 JUDGE TANNER: I tell you the truth, I mean,

1 unfortunately -- it was unfortunate that the thing in Hoke
2 County with the CRAVE did not work out when Chief Creed sort
3 of put the kibosh on that, but you and I --

4 JUDGE STONE: You know who put the kibosh --

5 JUDGE TANNER: I mean --

6 JUDGE STONE: I was going to say, do you know who
7 put the kibosh on that?

8 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah. I think we worked really well
9 together on that. I don't have any issue --

10 JUDGE STONE: Do you know who put the kibosh on
11 that?

12 JUDGE TANNER: I do. Judge Creed.

13 JUDGE STONE: Exactly. Exactly.

14 JUDGE TANNER: I would encourage you, I mean, and
15 I'm being serious about that, I mean, I would encourage you,
16 Judge Stone, I mean, I -- the decision not to rotate me is
17 a -- is a big decision. It's a political decision. Doesn't
18 have anything to do with my service to the people of Moore
19 County. And there is absolutely no reason, I can assure you,
20 there is absolutely no reason that I'm not sitting in court
21 in Moore County.

22 JUDGE STONE: What are you --

23 JUDGE TANNER: And so, if -- if you are invested in
24 me being re-elected as a district court judge, my
25 recommendation would be that you make sure I'm sitting in

1 front of the electorate in Moore County doing an excellent
2 job every day, because that guarantees --

3 JUDGE STONE: Beth --

4 JUDGE TANNER: -- a reelection for me.

5 JUDGE STONE: Beth, would you listen to me? Beth, I
6 want you -- listen to me. A, I don't assign you. That's
7 number one. I don't assign you.

8 JUDGE TANNER: No, you do not.

9 JUDGE STONE: Just -- B, the person that does assign
10 you has assigned you. And C, he's pissed off at you.

11 JUDGE TANNER: Then I would respectfully request
12 that you use your leadership as our senior resident to speak
13 with the chief and explain that what's best for the people
14 isn't how he may personally feel, just like that's not how I
15 personally feel may not be best for the people. But he
16 should be guided by --

17 JUDGE STONE: I will --

18 JUDGE TANNER: -- by my service.

19 JUDGE STONE: I am going to -- I've already --
20 listen. You don't even know this. I've already talked to
21 him about transitioning you back up.

22 JUDGE TANNER: That sounds great.

23 JUDGE STONE: Okay?

24 JUDGE TANNER: We haven't gotten the March calendar.
25 I look forward to seeing my name in Moore County at least

1 half of the time.

2 JUDGE STONE: Now, hold -- hold -- hold on a minute
3 here. I've talked to him about transitioning you up. That
4 doesn't mean -- it doesn't mean -- you know, I'm like face
5 down because of my surgery, and I'm going to have to have
6 another surgery. That doesn't mean he has to do anything.

7 And I'll tell you something else, too. He has his
8 own issues. He has his own issues with J.S.C.

9 JUDGE TANNER: I don't know anything about that.
10 I -- I don't know -- I -- and I -- and I'm sorry. I
11 appreciate that you are, you know, willing to call and talk
12 to me. I just -- I do not know --

13 JUDGE STONE: Anyway, listen --

14 JUDGE TANNER: -- I don't know anything about that.
15 So --

16 JUDGE STONE: Listen, I'm not -- I'm not -- I don't
17 know any of the details, either. All I'm saying is this.
18 All you have to do -- I'm telling you, you can choose -- I
19 feel like everything I say to you, you ignore anyway. But
20 that's neither here nor there.

21 All you have to do, be nice, be nice with Skipper.
22 You're going to get reelected. Don't worry about Marissa
23 Curry. In fact --

24 JUDGE TANNER: Except now I have an additional
25 person to worry about now apparently, which is Sharlene

1 Anderson.

2 JUDGE STONE: Well, I don't know her. Listen, I
3 don't know her. I don't have any control over her. I don't
4 know -- I don't even fucking know her. Okay?

5 JUDGE TANNER: She's the Moore County D.S.S.
6 attorney. And I don't know if you're familiar, but D.S.S.
7 was recently, the county was recently sued with an
8 extraordinary lawsuit about something that happened with
9 Moore County D.S.S. But that's neither here nor there.

10 In any event, that would be news to me that she was
11 running against me because she certainly --

12 JUDGE STONE: Is she --

13 JUDGE TANNER: -- let me know she wasn't seeking the
14 appointment. She called me and had a conversation with me.
15 I asked her directly, hey, you know, I just like to be open,
16 and I don't own a seat, so, I don't, you know, that's the
17 people's seat.

18 JUDGE STONE: Okay.

19 JUDGE TANNER: And she told me directly she was not
20 going to run against me. So that is news to me today.

21 JUDGE STONE: Okay. Maybe -- maybe -- I don't know
22 her. Okay? I don't know her. So, you know, so don't take
23 what I'm saying -- I don't know her. Okay? I don't know
24 her. I don't talk to her. I'm just saying what I hear.

25 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah. So I am nice to Skipper. I

1 don't know what else to tell you about that. So if
2 somebody's told you something else, that's not true.

3 JUDGE STONE: Listen, I'm not saying you're not
4 nice.

5 JUDGE TANNER: Uh-huh. So I can't impact Skipper's
6 ability to like me or not. If I'm competent and that
7 concerns him --

8 JUDGE STONE: Beth, Beth --

9 JUDGE TANNER: -- I think that's what you said
10 earlier, that he --

11 JUDGE STONE: Beth, Beth --

12 JUDGE TANNER: -- I'm good and he doesn't like that,
13 which is probably true. But I can't do anything about that.
14 I'm not going to be bad at my job.

15 JUDGE STONE: Can we speak like human beings here?

16 JUDGE TANNER: Sure.

17 JUDGE STONE: When I talk to you, you're
18 adversarial. I'm not talking with you adversarially. I'm
19 talking to you as a person. I want -- I -- I think you're a
20 good judge. I want us to be able to speak like colleagues,
21 and you not get all, you know -- I'm trying to help you.

22 Just don't rock the boat. If anybody comes after
23 you, if anybody -- listen, if anybody comes after you,
24 fucking go adversarial on their ass. I agree. Go fucking
25 adversarial on their ass. But -- but just relax. Relax.

1 You're in your, you know, you're in your, what, fourth year,
2 is that --

3 JUDGE TANNER: My third year.

4 JUDGE STONE: Third --

5 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, in my first term.

6 JUDGE STONE: Okay. Just be a good judge and be
7 nice and relaxing.

8 JUDGE TANNER: But I am --

9 JUDGE STONE: Now --

10 JUDGE TANNER: I feel like I am those things. So
11 maybe it would be helpful for me to understand why you feel
12 like I'm not any of those things.

13 JUDGE STONE: No, no. Hold on a minute here. Don't
14 put words in my mouth. I never said that. Do not put words
15 in my mouth.

16 JUDGE TANNER: No, no. I don't mean that ugly. I'm
17 just saying, I mean, honestly, I mean, if we're having -- I
18 mean, I think this is helpful for you to tell me --

19 JUDGE STONE: I'm telling you, what I'm telling you
20 for your reelection, don't worry about Marissa Curry.

21 JUDGE TANNER: So you are not supporting Marissa
22 Curry --

23 JUDGE STONE: No.

24 JUDGE TANNER: -- in a reelection campaign against
25 me?

1 JUDGE STONE: In fact, I'm pissed off that things
2 have been said about that. Now, do I know where that's
3 coming from? Yes.

4 JUDGE TANNER: Where is that coming from?

5 JUDGE STONE: And I'm -- where do you think it's
6 fucking coming from?

7 JUDGE TANNER: I mean, up until this moment, you. I
8 mean, up until this phone call, I mean, I wouldn't have any
9 reason not to --

10 JUDGE STONE: If that's what you think -- if that's
11 what you think you're not as smart as the woman I thought you
12 are.

13 JUDGE TANNER: So you mean that maybe Mr. Maness
14 said that you were supporting someone's reelection campaign
15 and that wasn't true?

16 JUDGE STONE: I think other people -- I think other
17 people are saying that. And in the end I think other people
18 are going to draw her off from even running.

19 JUDGE TANNER: Okay.

20 JUDGE STONE: Okay?

21 JUDGE TANNER: And so then that leaves me with
22 Sharlene Anderson.

23 JUDGE STONE: I guess. Again, I don't know her. I
24 don't know anything about this woman.

25 JUDGE TANNER: Uh-huh.

1 JUDGE STONE: Okay? I don't know her.

2 JUDGE TANNER: But you are a long-time practicing
3 parent attorney prior to this; right?

4 JUDGE STONE: I never -- I never in one time, never
5 in one time have I appeared in a courtroom with her as my
6 opposition. Not once.

7 JUDGE TANNER: Okay. But you do agree that I'm an
8 excellent juvenile judge; right?

9 JUDGE STONE: Forget the juvenile judge. I think --
10 I think that you -- I think that you're very conscientious as
11 a good judge. Forget juvenile judge. I -- here's what I
12 think. I think that you are a good judge. I think that you
13 sometimes can be a little misguided. And when I say that, I
14 don't mean that to be mean. I say that -- you know,
15 you've -- you've got to learn the system and the programs.
16 And with all due respect, Beth, you never really practiced
17 law.

18 JUDGE TANNER: That's inaccurate.

19 JUDGE STONE: You never --

20 JUDGE TANNER: That's inaccurate. You know that;
21 right?

22 JUDGE STONE: No, I don't know that.

23 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, I practiced for six years in a
24 private firm and I did medical malpractice defense work. I
25 chaired multiple cases --

1 JUDGE STONE: Listen, I did medical malpractice. As
2 a matter of fact --

3 JUDGE TANNER: Let me be clear about that. I
4 chaired --

5 JUDGE STONE: -- I met your father.

6 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, you did. I worked in one of
7 the best firms in Raleigh and I tried multiple cases. And
8 then when I worked for the state, I chaired nine federal
9 trials. Nine.

10 JUDGE STONE: Okay. Great.

11 JUDGE TANNER: I never -- I never lost a trial. So
12 let me be clear about that. I practiced in district court
13 all over the state. I practiced family law. I -- I am
14 absolutely a trial lawyer, every day, all day long.

15 And when I was hired at the commission, I was hired
16 for that very purpose. I was hired because the commission
17 was having a lot of challenges. They did not have a civil
18 lawyer, and I went and heard every motion. I went to other
19 states and heard motions and did things and was in -- all
20 over the country. So do not be mistaken --

21 JUDGE STONE: I mean, so -- so --

22 JUDGE TANNER: -- that I'm not a trial lawyer.

23 JUDGE STONE: So -- so did I. I mean, I can't tell
24 you how many states I've been in depositions --

25 JUDGE TANNER: Excellent.

1 JUDGE STONE: Okay.

2 JUDGE TANNER: So if it is -- if it is something
3 that somebody's out there saying that I'm not a trial lawyer,
4 they're going -- they're sadly mistaken about that. I have
5 an extraordinary record as a trial attorney with clients --

6 JUDGE STONE: Good. Good. I hope you --

7 JUDGE TANNER: -- who are ready to talk about that.

8 JUDGE STONE: Good. I hope you bring that up. I
9 hope you bring that up.

10 JUDGE TANNER: So there's nothing to say about that.
11 So I don't know where else we're going here.

12 But my question for you is, I think it sounds like
13 you think I'm an excellent district court judge. So what am
14 I misguided about? Tell me, because legitimately I don't
15 know. I mean, I'm just -- I try to go to work every day and
16 do my job and I try to do the best job I can do. That's all
17 I'm trying to do. Seriously. I know that may be unusual in
18 Moore County --

19 JUDGE STONE: Here's the deal.

20 JUDGE TANNER: -- but that's actually what I want to
21 do.

22 JUDGE STONE: I -- I -- you asked me a question and
23 I'm going to answer you. Do you want me to answer your
24 question?

25 JUDGE TANNER: Yes. How is it you think I'm

1 misguided?

2 JUDGE STONE: Well, I'm not going to get into that.
3 But I will say this. If you just mind your Ps and Qs, you're
4 going to get reelected.

5 JUDGE TANNER: So what does that mean? What am I
6 not minding?

7 JUDGE STONE: You figure -- you know what? You're
8 a smart woman, you figure it out.

9 Second of all, and second of all, Marissa Curry is
10 not a threat to you, and she won't be, and she won't be. And
11 that's number two.

12 Now, this whole thing with Sharlene Anderson, I
13 don't know her. I don't know anything about her. I don't
14 know. But I am not your enemy. I have nothing against you.
15 I sup -- you know, I -- I -- I -- I -- I -- you know, you act
16 as if -- you and I have talked and you acted like I'm your
17 enemy. I've done nothing, nothing, nothing, I've taken no
18 actions to be your enemy. And if you just play your cards
19 right we'll be damned allies. But don't come against me and
20 act like we're, you know, not allies. Are we crystal clear
21 on this?

22 JUDGE TANNER: I -- crystal clear on what?

23 JUDGE STONE: What I just said.

24 JUDGE TANNER: That I shouldn't come against -- I'm
25 sorry. I didn't understand. You said don't come against

1 me --

2 JUDGE STONE: I'll be your biggest fan, but don't
3 come against me, because if you come against me I won't be
4 your biggest fan. Just relax, do your job, relax, and people
5 like -- I don't support Marissa Curry going against you,
6 because I heard that and I was like, goddamn, where did that
7 even come from?

8 JUDGE TANNER: Well, it sounds like we -- we -- you
9 know, and I've identified --

10 JUDGE STONE: No, I don't know. No, I don't know.

11 JUDGE TANNER: Okay. So you're not sure if that's
12 come from the clerk or not?

13 JUDGE STONE: Well, I don't know, other than the
14 fact that I have -- I have suspicions.

15 JUDGE TANNER: Uh-huh.

16 JUDGE STONE: I have suspicions where it came from,
17 and it doesn't make me happy, you know.

18 JUDGE TANNER: Well, then, here's what I would say
19 about that. I appreciate your phone call. And, you know,
20 one way to sort of resolve this in my assessment of it is,
21 like I said, I request for you as leadership to have a
22 conversation with the chief. I need to be rotated --

23 JUDGE STONE: Well --

24 JUDGE TANNER: -- back through. I get it. You
25 don't control him, but you are the senior resident and that

1 does carry with it gravitas and respect and all the things
2 that we give the senior resident, and those things I believe
3 I have given you thus far --

4 JUDGE STONE: Well, let me --

5 JUDGE TANNER: -- and I have continued to give you,
6 for sure.

7 JUDGE STONE: I will get -- listen, I will get you
8 back as soon as he can -- he's under some kind of belief that
9 you have to be there for six months from some J.S.C. shit. I
10 don't know what the details are. I don't know. I don't
11 care. But he's under some kind of belief that -- of J.S.C.
12 sending you away for six months.

13 JUDGE TANNER: Interesting.

14 JUDGE STONE: I don't now.

15 JUDGE TANNER: How would you know about anything of
16 that? And the facts don't support that, Judge Stone. That's
17 what I'm going to tell you.

18 JUDGE STONE: What do you mean the facts -- what the
19 fuck you talking about the facts don't support --

20 JUDGE TANNER: I'm going to tell you that. I'm
21 going to tell you that. That's not -- if somebody's told you
22 that, that's inaccurate.

23 JUDGE STONE: Well, I can tell you who fucking told
24 me that.

25 JUDGE TANNER: Who?

1 JUDGE STONE: Skipper.

2 JUDGE TANNER: Well, then I guess Skipper will be on
3 an island when he is asked to return me to the voters who
4 duly elected me.

5 JUDGE STONE: He's going -- he's going -- listen,
6 he's going to return you. I've already talked to him about
7 that.

8 JUDGE TANNER: Great. I look forward to the March
9 calendar.

10 JUDGE STONE: Are you going -- are you going to be
11 confrontational or are you going to listen to me?

12 JUDGE TANNER: I'm not confrontational. I am firm
13 on that. I --

14 JUDGE STONE: No, no, no, just listen to me --

15 JUDGE TANNER: I am firm with you and I am firm with
16 Skipper about that. It's not what's best for the people,
17 Judge Stone.

18 JUDGE STONE: Now, listen to me. I've already told
19 him he's going to have to bring you back. I've told him he's
20 going to have -- I mean, let me repeat this. It sounds
21 vaguely important. I've already told him he's going to have
22 to bring you back.

23 JUDGE TANNER: Excellent. And I hope that you've
24 understood from me today, I have no animus towards Todd. I
25 never have.

1 JUDGE STONE: I don't --

2 JUDGE TANNER: I wish him well. I hope he's --
3 literally, it is my hope that he becomes the most qualified
4 clerk in the state of North Carolina, because that is what is
5 best for the people we serve. And I'm serious about that. I
6 mean that with every bit of my heart. I don't wish him any
7 ill will. I wish him no harm. I wish him nothing but that
8 he would do his job. That is all I wish. And I am
9 confident --

10 JUDGE STONE: All right.

11 JUDGE TANNER: -- that as long as he does his job I
12 can go do my job. That's it. That's literally -- that's it.

13 JUDGE STONE: Well, listen --

14 JUDGE TANNER: And can I be honest with you? Do I
15 get along every single day with everything that happens in
16 Hoke County? Absolutely not. That's not real life. Are we
17 doing an amazing job there and do I have an excellent
18 relationship with the clerk's office there? Absolutely, I
19 do. Absolutely. So it is not an issue of me and my
20 performance with the clerk. It's just not.

21 I have a great relationship with Ms. McLeod. And
22 that is not to say that she thinks that everything that
23 happens every day in district court is the best way that it
24 happens. It is to say that we have forged an excellent
25 relationship. I intend to do the same thing with any clerk I

1 work with no matter what county that's in.

2 So I -- I don't have any animus toward him. I want
3 to be clear about that. I don't. I never have.

4 And if I'm quite frank with you, there's -- there
5 have been times, though he would not know it, I'm sure of it,
6 even since the show cause was issued there have been times
7 that when there were things that the clerk's office in Moore
8 County wanted and they came up in group meetings in the
9 district court judge's office and they were reasonable and
10 rational, I have advocated on his behalf that the chief
11 district court judge should entertain those requests, because
12 right is right. And that is how I'm going to run my life
13 every day. And that's how I'm going to run it as a judge.

14 I'm concerned that someone has called you and --
15 and -- and given you some concern about why you should call
16 me, or that I'm difficult to get along with.

17 JUDGE STONE: No --

18 JUDGE TANNER: I'm just not. I was honest with you.

19 JUDGE STONE: Beth, Beth.

20 JUDGE TANNER: I was honest with you --

21 JUDGE STONE: Beth.

22 JUDGE TANNER: -- at that lunch, and that remains.

23 I mean, it's true.

24 JUDGE STONE: Beth, listen to me. Nobody called me
25 to call you. Nobody called me to call you.

1 JUDGE TANNER: Well, maybe I'm concerned that
2 someone called you and said something to you that's not
3 accurate that I had said. I have not said anything more than
4 what I told you directly at lunch a year ago (laughing).
5 I've never said another thing.

6 JUDGE STONE: I want you to be successful. I want
7 you to win reelection. I just want you to just relax. No
8 one's called me to talk to you about this.

9 JUDGE TANNER: So, help me understand then, Judge
10 Stone.

11 JUDGE STONE: Help you understand what?

12 JUDGE TANNER: What -- no, seriously, talk to me
13 like I'm two. What is it that I'm doing that isn't relaxed?
14 I'm going to work every day. I'm doing my job. I work hard.

15 JUDGE STONE: Well, let me -- let me tell you.
16 Well, first of all, you managed to piss off the district --
17 the chief district court judge. You managed to do that.

18 JUDGE TANNER: But Judge Stone, can we agree --

19 JUDGE STONE: I don't know what --

20 JUDGE TANNER: -- that the reason that Judge Creed
21 is angry with me is because I'm competent? I haven't done
22 anything to Judge Creed. I go to work and do my job.

23 JUDGE STONE: Okay. Okay. Listen. I don't have a
24 dog in this fight.

25 JUDGE TANNER: Right.

1 JUDGE STONE: I'm not -- I'm not in the district
2 courtroom. I don't care. Okay? In all candor, I just want
3 things to work smoothly. Okay? And --

4 JUDGE TANNER: Then the best thing for that is to
5 probably help Skipper to understand that continuing to
6 mistreat me, because Judge Stone, I will tell you, I will be
7 frank with you and tell you --

8 JUDGE STONE: Has he been mistreating you?

9 JUDGE TANNER: Absolutely. Absolutely. He called
10 my one eye, when I needed -- and I do, I have a very
11 difficult time parking in the spaces assigned to district
12 court judge.

13 JUDGE STONE: Well, listen, just so you know --

14 JUDGE TANNER: And one got moved for me --

15 JUDGE STONE: I'm going --

16 JUDGE TANNER: -- and when I couldn't park in that
17 one, do you know what he --

18 JUDGE STONE: And I'm blind in one eye, too.

19 JUDGE TANNER: Right. It's hard, and I know you're
20 going to be sympathetic with me. Do you know what he said?
21 That essentially my eye was an aggravation to him, having to
22 deal with my disability was an aggravation to him.

23 Our relationship started off as a woman who was
24 having unpredictable bleeding patterns. I was told I could
25 not keep tampons in an office drawer in Hoke County. Okay?

1 So --

2 JUDGE STONE: Well, that --

3 JUDGE TANNER: That was absolutely unacceptable.

4 Do you know that a bailiff in Hoke County has had to
5 address him about the way he speaks to women attorneys in the
6 courtroom? And when we're in meetings the way he speaks to
7 me is entirely inappropriate.

8 So I want to be clear about that. I haven't done
9 anything to Judge Creed. And let me tell you what I have not
10 done. What I have not done is gone and said anything to
11 anyone about that unless I was asked, because I believe in
12 maintaining the integrity of our office and in working out
13 the issues we have as judges amongst each other, which I
14 believe you and I have done an excellent job of doing. We
15 appeared to have created a relationship. I know you think --
16 for some reason you think today I'm being adversarial, but
17 I'm not.

18 I'm telling you right now the decision to not put me
19 in Moore County is political and it will impact my political
20 future, and I'm aware of that, and I get it. And the
21 decision to cut down my juvenile work is intentional --

22 JUDGE STONE: Well, I have told him at some point he
23 has to bring you back. I agree that --

24 JUDGE TANNER: -- is intentional to make sure I
25 cannot get a certification to take into a reelection. Now,

1 my opinion about that is that's harmful to the people because
2 getting that certification is helpful to the people. I'm not
3 dumb. I understand that you think I don't understand the
4 politics. I do. I get it. He's using his role as chief to
5 make political decisions, not administrative ones. And I
6 believe that the law won't allow him to do that.

7 And what I don't want to do is to be pushed back
8 into a corner where my only way out is to use litigation to
9 make sure that's what gets done. But that is where we're
10 going.

11 So I hope that you've had a good conversation with
12 Chief Creed. I have certainly had to have multiple
13 conversations with him, and I have tried to work at this out.

14 So as a senior resident, I'm telling you the best
15 thing for my reelection campaign is that my heinie is sitting
16 in Moore County.

17 JUDGE STONE: All right.

18 JUDGE TANNER: And I'm happy to do that.

19 JUDGE STONE: Stop. Stop for a minute. You just
20 men -- you just mentioned your conversations with Skipper and
21 my conversations with Skipper (laughing), and I hate to laugh
22 about this, but if you've had multiple conversations with
23 him, then you know that -- then you know the -- the -- the
24 substance, the extent of how those conversations go.

25 JUDGE TANNER: You mean I know how it is to speak

1 with Skipper?

2 JUDGE STONE: Yeah.

3 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah. So what I don't know is that
4 despite going to him on multiple occasions to try and work,
5 with like to say to him, Judge Creed, let's -- what is it
6 that you need from me? He has never said to me that he had
7 an issue with anything I've done or said. So it's shocking
8 to me that instead of coming to me directly he has chosen to
9 talk to other people, who knows who those other people, about
10 being frustrated with me about something, I don't know. I
11 mean, what you said was something I said. I got no idea.

12 JUDGE STONE: Let -- let the record reflect he
13 hasn't come to me and asked me to come talk to you.

14 JUDGE TANNER: Okay. Well, the good news for
15 Skipper is if there's a concern about anything I'm saying,
16 all of my courts are recorded, even my criminal court. I am
17 ordering that they be recorded. So I'm good. Like, I don't
18 say anything about anybody.

19 JUDGE STONE: Beth, Beth, listen to me. Listen to
20 me. I don't have any animosity towards you. I think you
21 need to -- I don't have -- I don't -- you've done nothing to
22 me. I have no animosity.

23 All I'm trying to do is this. I want you to win
24 reelection. I don't want you to worry about Marissa Curry.
25 And I think if you play your cards right you're going to get

1 reelected. That's the purpose of my call. Okay?

2 And, again, I don't have any -- you know, and if you
3 really look at things, the conversations we've had I don't
4 think have been bad. The conversations we've had, I've been
5 very pro Beth Tanner. And so you need to realize that. And
6 this whole thing about Marissa, she -- that's just going to
7 be put -- I mean, that may not even happen.

8 Now, the second thing is, this whole thing with
9 what's her name -- what's -- what's her --

10 JUDGE TANNER: Sharlene?

11 JUDGE STONE: Yeah, Shar -- I don't know her. I
12 don't -- I don't know her. I don't have any contact with
13 her. I don't know her. I don't know what -- what her game
14 is. I don't know. Okay?

15 But I will tell you this. If you just be nice and
16 play your game, be competent, I don't see how she's going to
17 knock off an incumbent. Okay? So that's where I stand. I
18 hope you appreciate I called you, because most people aren't
19 going to call you.

20 But the first thing is, and I told Robert, I mean, I
21 told Robert, I said, I don't even know where she's getting
22 this stuff about Marissa Curry -- well, I think I do know
23 where it's coming from. I do think I know where it's coming
24 from.

25 JUDGE TANNER: Where?

1 JUDGE STONE: I think it comes from Todd.

2 JUDGE TANNER: Hmm.

3 JUDGE STONE: I think Todd hates you -- well, I know
4 Todd hates you and you hate Todd.

5 JUDGE TANNER: I do not hate Todd.

6 JUDGE STONE: Okay. Well, all right. You
7 understand what I'm saying?

8 JUDGE TANNER: Todd is the elected clerk in our
9 district -- in Moore County. No, I'm not trying to be funny
10 with that. I really don't hate Todd. I have no -- I just
11 want Todd to go to work and do his job. That's it. That's
12 all I want. I ain't got to like -- listen, I don't have to
13 like a single soul in that courthouse to go to work and do
14 good work.

15 JUDGE STONE: Right. Whatever. Whatever. I'm just
16 saying --

17 JUDGE TANNER: I mean, I agree with you. I think
18 you and I have a fine relationship. I don't know that, you
19 know, I don't know where we even put sort of liking each
20 other as far as like hanging out, but I think that regardless
21 of that, I firmly believe that when we have been left to work
22 on things together, that you have supported me. Like in Hoke
23 County and that CRAVE system, and we were going to go do
24 amazing work. I don't ever have an issue with that. I think
25 that's true.

1 I think that's true of -- frankly, I think that
2 would be true of Todd. And I will tell you, I don't know
3 what it was that set Todd off as far as not liking me, but it
4 happened well before that show cause, because Todd's goal
5 between what was happening was to make it nearly impossible
6 for me to get files or do my job. And that -- that was
7 the -- I mean, the result was what you saw. I mean, and
8 that's -- and I went to Skipper. I went to Skipper in
9 writing on multiple occasions about the challenges I was
10 having. And I don't mean that ugly.

11 But I think right now with the way the building is
12 set up and with Odyssey, quite frankly, a lot of the
13 challenges I was having with the clerk's office about getting
14 me files are gone because Odyssey makes it so that I could
15 have files all the time, and it works fine.

16 So I just don't -- and I do, while I had deep
17 disagreements with the administrative order that you and
18 Skipper entered, I shared those disagreements with Skipper.
19 It did provide a road map, exactly what I said when I was
20 quoted in The Pilot. It provided a road map, and it helped
21 us organize things. I thought that was helpful, even if I
22 disagreed with it and understood that it was not intended to
23 be helpful for me. But I still thought it provided a road
24 map, and I appreciated that. I appreciated the leadership in
25 that.

1 But what I'm asking for you now is to exercise some
2 leadership. So it's not me. I'm not the one talking about
3 Todd Maness. And I'm not the one talking about --

4 JUDGE STONE: What are you -- what are you --

5 JUDGE TANNER: -- about opponents.

6 JUDGE STONE: What are you asking me to exercise
7 leadership?

8 JUDGE TANNER: I'm asking you to make sure Skipper
9 understands that it is in the best interest of the citizens
10 of Moore County and consistent with the law --

11 JUDGE STONE: I don't --

12 JUDGE TANNER: -- that I be in Moore County. We
13 have not issued the March calendar.

14 JUDGE STONE: Beth --

15 JUDGE TANNER: I expect to see my name there in
16 March.

17 JUDGE STONE: All right. Beth --

18 JUDGE TANNER: Period.

19 JUDGE STONE: Beth. Beth. I have already talked to
20 him about this more than one -- on more than one occasion.
21 I've already talked to him about that.

22 JUDGE TANNER: Excellent. And as far as the
23 juvenile certifications --

24 JUDGE STONE: Now, now, now --

25 JUDGE TANNER: -- since you have been a juvenile

1 judge for so long, I think you should encourage him to assign
2 me in juvenile court.

3 JUDGE STONE: Beth, stop. Stop. Listen to me.
4 I've already talked to him about him bringing you back to
5 Moore County. Okay? I've already done that, more than one
6 occasion. Your issue isn't with me having talked to him
7 about that. The issue is with you and him because --

8 JUDGE TANNER: I don't know then what his plan is.
9 Judge Stone, maybe you can help me understand, because it
10 would appear to me if I don't win a judicial seat, the next
11 time a judicial seat is up is him.

12 JUDGE STONE: Look, well --

13 JUDGE TANNER: So I'm not really sure what his
14 thought would be about that.

15 JUDGE STONE: Do you know what's funny about that?
16 (Laughing.) You know what's funny about that? We agree. We
17 wholeheartedly -- he's lucky he went unopposed at this --

18 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah. So I guess my question for him
19 would be, and perhaps if he has any friends they will inquire
20 with him, if he makes my reelection difficult does he think
21 that I will just swan off into the sunset? Or does he not
22 expect to see me again in two more years running against
23 whatever judges are there.

24 JUDGE STONE: We won't even discuss that.

25 JUDGE TANNER: Right. Because I will be clear, I'm

1 not Darren Allen.

2 JUDGE STONE: I mean, we've already discussed that.

3 JUDGE TANNER: Right.

4 JUDGE STONE: And you know -- and you know he's not
5 very popular. I don't know if you know that or not.

6 JUDGE TANNER: I do know that. He almost got beat
7 by another judge when the district was re -- was drawn
8 differently.

9 And I will tell you right now that I am confident
10 already of several elected officials who would endorse me
11 specifically if I went and had -- and ended up running
12 against Skipper, if that was the situation I was put in.

13 So I'm not sure where Skipper's going with that,
14 either, from a political perspective. He may not like me
15 every day in the office, and I don't know why, because I
16 think what I bring to our office is a level of competency and
17 an expectation of service to the people that is different
18 than has been previously in that office. I think it's
19 excellent.

20 To -- to be frank with you, I think -- I think it's
21 interesting that the person that everybody alleges I came
22 here to run against, Judge Joe, now is a colleague that
23 respects me very much. So I don't think it's an issue that
24 I'm not able to get along with colleagues. I would dare say
25 that you seem to respect me. You respect me enough to call

1 me today. You respect me enough to engage in a relationship
2 with me when it comes to work, which I think is true. I
3 think that's true of us. I think we've been able to do those
4 things.

5 So I don't know what Skipper's goal is there, but it
6 would appear to me that it would behoove him, um, to consider
7 getting along with me. That's just my opinion.

8 JUDGE STONE: Beth, I'm listening to everything
9 you're saying and kind of laughing because you've worked with
10 Skipper. Don't you know, (laughing) to quote Martin Luther
11 King, don't you know -- don't you know the content of his
12 character? I'm sorry to laugh, but you know the content of
13 his character.

14 JUDGE TANNER: Well, he appears to be very
15 influenced by your opinion, so I --

16 JUDGE STONE: My opinion?

17 JUDGE TANNER: -- appreciate -- absolutely. So I
18 appreciate --

19 JUDGE STONE: Well, wait. Why do you say that?

20 JUDGE TANNER: Because he says that. Because he
21 says that. So let me be abundantly clear. Judge Creed puts
22 a whole lot of things at your feet about decision making, and
23 that's between you and him.

24 JUDGE STONE: Well, I think that's -- I think that's
25 an excuse, is what I think it is.

1 JUDGE TANNER: So maybe when he's telling you why
2 he's making certain decisions you can understand why you
3 should take that with a grain of salt. Because I will tell
4 you that he has certainly put at your feet a number of
5 decisions that I did not think sounded like decisions that
6 would have come from you.

7 JUDGE STONE: Well, I -- I'm -- I'm -- I'm now
8 educated because I had no idea. (Laughing) I mean -- now --
9 anyway. Just kind of laughing at that.

10 You do know that Skipper is the laughing stock
11 amongst the state judiciary? (Laughing) You do know that;
12 right?

13 Anyway. And if he's putting it in my feet, that's
14 not -- that's not good. I'll address that if I hear it. But
15 listen --

16 JUDGE TANNER: Well, you're hearing it today, and
17 I'm just letting you know. You're hearing it today. He's
18 going to put a lot of things at your feet. I mean, I'm
19 just -- I'm telling you that.

20 And I'm telling you that my plan in moving forward,
21 and maybe this is a challenge, but I'll be fully honest with
22 you. In my office, in my district court judge's office when
23 it comes to the work and the service of the people, I believe
24 in full transparency. I like to have group meetings. I like
25 to be part of that. I will take --

1 JUDGE STONE: Let me just say this.

2 JUDGE TANNER: I'll take criticism if you got -- if
3 you've got criticism about my work or how I'm doing things, I
4 hope, and I'm not trying to be difficult with you in this
5 phone call in any way. That's not at all. I'm open to
6 hearing that. I'm happy to hear that. I always want to be
7 better. But it has to change that I'm only --

8 JUDGE STONE: I do not have any -- I do not have any
9 issues with what you're doing in court. None. I don't hear
10 anything.

11 JUDGE TANNER: Excellent.

12 JUDGE STONE: I don't have any issues. That's
13 number one.

14 Number two, it's not within my purview. The
15 superior court is not within the purview of the district
16 court. I'd say that's purview. That's number two.

17 Number three, you are a smart woman. You're smart.
18 I got it. I can, just us talking I know you're smart. Okay?

19 I am not -- I don't know where this whole thing with
20 Marissa is coming about, you know, saying things. I'm not
21 going -- listen, I would be a dumbass, I would be a complete
22 dumbass to come out and support anybody, whether it be her or
23 anybody. That's number three. I don't care. If you get
24 reelected, hell, I'll be there and drink your champagne if
25 you get reelected. Okay? That -- that's number three and

1 number four.

2 Number five, don't be an enemy with me. Just be --
3 just because -- just because Todd is an enemy with you
4 doesn't mean I'll be an enemy with you. Okay? That's not,
5 you know --

6 JUDGE TANNER: But you do understand, of course,
7 that because you and Todd are such close friends, and because
8 it appears that he's representing your opinion about an
9 opponent against me --

10 JUDGE STONE: Well, I can't --

11 JUDGE TANNER: -- that I can't just ignore that;
12 right? Like, I mean, I can't just sit around politically,
13 you would understand that, just like you can't ignore things.

14 JUDGE STONE: I do, listen, I do understand that.

15 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, and you do understand that when
16 Ray Daly goes around and snaps photos and you're standing
17 with a woman and Todd, and Todd is allegedly saying that --

18 JUDGE STONE: Well, snapping photos of a woman --

19 JUDGE TANNER: Oh, yeah. I'm letting you know that.
20 I mean, there's some excellent pictures of you and Todd and
21 Marissa. So --

22 JUDGE STONE: Well, that's bull -- that's all
23 bullshit from after the -- Warren's -- Warren's --

24 JUDGE TANNER: It might be.

25 JUDGE STONE: By the way --

1 JUDGE TANNER: But I mean --

2 JUDGE STONE: -- by the way --

3 JUDGE TANNER: -- when Todd --

4 JUDGE STONE: Why wouldn't --

5 JUDGE TANNER: Let me be clear. When he waves those
6 around and says you're endorsing her, you can understand, I
7 mean, Judge Stone, even if I fight my seat, even if that's
8 what I choose to do --

9 JUDGE STONE: By the way why weren't -- hold on a
10 minute. By the way, why weren't you there at Warren's --

11 JUDGE TANNER: I was on vacation with my family.

12 JUDGE STONE: Okay. All right.

13 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, I was on vacation with my
14 family. I let Warren know that. I let him know well in
15 advance.

16 JUDGE STONE: I didn't -- I didn't know that.

17 JUDGE TANNER: Right. Because, I mean, I -- I let
18 the person being sworn in know, I let Judge Stading know that
19 I wouldn't be there, and I said I'm so sorry but I was on
20 vacation with my family.

21 JUDGE STONE: Well, I wish you would have told me,
22 because I actually asked -- I said some of the district court
23 judges are here, and I went through the whole roster of
24 district -- the only ones that were there were -- was Judge
25 Bibey, and Judge McSweeney, and even -- God bless his soul,

1 Skipper was -- he sat in the very back of the courtroom. I
2 was like, I think it was Skipper, come on.

3 JUDGE TANNER: Well, I'll be happy in the future to
4 let you know when I'm not going to be at certain courthouse
5 events like that, I had let Warren know for sure, if that's
6 important to you.

7 But, I mean, I'll be honest, Judge Stone, I mean, I
8 tried to --

9 JUDGE STONE: It's --

10 JUDGE TANNER: -- sort of reach out to you about
11 Judge Joe's stuff, and I will tell you what I was told back
12 was that you were angry about that. I didn't know why. I
13 had talked to Christy about it well before I got involved in
14 it to make sure that I wasn't stepping on anybody's toes on
15 that.

16 JUDGE STONE: Listen, I'm not -- first of all, I'm
17 not --

18 JUDGE TANNER: And you didn't call me back, and I
19 thought, well, maybe --

20 JUDGE STONE: Listen --

21 JUDGE TANNER: -- he's frustrated with me about
22 that.

23 JUDGE STONE: No, I was --

24 JUDGE TANNER: But I kept moving forward.

25 JUDGE STONE: Listen to me. Listen to me. I'm glad

1 that you're doing it. I served with her. I served with her.
2 I was an attorney before her. I served with her. I hope
3 that she has -- I am not going to be there because I have
4 had -- I've got this -- what you don't know is with the --
5 this eye surgery I have, I have to be face down 24 hours a
6 day in a chair mechanism.

7 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, I know, and I know, Christy had
8 let me know that, and I didn't have -- I understood that.
9 Like I don't think that's -- I'm so sorry that you're having
10 that situation for sure.

11 JUDGE STONE: And the surgery, I went to the doctor
12 yesterday, and the surgery has complications which he told me
13 I have to have another surgery. Okay?

14 JUDGE TANNER: I'm sorry to hear that.

15 JUDGE STONE: So -- so I'm not going to be there for
16 her thing, and I hope that you tell everybody why.

17 JUDGE TANNER: Yes, I think everybody knows why.

18 JUDGE STONE: And Judge Ammons and I have talked,
19 and I have asked Judge Ammons to preside over the special
20 session because he and Judge Joe had a bond from when he
21 was -- she was over there with him in Cumberland County, and
22 he asked if he could do it. I said by all means.

23 JUDGE TANNER: Yes, and he had let me know that you
24 guys had talked, because obviously that's completely up to
25 y'all (laughing), you know, who runs that piece of it.

1 JUDGE STONE: So, I mean, even as I talk to you
2 right now, my eye is -- I've got to go take some Tylenol
3 because my eye's hurting right now.

4 But the -- but the point I'm trying to make is this,
5 and I want you to listen to this, and I want you to let this
6 burn in deeply into your soul. Okay? And I was -- and by
7 the way, I want you to tell your father, I remember going
8 against your father in med mal cases. He remembered me. I
9 don't know if he told you that.

10 JUDGE TANNER: He did.

11 JUDGE STONE: He remembered me. He and I went
12 against each other in med mal cases years ago, years -- I
13 mean, years and years ago. And I don't have anything against
14 you. I want you to be successful. People that I know and
15 may be friends with probably don't, but that's not me. I'm
16 my own man. Okay? And -- and I know, just by talking with
17 you, you're a smart woman. You're a great -- you're a smart
18 attorney, and I don't have any problems with that.

19 Now, now, just like you said, if you're going to run
20 against me, I will fucking crush anyone who runs against me.
21 I'll do that, because I've never had an election where I
22 didn't had anybody run. And if you know anything about me, I
23 was the first Republican that won reelection in a
24 democratically held district. Do you know that? I don't
25 know if you know that or not.

1 JUDGE TANNER: Uh-huh.

2 JUDGE STONE: Did you know that?

3 JUDGE TANNER: I do.

4 JUDGE STONE: Okay. So I will fucking crush anybody
5 that runs against me. But I don't think you're going to run.
6 I honestly -- maybe you will. But I don't think you're going
7 to run against me.

8 I will support you and do things to help you. I'm
9 friendly. I'm a nice guy, you know, and I'm not going to
10 let -- and even if people that are allies of mine hate you,
11 you know, I'm going to be like, just fucking let this shit
12 go, you know, let it go.

13 I'm -- in fact, if you want to know the truth, I'm
14 the one that told everybody to fucking settle that -- all
15 those lawsuit shits back -- back, was it December of last
16 year? Whatever it was. A year ago, year and a half ago.
17 I'm the one that fucking told everybody to let it go. And it
18 did. Okay? Do you understand that?

19 JUDGE TANNER: I -- I understand that, sure. I
20 mean, I understand that. I mean, you're telling me now. But
21 I understand that Todd dismissed his lawsuit without
22 prejudice against me, and, I mean, that's -- it is fine.
23 So --

24 JUDGE STONE: I'm the one that's told everybody to
25 just let the shit go, and it's all -- you know.

1 JUDGE TANNER: I agree with you that it is time for
2 it to go, and I believe that it is time for it to be true
3 about my assignments. And I understand the statutory
4 authority, but I believe you hold a great deal of influence.

5 JUDGE STONE: Well, I'm going -- listen. Listen,
6 I'm going to talk to Skipper again.

7 JUDGE TANNER: Uh-huh.

8 JUDGE STONE: I'm going to tell him enough time has
9 elapsed. And, again, I can't control Skipper. I mean, I
10 can't control him. Just like I told you at that lunch, I
11 can't control him. But I will tell him enough time has
12 elapsed.

13 Now, on the flip side of things, on the flip side of
14 things, and this is has nothing to do with legal stuff. This
15 has anything to do with just people. Okay? All you have to
16 do, Beth, all you have to do is be nice.

17 JUDGE TANNER: So help me with that.

18 JUDGE STONE: Okay?

19 JUDGE TANNER: When am I not nice?

20 JUDGE STONE: I'm not saying -- listen, I'm not
21 saying you're not. Because I say that doesn't mean I'm
22 saying you're not.

23 JUDGE TANNER: So basically keep doing sort of what
24 I've been doing.

25 JUDGE STONE: Do what you do. You know, every --

1 every day I come to court, every fucking day I come to court,
2 I thank the bailiffs for opening up court. I routinely, to
3 the -- to the -- to the clerks. And you probably don't know
4 this, but I have a reputation for having defendants thanking
5 me when I send them off to jail. Just be nice.

6 JUDGE TANNER: So if I'm doing all of those things
7 also, because I do --

8 JUDGE STONE: Okay.

9 JUDGE TANNER: -- what -- what else is it -- and I
10 think, Judge Stone, this is an important point for me, is
11 that I have been nice, but it appears to me that every day I
12 get up and go to work, it -- I can guarantee you that
13 something is going to come, right now it's from the chief
14 district court judge, that is just going to intentionally
15 make my life hard. And I will tell you that I believe it is
16 petty and vindictive for reasons I don't understand because
17 I've never said anything about Skipper. I mean, I've never.
18 The only thing I want to do is --

19 JUDGE STONE: Well, you're asking me about something
20 I don't -- Beth, you're asking me about something I don't
21 know --

22 JUDGE TANNER: Then the good news for you is I'm
23 being nice. I'm not doing anything.

24 JUDGE STONE: Well, I don't --

25 JUDGE TANNER: There's nothing hanging over my head.

1 I haven't done anything wrong. I'm just ready to go back to
2 work.

3 And I will tell you that I believe that Skipper is
4 engaging in -- he has basically decided -- I mean, our
5 primary juvenile judge right now is Judge Namkung between the
6 districts, and that's not consistent. You know there's a
7 statute for that, too, which is that when I'm engaging in
8 that education and when I receive that certification, which I
9 will tell you that people at the state-wide level are very
10 excited about me getting, but Skipper is making my
11 assignments. We had to pick juvenile court judges and he
12 basically refused to put me in rotation in juvenile courts in
13 Moore County and cut my work in Hoke County in half, and it
14 makes it difficult to get that certification.

15 JUDGE STONE: Well, I -- listen --

16 JUDGE TANNER: So in addition to rotating me I think
17 it would be helpful if you would encourage him to assign me
18 in juvenile court --

19 JUDGE STONE: I will --

20 JUDGE TANNER: -- so that I can get that
21 certification.

22 JUDGE STONE: I'm going to talk to him. Okay?

23 JUDGE TANNER: Because let me tell you what that
24 certification does from a political perspective. I'm getting
25 it because I think it helps the people, but from a political

1 reelection campaign perspective, you can see how that would
2 be very helpful in a reelection campaign for district court,
3 because that's where exclusive juvenile jurisdiction is.
4 It's not superior court. It's in district court.

5 JUDGE STONE: I'm --

6 JUDGE TANNER: So it would appear that I'm achieving
7 a certification that is all about me being a district court
8 judge again, and Skipper is making it his purpose to prevent
9 me from getting that. And you can see how that might back me
10 in a corner.

11 JUDGE STONE: I'm going to talk to him. Okay?

12 JUDGE TANNER: Uh-huh.

13 JUDGE STONE: That's all I can do. I'm going to
14 talk to him and -- and I'm going to tell him, look, here's
15 what I'm going to say. Look, enough time has passed, bring
16 her back. That's basically what I'm going to say. Okay?

17 JUDGE TANNER: And I would appreciate if you would
18 let him know that you have heard good things about me, it
19 sounds like, in juvenile court. I think that's true. I
20 think people in juvenile court really like me. And I
21 think --

22 JUDGE STONE: Listen --

23 JUDGE TANNER: -- despite what you may think about
24 me otherwise, inside a courtroom I have had multiple people
25 come to me and say I have the best temperament right now,

1 particularly since Warren has moved up. And so I do think
2 that's true, despite whatever people may think about me
3 inside our chambers that's not out in the public or whatever,
4 or Skipper might not like about my disagreement with him, but
5 I do think inside a courtroom I have that, and I think I'm
6 very good at D.S.S. work, and I think I'm very good at
7 delinquency work, and I have a lot of respect across the
8 state. It only benefits Skipper to put me in those
9 courtrooms because the colleagues in those courtrooms respect
10 me.

11 JUDGE STONE: Listen --

12 JUDGE TANNER: It's confusing to the School of
13 Government why I'm not in Moore of it, because I do a good
14 job.

15 JUDGE STONE: I'm going to talk to him. Okay? But
16 what I need you to do is this. I need you to acknowledge I
17 am not your enemy. For some reason you have felt like I'm
18 your -- I am not your enemy. And don't -- do not associate
19 your enemies with other people. I'm not your enemy. Okay?

20 JUDGE TANNER: Then I would tell you that what I
21 would say about that is it seems like it would be good for us
22 to maintain a good working relationship the way I think we
23 have.

24 But I will tell you, when Mr. Maness is saying
25 things like that you are endorsing a candidate against me,

1 and then the next day Ray Daly is using pictures of you
2 hugging that candidate in pictures --

3 JUDGE STONE: Well, that --

4 JUDGE TANNER: -- it's hard -- and I get it, those
5 are politics, and I don't judge it one way or the other, but
6 you can understand how that might cause -- cause other
7 people, whether it's me or not, I mean, I certainly take note
8 of it, but I haven't -- I'll be honest with you, Judge Stone,
9 it doesn't -- at the end of the day, I'm going to tell you
10 the truth. My decision about what I do and my future is
11 really guided by my faith. I really can't express that
12 enough. It really is. But --

13 JUDGE STONE: But Beth --

14 JUDGE TANNER: -- I love my job every day. I love
15 it. And like I told you at lunch, I'm very happy in my
16 little district court cave. But the problem is, as we've
17 identified on this call, that no matter how many weeks
18 happen, months happen, it is pretty repetitive that somebody
19 comes into that cave and they just poke me. And I don't mean
20 like Ray Daly. That's -- he's got an opinion. He's a voter.
21 He can have that opinion. Those -- that kind of thing
22 doesn't bother me.

23 I mean, when my -- my direct chief or a clerk in a
24 courthouse I don't even work at is making concerted efforts
25 to poke at me, it does make my cave in district court

1 uncomfortable. And so I pray about whether that is God's
2 guidance to something else. That's all it is.

3 It's not about you. It's not about any of that. I
4 felt called to be a district court judge because of my Emma.
5 I felt called. I felt called about it. I have always felt a
6 call. Where I'm good is juvenile court. I believe in the
7 mission we do there, and I could do that for 24 more years.

8 JUDGE STONE: Well, then help --

9 JUDGE TANNER: Okay? But --

10 JUDGE STONE: Then help me -- listen to me. Help me
11 help you.

12 JUDGE TANNER: Great.

13 JUDGE STONE: All you need to do --

14 JUDGE TANNER: Then you need to get Skipper to
15 understand that it is more challenging to keep poking me.

16 JUDGE STONE: Listen, I'm going to talk to Skipper.
17 Skipper is pissed off at you.

18 JUDGE TANNER: But I can't -- I didn't do anything
19 to the man.

20 JUDGE STONE: Well, it has something to do -- I
21 don't know the details. He is pissed off because of you not
22 wanting -- again, I don't want to speak --

23 JUDGE TANNER: Not wanting what?

24 JUDGE STONE: Not wanting to come to court, and then
25 saying you -- he was up for reelection or some shit. That's

1 why he's pissed off.

2 JUDGE TANNER: That never happened. I don't know
3 what that is. I'm not trying to be funny. I'm being
4 serious.

5 JUDGE STONE: I don't -- Beth, I don't -- listen to
6 me. This does not concern me. I don't care. I'm just
7 telling you why he's pissed off. Okay? I'm going to talk to
8 him. I'm going to try to put you back -- put you back in
9 Hoke County --

10 JUDGE TANNER: In Moore County?

11 JUDGE STONE: Moore County, I'm sorry. Moore
12 County. I'm going to try to talk to him about that. But,
13 you know, in the end -- and I talked -- the thing we had
14 lunch, I can't control people.

15 JUDGE TANNER: I agree. I don't disagree that you
16 can't control people, but I do think you have great
17 influence. And I think that, you know, you and I can -- can
18 agree that what is best for our court system right now is not
19 for Skipper and Todd Maness to continue on with what I -- I
20 perceive to be petty vindictiveness. It doesn't have
21 anything to do about the service we're offering to the
22 people. It just doesn't. And you know that. And I know it,
23 too.

24 And I think it's best for all of us that we just
25 sort of -- you know, one of the things I like to say is, you

1 know, we just take our ball and go home. And that's kind
2 of -- I've been trying to do that for more than a year, but
3 it just doesn't kind of work that way.

4 And listen, I don't have any -- and I have always
5 been open and willing, but I don't, I don't have any animus
6 towards Mr. Maness. I know people don't believe that because
7 I know the way things operate in Moore County. I know you
8 think maybe I need to learn some things about politics, but
9 I'm not -- I'm not dumb.

10 JUDGE STONE: Let's don't --

11 JUDGE TANNER: I will tell you, let me be clear --

12 JUDGE STONE: Hold on.

13 JUDGE TANNER: -- that whole thing --

14 JUDGE STONE: I have never -- I have never said
15 that.

16 JUDGE TANNER: I know. I know you haven't. I'm not
17 saying you said that. But I'm just saying, I want to be
18 clear about that. That whole issue with Todd was straight up
19 what it was. It wasn't any background deals on that. It was
20 straight up what it was. I moved forward on that the exact
21 same way I moved forward with -- I mean, with whatever
22 happened with, you know, with Mr. -- with Mr. Blue. That was
23 just straight up me being a judge trying to do the right
24 thing. Didn't have any background noise to it.

25 JUDGE STONE: Now, I'll tell you -- I'll tell you

1 this on that whole deal. I'm going to be very candid with
2 you. You know who you pissed off? You pissed off the local
3 bar on that whole thing, because people -- the local bar came
4 to me and said things to me, and I was like, well, you know,
5 I -- I wasn't even there. I didn't have any part of it --

6 JUDGE TANNER: But pissed them off about what?

7 JUDGE STONE: About the whole thing about the --
8 well, I don't even -- I wasn't there. I don't know what
9 happened other than --

10 JUDGE TANNER: About the show cause?

11 JUDGE STONE: Yeah, did you -- did you -- did you --
12 I don't know what -- I -- I wasn't there. I was in fucking
13 Raleigh. Okay, Beth?

14 JUDGE TANNER: But what are you talking about? What
15 situation pissed off the local bar?

16 JUDGE STONE: The situation where you brought him in
17 and suspended his license. All right? I don't know -- I
18 don't know the details of it. I wasn't there.

19 JUDGE TANNER: Then you can read them in the public
20 filing that somehow managed to escape Todd's office between
21 4:47 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. the next day.

22 JUDGE STONE: Okay. Beth, Beth, I wasn't there. I
23 was in another county --

24 JUDGE TANNER: Okay. Well, I will tell you. He
25 came to court inebriated. His eyes were red shot; I could

1 smell alcohol on his breath; he could not walk straight; and
2 he admitted to me in my office that he was too drunk to move
3 forward. I got an opinion about what I should do --

4 JUDGE STONE: I'm not -- I'm not casting an opinion
5 on this. I'm not.

6 JUDGE TANNER: Right. And I would like to know who
7 from the local bar has a concern about that.

8 JUDGE STONE: Well, I don't --

9 JUDGE TANNER: Because what I will tell you is that
10 more people from the local bar indicated that they felt
11 relief from that than people that complained.

12 JUDGE STONE: They did. Listen --

13 JUDGE TANNER: So if the only person you are
14 listening to is Ms. Frederick, I think maybe you should
15 broaden your horizons on that piece.

16 JUDGE STONE: Who is Ms. -- I don't -- Ms. Fred --
17 who's that?

18 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah. Do you know what Mr. Blue
19 called --

20 JUDGE STONE: Who's Ms. Fred -- hold on --

21 JUDGE TANNER: -- Judge Joe? Do you know?

22 JUDGE STONE: Who's Ms. Frederick? I don't --

23 JUDGE TANNER: Oh, you don't know Ms. Frederick
24 that's really good friends with Marissa Curry? That's so
25 interesting because my understanding was prior to Ms. Curry

1 you were supporting Ms. Frederick to run against me, and that
2 did come from Todd.

3 JUDGE STONE: I don't even know who fucking
4 Ms. Fred -- who is Ms. Frederick?

5 JUDGE TANNER: Well, seems to me that -- I mean,
6 maybe you should meet her. But I -- and I -- listen, again,
7 I will just say, that situation was absolutely tragic. It
8 was absolutely --

9 JUDGE STONE: Hold on. I'm asking you a question.
10 Who the fuck is Ms. Frederick? Who the --

11 JUDGE TANNER: She's an attorney that my
12 understanding was that before Ms. Curry was endorsed by you
13 that she was endorsed by you to run against me.

14 JUDGE STONE: I don't even fucking know this woman.
15 I don't know even know who you're talking about.

16 JUDGE TANNER: Maybe that's a conversation with
17 Mr. Maness, I don't know.

18 JUDGE STONE: I --

19 JUDGE TANNER: But I don't -- I mean, I don't know
20 what to tell you about that, except that I got --

21 JUDGE STONE: So -- so -- so now --

22 JUDGE TANNER: -- I got extraordinary advice from
23 multiple --

24 JUDGE STONE: So now that I understand the -- that
25 Todd is using my name, okay. I got it. Okay. Now I'm

1 getting it. Okay.

2 Anyway, so the bottom line is you're going to win.
3 You're going to win. Just keep your nose clean and be nice
4 and you're going to win. Marissa Curry probably is not even
5 going to did run against you. Okay? I don't even think
6 that's going to happen.

7 Number two, the -- the -- what's her name? I don't
8 deal with district court unless -- I don't know these
9 lawyers. What the fuck's her name? Sharlene. What's her
10 last name?

11 JUDGE TANNER: Uh-huh. Anderson?

12 JUDGE STONE: Anderson. Sharlene. She -- she may
13 run against you. I don't think you're going to have any
14 fucking problems.

15 JUDGE TANNER: Hmm.

16 JUDGE STONE: Just -- just be nice and run your
17 campaign. I'm not going to do anything against you. Okay?
18 I'm not going to do anything against you. And I don't
19 endorse, publicly endorse any of these people.

20 Now, if other people are saying such, call me.
21 Okay?

22 JUDGE TANNER: Well, you know that now, other people
23 are saying such.

24 JUDGE STONE: Well, I'm going to -- and I'm going to
25 have a conversation with --

1 JUDGE TANNER: And I will tell you just as I've said
2 to everybody else, the decision about not bringing me back to
3 Moore County is none of the things that you've described in
4 this phone call. It is purely political at this point.

5 JUDGE STONE: Well -- well, I --

6 JUDGE TANNER: It is purely inappropriate, and the
7 decision to cut my juvenile work also is inappropriate, and
8 it's purely political.

9 JUDGE STONE: Well, I can -- I can tell you right
10 now that's all on one person.

11 JUDGE TANNER: Then I would just --

12 JUDGE STONE: It's all one person.

13 JUDGE TANNER: -- highly recommend for you that you
14 have a conversation with him. Because here's the thing,
15 Judge Stone. If I got to run a campaign, we've talked about
16 this, even if it's one for district court, I got to run, and
17 that looks like --

18 JUDGE STONE: And you're going to -- that's what I'm
19 trying to tell you. That's what I'm fucking -- that's what
20 I'm fucking trying to tell you. You're going to win.

21 JUDGE TANNER: I hope so, too, but the way I run a
22 campaign is that I will absolutely, anybody that's sort of
23 like coming out for bear for me, it's a little bit like you,
24 I just got to run that campaign. We go run campaigns to win.
25 You know that. You know that. That's what we do. And so, I

1 mean, anybody that's in pictures with people, anybody -- the
2 spray just sprays. I mean, that's kind of how it is.

3 JUDGE STONE: Well, let me say that. Don't fucking
4 paint -- now hold on a minute here. Don't paint the fucking
5 dirty end of the stick on me because I have a photograph with
6 somebody. Don't --

7 JUDGE TANNER: Judge Stone, I'm not painting you.
8 Your friends are painting you that way. I'm not painting you
9 at -- I have no assumptions about what you're doing. Your
10 friends are the people who are out there saying that that
11 means something. So that's not on me. I mean, truly, I
12 don't have any -- I truly, I do not assign anything like that
13 to people because I do know how politics work. I do. I
14 don't assign a thing to it.

15 You know, my perspective with you, up until
16 Mr. Maness started saying things about who you were going to
17 support, was that we had otherwise had a decent working
18 relationship. When it required --

19 JUDGE STONE: We still do. We still do.

20 JUDGE TANNER: -- that I -- right. I don't disagree
21 with that. When it requires that I interact with the
22 superior court judge's office, with your office, you're
23 exactly right. Do we always disagree? Absolutely not. Do
24 we have an honest con -- do you help me so that when you have
25 to say to me, hey, I don't really agree with that, I'm like,

1 okay, well, he also helped me out on this other thing. And
2 it's okay. You can't agree all the time, absolutely. We
3 have an excellent working relationship.

4 And I'm not going to lie to you. I believe we would
5 have an excellent working relationship even if I was chief.
6 I think we'd have a great working relationship because I
7 think, when I come to you and I say this is a need I have in
8 district court could you please help me respect that need,
9 you support me in that. That's been my experience with you.
10 I haven't had any other experience at work.

11 The challenge is that outside of work, or even in
12 the halls of the courthouse, there are a lot of people
13 putting you in a position, that isn't me, that suggests that
14 you are sort of out for bear for me. And I don't kind of get
15 that. But it just -- I mean, and I --

16 JUDGE STONE: Well, I don't think it has anything to
17 do with me. I think it's -- honestly, I don't think it has
18 anything to do with me. I think it has to do with the fact
19 that they don't like you. I mean, that's --

20 JUDGE TANNER: Who doesn't?

21 JUDGE STONE: -- the bottom line.

22 JUDGE TANNER: Who doesn't like me though? Truly,
23 who doesn't like me, Mr. Maness?

24 JUDGE STONE: Yeah.

25 JUDGE TANNER: Okay.

1 JUDGE STONE: You -- I mean, listen. Let's --
2 let's -- let's call a spade a spade. You -- you and him are
3 never going to be friendly. I mean, it's just not the way
4 it's going to be.

5 JUDGE TANNER: I think that's fine. I don't think
6 it means I can't work with him. I've always said that. But
7 I will tell you that it appears to me that he, he, not me, is
8 on a campaign, but I would assure you that Mr. Maness needs
9 to worry about himself and stop worrying about me. So he
10 should probably put his energy in --

11 JUDGE STONE: Well, I, yeah, I agree with --

12 JUDGE TANNER: -- into not finding opponents against
13 me and --

14 JUDGE STONE: I agree with that. I agree with that.

15 JUDGE TANNER: Right. Because an opponent against
16 me that's supported by him, and that's maybe supported by
17 you, although I understand today that is not true, so I
18 appreciate you telling me that, that, again, that spray just
19 goes everywhere. Because if that -- if somebody stands up
20 against me and they say I'm endorsed by the clerk, then my
21 race isn't just against the person who's running against me.
22 Do you understand? I have to -- I have to run a race against
23 everybody that endorses that person. So that's okay with me,
24 even -- but that's true even if I'm running in my own seat.

25 JUDGE STONE: Well, I don't even think -- well,

1 correct me if I'm wrong, I mean, I may be the last guy on the
2 drill team, I don't even think he's putting anybody up
3 against you.

4 JUDGE TANNER: Todd? Mr. Maness?

5 JUDGE STONE: Yeah.

6 JUDGE TANNER: Um, well, as you've already told me
7 in this phone call, and as I know myself to be true, he was
8 on a campaign to find candidates against me. He started with
9 Ms. Frederick; he had settled on Ms. Curry.

10 JUDGE STONE: I -- I don't -- first of all --

11 JUDGE TANNER: -- and had openly endorsed her, I
12 mean at political events, openly endorsed her.

13 JUDGE STONE: You know -- you know what? You're
14 right. I think he probably put -- what's her name, goddamn,
15 you know who I'm talking about. What's her name?

16 JUDGE TANNER: Marissa?

17 JUDGE STONE: Marissa. I think you probably --

18 JUDGE TANNER: And I don't know about Sharlene. And
19 I've got -- but I can tell you based on the pattern --

20 JUDGE STONE: I don't --

21 JUDGE TANNER: -- it would appear to me --

22 JUDGE STONE: I don't -- I don't even --

23 JUDGE TANNER: -- that Mr. Maness is involved in,
24 based on the pattern it wouldn't surprise me that Mr. Maness
25 is involved in supporting Sharlene now to run against me. I

1 mean, truly, in my assessment of it --

2 JUDGE STONE: Who is -- who is Sharlene?

3 JUDGE TANNER: Sharlene Anderson, the assistant --

4 JUDGE STONE: Oh, Anderson. Anderson. Okay.

5 Sharlene Anderson. Okay.

6 JUDGE TANNER: I mean, in my assessment of it, tell
7 me if I'm wrong, because I am a political newbie, but it
8 would appear to me that the best thing for everybody at the
9 Moore County courthouse would be that I'm unopposed so that I
10 don't have to run a campaign. Because if -- and I know you
11 can't control that, but if I'm going to run a campaign, I'm
12 going to run one, doesn't matter what seat I'm running for.
13 So it appears to me that it would behoove everybody else just
14 to kind of leave me alone. I mean, that's kind of what I
15 think. I mean, if you want my truth, I mean, that's kind of
16 how I feel about it.

17 JUDGE STONE: Well, I -- well --

18 JUDGE TANNER: I think that's probably true of -- of
19 you too, right? Like it would just kind of behoove
20 everybody -- that's kind of what you called me today for,
21 right? It would behoove everybody just to leave you alone.
22 I don't disagree with that. I don't.

23 But the challenge I face is that it doesn't matter
24 how much time goes by, it doesn't matter how much time I do a
25 great job; it doesn't matter how much candy I take a clerk's

1 office or gifts I share, or meals I organize at the Hoke
2 County courthouse; it doesn't matter how amazing I am at my
3 job, somebody is mad and I can't do anything about that,
4 because it appears to me that the reason people are mad is
5 because I'm good at my job and it makes them look like
6 they're not good at theirs.

7 JUDGE STONE: I -- well, just --

8 JUDGE TANNER: I can't do anything about that.

9 JUDGE STONE: Let's dissect this. Okay? Marissa,
10 if she wins -- if she runs is not going to be an issue, you
11 know that; right?

12 JUDGE TANNER: I do, but I run a campaign just like
13 I would run against anybody else.

14 JUDGE STONE: Beth, take a deep breath. Take a deep
15 breath to relax. Okay? You're talking among friends, so
16 take a deep breath.

17 JUDGE TANNER: Yes, I think I am talking to my
18 friends, so I will tell you that looks like --

19 JUDGE STONE: Yeah.

20 JUDGE TANNER: -- that anybody that has ever been
21 propped up as a support for Marissa Curry is part of a
22 campaign against her.

23 JUDGE STONE: Okay. That's --

24 JUDGE TANNER: So I -- that's what -- I'm being
25 honest with you about that. And that's not from me. That's

1 from my campaign manager.

2 JUDGE STONE: Number -- number two, Sharlene,
3 Sharlene Anderson, I met her for the first time at Warren's
4 swearing in.

5 JUDGE TANNER: Uh-huh.

6 JUDGE STONE: That's the first time I ever laid eyes
7 on the woman. Now, I don't know how politically savvy she
8 is. I don't know. All right? Um, I -- just so you know, I
9 don't -- I can't -- that is not me provoking her to run
10 again -- I don't even know the woman. Okay? That's number
11 one.

12 Number two, um, I -- I still think you would win
13 because no one knows, no one even knows her. I don't even --
14 I don't know her. Okay? Um, I -- to me, for me to say, hey,
15 don't run, I mean, I can try, but I don't go out -- if
16 that's -- there's one person driving this train. Okay? And
17 the person driving the train is the person that fucking hates
18 you.

19 JUDGE TANNER: Well, apparently that's -- I mean, in
20 this conversation what you've told me is that's Todd, it's
21 maybe Skipper, um --

22 JUDGE STONE: And it could be Skipper. It could be
23 Skipper, too. I mean, I don't know.

24 JUDGE TANNER: And maybe other members of the bar?

25 JUDGE STONE: You know what? I don't -- honestly, I

1 got to be honest with you, honestly, I don't think any people
2 in the bar hate -- I don't think any people in the bar
3 dislike you.

4 JUDGE TANNER: I don't either.

5 JUDGE STONE: I don't think anybody in the bar
6 dislikes you.

7 JUDGE TANNER: I agree.

8 JUDGE STONE: Um, and -- and -- and I just don't.

9 JUDGE TANNER: Well, perhaps in addition to
10 encouraging Skipper to put me in juvenile court so I can get
11 that certification, you know, I mean, because that
12 certification is specifically beneficial to district court,
13 not other courts, specifically beneficial to district court.
14 And rotating me through Moore County so the voters see me in
15 Moore County, perhaps you could make it clear --

16 JUDGE STONE: I will --

17 JUDGE TANNER: -- that you're not supporting anyone
18 against me --

19 JUDGE STONE: I -- listen --

20 JUDGE TANNER: -- because you think I'm an excellent
21 judge.

22 JUDGE STONE: Listen -- I'm going to talk to him.

23 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, words like that from you to the
24 clerk or to anybody who talks to you --

25 JUDGE STONE: Well, I'm not -- no, I'm not going --

1 Beth, Beth, are you smoking right now? Are you smoking
2 peyote? I'm not going to talk to the clerk about any of
3 this. The clerk hates you. He hates you. Okay? I'm not
4 going to talk to the clerk about that.

5 But I will talk -- I will talk to Skipper about it.
6 And I think I can get Skipper at least bring you back up --
7 the problem is right now, skipper doesn't like you, either.
8 I mean, that's a problem, too.

9 JUDGE TANNER: Hmm.

10 JUDGE STONE: So I will talk to Skipper and I will
11 see if I can get you back here to some extent.

12 JUDGE TANNER: And that is such an interesting issue
13 because I have had multiple meetings with Skipper. I have
14 literally sat with him in a room and said what is it that I
15 can do to improve my performance such that you are
16 comfortable treating me the same --

17 JUDGE STONE: That's --

18 JUDGE TANNER: -- as you treat all of my male
19 colleagues?

20 JUDGE STONE: Beth, Beth --

21 JUDGE TANNER: You know what he said to me? You're
22 an excellent judge. There's nothing you can do.

23 JUDGE STONE: Beth, look, all right, I'm trying to
24 speak very cogently and coherently with you. You and I are
25 speaking I think eye to eye on things. Well, I'm going to

1 leave it at that.

2 The bottom line is this, I don't have any animosity
3 towards you, not one. Not one. I don't have any -- I told
4 you in the summer of 2023, in July of 2023 when that whole
5 thing went down with you and Todd, you guys -- I said what
6 can I do to make peace? What can I do to make peace? What
7 can I do for you? Tell me what you want and I'll go about
8 doing it for you. Do you remember that? I don't know if you
9 remember that. Do you remember that conversation?

10 JUDGE TANNER: I do.

11 JUDGE STONE: Okay. I was the same then as I am
12 now. I don't have anything against you. I think that you do
13 a good job and I'm not against you in any way. Okay?

14 JUDGE TANNER: Uh-hmm.

15 JUDGE STONE: I -- I told -- in fact, I told Robert
16 Nunnery about a week or two ago to express that to you, that
17 I don't have anything against you, even though you told me
18 you were going to run against me, I was like, I don't have
19 anything against her.

20 JUDGE TANNER: Judge Stone, I think what I said to
21 you was I had not decided what I was doing in the winter of
22 '25 as far as filing, and that I was considering all options.
23 And when you asked me directly could that be a superior court
24 seat, could that be your seat, I said I was considering all
25 options. And that was the truth. I mean, that was the

1 truth.

2 JUDGE STONE: Well, what --

3 JUDGE TANNER: And I -- I mean, what I would say to
4 you about that today, I will tell you what I will say about
5 that today. It appears to me that whether that be through
6 the actions of Skipper Creed or Todd Maness, or whoever else
7 we want to put at the feet of that, that God appears to be
8 closing a lot of doors for me in district court. Here I am
9 trying to get this juvenile certification so I can be the
10 best juvenile district court judge in District 29, and
11 Skipper Creed is refusing to give me enough court to allow me
12 to do that. I mean --

13 JUDGE STONE: Listen.

14 JUDGE TANNER: -- that would be -- listen, that to
15 me would be a sign that I was supposed to stay in district
16 court from the Lord. I believe that. I'm serious about
17 that. I'm not being funny about that. And then --

18 JUDGE STONE: I'm not being funny, either. Can you
19 just --

20 JUDGE TANNER: -- the fact that I drive 45 minutes
21 from my house every single day -- listen, I love Hoke County.
22 I want to be really clear about that, I love that. I think
23 that place has been a place for me. I think God put me there
24 to save me from some other goings on in Moore County that
25 maybe weren't part for me to be part of. And I think that's

1 okay. But it is time to be done with that now, and it is
2 time for me to rotate.

3 We spend \$1600 a month --

4 JUDGE STONE: I promise you --

5 JUDGE TANNER: We spend \$1600 a month.

6 JUDGE STONE: I promise you --

7 JUDGE TANNER: That's what we spend.

8 JUDGE STONE: I promise you -- I promise you I'm
9 going to talk to him about that.

10 JUDGE TANNER: Right.

11 JUDGE STONE: I promise you.

12 JUDGE TANNER: And if I have to defend --

13 JUDGE STONE: I promise you.

14 JUDGE TANNER: -- why I'm still -- because I read
15 everything. I know what everybody's saying about me. I'm
16 not -- I mean, I -- I know you say that. I've got a whole
17 campaign manager. He's read everything.

18 And apparently the new narrative that I'm confident
19 is coming from somebody who's friends with Todd is that we
20 need a judge who's in Moore County to serve us, and she's not
21 even in Moore County. She was transferred to Hoke County.
22 If I have to defend that, I defend it however it gets
23 defended, and whoever gets sprayed with that gets sprayed
24 with it.

25 JUDGE STONE: Just --

1 JUDGE TANNER: And that's true in my seat or in any
2 other seat.

3 JUDGE STONE: Slow -- slow down. Relax. Slow down.

4 JUDGE TANNER: And I'm not going to go away. Even
5 if I lose, I'm not going away. I'm coming back to run for
6 whatever seat is there. And so I'm not going to be done even
7 if I lose in '26.

8 JUDGE STONE: Beth, slow down. Please, please slow
9 down.

10 JUDGE TANNER: But I'm not going to be abused
11 anymore at work. I'm not. Like, that's not a thing anymore.

12 JUDGE STONE: Slow down. I'm going to talk --
13 listen to me. I'm going to talk to Skipper. I'm going to
14 talk to Skipper. Not only will I talk to him, I will -- I
15 will talk-talk to him. Okay? You know what the difference,
16 talk-talk --

17 JUDGE TANNER: I do know.

18 JUDGE STONE: I will talk-talk to him. Second of
19 all, just be nice. You're not going to lose your -- if you
20 defend your seat, if you defend your seat, even -- Marissa's
21 probably going to get talked out of running. Okay? That's
22 number one.

23 Number two, if -- if -- Shar -- I don't even know
24 the woman, if Sharlene Anderson runs, I don't -- again, she
25 has no political history. Okay? Just -- just -- all you

1 need to do is be nice. Just be nice and you're going to win
2 your seat and everything's going to be okay.

3 JUDGE TANNER: And I will absolutely be nice.

4 But --

5 JUDGE STONE: Okay.

6 JUDGE TANNER: -- when people -- let me explain.

7 When people, whether they're out of Todd's camp or not, when
8 they come after me and they want to know, and they want to
9 talk things about me like they did on some of the things we
10 read, I'm going to come back at that. And the facts are what
11 they are.

12 JUDGE STONE: What things -- what things are you
13 reading? I don't even know what the hell -- what things are
14 you reading?

15 JUDGE TANNER: Oh, I think you do know exactly what
16 I'm reading. But --

17 JUDGE STONE: I don't know. I don't know exactly --
18 I don't --

19 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, I mean, the story right now is,
20 well, she can't serve us because she's not ever even in Moore
21 County.

22 JUDGE STONE: Well, where are you --

23 JUDGE TANNER: So I'm just going to be clear. Let
24 me be clear on that.

25 JUDGE STONE: Where are you --

1 JUDGE TANNER: Oh, it's on social media. It's in
2 various -- it's in a conservative paper.

3 JUDGE STONE: Well, I'm not -- I'm not on -- I'm not
4 on -- intentionally I'm not on social media, so I don't
5 know --

6 JUDGE TANNER: And let me -- and I was very
7 fortunate, I did not have a campaign last time. But I have
8 run a hard campaign. And there is nothing that -- when I run
9 a campaign, I'm just like you, Judge Stone, I'm going to run
10 that campaign to win it. And so whatever it takes to win it,
11 even if it is that someone is fighting against me who's not
12 even running, that's the mystery to me.

13 I got nothing -- listen, I'll be clear with -- let
14 me be clear. People called me about Todd and who's going to
15 run against Todd and whatever all this is. And you know what
16 my opinion about that is? That's the clerk's race. I ain't
17 running for clerk. That's not me. I got my -- I'm like you.
18 I got my election to worry about. That's how I do, and I've
19 always done it that way.

20 But I ran a hard campaign in Wake County. I ran a
21 hard campaign. And I've got some people out there talking
22 about, oh, you're really a liberal. That's laughable. It's
23 laughable that I sued the governor but I'm the liberal. It's
24 laughable.

25 But when I -- if I have to come out, I'm like you,

1 I'm coming out. And whoever is out there against me, they're
2 going to be part of it.

3 So I think the best thing, I agree with you, it
4 appears to me that the best thing is we just all kind of run
5 our own elections and stop worrying about other people's
6 elections. I'm not worried about other people's elections.
7 But it appears that people can't let go of worrying about
8 mine.

9 So that's just, I mean, again, I'm back to the bear
10 in the cave.

11 JUDGE STONE: But Beth --

12 JUDGE TANNER: I'm happy in my little cave. I
13 always wanted to be a district court judge. I'm a district
14 court judge. I'm happy as a clam. I've got a kid at home
15 that's got needs. It works for me to be close at home. All
16 those things are true.

17 But if I've got to drive an hour to work every day
18 and an hour back home every day, it sure does seem like it
19 doesn't make no sense anymore for me to be sitting in a
20 district court bench. You can see how that would be that
21 way; right? I mean, you can see that; right?

22 I'm already traveling every day. I can't go to any
23 basketball games for my child. When I asked for a day off, I
24 asked for a day off because I lost my hair. All of this
25 caused me to start losing my hair. The doctor diagnosed me

1 with stress-induced hair loss. You want to talk about a
2 claim for emotional distress? I have an actual documented
3 one.

4 And when I went to Skipper and I said I need to
5 start going to therapy, I need to start seeing a --

6 JUDGE STONE: Just -- just --

7 JUDGE TANNER: Let me -- no, I think this is
8 important for you to understand.

9 JUDGE STONE: Did you talk to Skipper? I'm
10 asking you --

11 JUDGE TANNER: Do you know what he said to me?

12 JUDGE STONE: -- did you tell Skipper?

13 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, I did. Do you know what he
14 said to me? He said you need to figure out how to take time
15 off like all the other judges. I have that in writing. And
16 I said to him, hey, I'm entitled to sick leave. You can't
17 tell me that.

18 When I needed a special parking space in Moore
19 County because I am blind in one eye, he basically made fun
20 of me to another judge, to another judge. Is this the kind
21 of thing we want out public about how I've been treated?
22 Because I got to tell you, I'm ready. Let's roll out. If we
23 going to make it public, let's make it. I am ready. Because
24 I think the way I have been treated over the last year, I
25 wouldn't tell a little girl to come practice in Moore County

1 for the life of me. I can't imagine encouraging that.

2 So what I want is to go to work every day evenly in
3 both counties. I want to practice in juvenile court so that
4 I can get my certification so that when I run for my
5 reelection starting in December of '25, I've got that little
6 certification on my thing and I can be the best juvenile
7 judge there is.

8 The ironic thing about all of this is, nobody else
9 wants to do the juvenile work but me. I'm it. I'm the one
10 that wants to do it. And because Skipper wants to be petty,
11 he's not giving it to me. It's crazy.

12 The clerks in Moore County have said to multiple
13 people, can we please have Judge Tanner back in this
14 courtroom. I don't have a problem with any clerk in that
15 office, apparently except for Todd Maness, and I ain't got a
16 problem with Mr. Maness. I don't.

17 As long as we're all doing our job every day at
18 work, I don't care. He can go outside and call me a bitch
19 ten times over and that's okay with me. He has the right to
20 his opinion. And when I see him in the hallway I'm going to
21 say, hello, Mr. Honorable Maness. That's how I treat
22 everybody. And when he walks in my courtroom I would
23 recognize him, just like I do Evelyn. I don't have any issue
24 with it.

25 But, there has been a consistent campaign against me

1 and that puts me in a position to make decisions that impact
2 everybody else, because they're impacting me, and I don't
3 control those decisions. So as a leader in our community, if
4 you can influence that, it will cause --

5 JUDGE STONE: I will -- I will --

6 JUDGE TANNER: -- an effect.

7 JUDGE STONE: I'm going to call Skipper. I'm going
8 to call Skipper and talk to him. Okay?

9 JUDGE TANNER: And I'm not going to mince any words,
10 just like I didn't mince any words with you. If I don't win,
11 whatever race I run in, I'm coming back in two years, because
12 my kid is going to be in high school and I'm not moving again
13 until she's finished high school at that school.

14 And people can say whatever they want to about the
15 reason I moved here. But let me tell you what the math tells
16 me. When I moved here and decided to run, I was the only
17 lawyer that was willing to run against the only sitting
18 Democrat. So I don't where all the other Republican lawyers
19 were. Like all these candidates that are trying to stand up
20 against me right now, they were here, but they didn't bother
21 to run against the only sitting Democrat. And as a direct
22 result of me moving here we now have five conservative
23 judges, not four. That sounds like a pretty good campaign
24 speech to me.

25 And on top of that, I have folks from other counties

1 who supported me in my lawsuit against Roy Cooper who called
2 me when they saw those things. Do you know what they said?
3 Who were the idiots in the Republican party in Moore County
4 talking about the Wake County school system is amazing. So
5 that's not a winning plan.

6 I am conservative through and through. But --

7 JUDGE STONE: Okay.

8 JUDGE TANNER: -- I'm going to go fight. When I go
9 fight, if I got to fight, I'm going to fight.

10 JUDGE STONE: Take a deep breath. Listen to me.

11 Take a deep breath. I'm going to take a deep breath. Take a
12 deep breath. Take a deep breath. Okay? Do it. I want to
13 hear you -- I want to hear you take a deep breath.

14 JUDGE TANNER: I've got it. I'm good.

15 JUDGE STONE: No, take a deep breath. I want to
16 hear your sound. I want to hear you --

17 JUDGE TANNER: I've definitely taken a deep breath.

18 JUDGE STONE: Okay. I hear you. I under -- what
19 you don't understand is I understand you. I get you and I
20 understand you. I'm probably the only judge that you've
21 spoken to that can really say that. I understand you, and I
22 get it. Okay?

23 I'm going to talk to Skipper. I would like -- I
24 would like -- I don't know if it's possible, I would like to
25 have a peace summit meeting between you and Todd to where you

1 guys just bury the brick. You guys don't have to love each
2 other, but you bury the bricks and you just, you know,
3 that's -- that's --

4 JUDGE TANNER: And Judge Stone, I don't need --
5 I'm -- I will tell you as it relates to Mr. Maness, I have
6 multiple legal counsel in my lane on that. I -- and I mean
7 this with all respect, I don't need -- I don't need a peace
8 summit with Todd. I got peace with Todd. I don't have any
9 issue with him.

10 JUDGE STONE: Okay.

11 JUDGE TANNER: Todd -- Todd is the problem.

12 JUDGE STONE: So --

13 JUDGE TANNER: So if Todd is angry and finding out
14 candidates against me, you need to go have that conversation
15 with him.

16 JUDGE STONE: Okay. I will. Okay. Just -- just
17 relax. You could -- as long as you just be nice, you can get
18 reelected. Okay?

19 JUDGE TANNER: And I am. I am being nice. I'm
20 being nice every day of my life.

21 JUDGE STONE: Well --

22 JUDGE TANNER: But it doesn't matter how nice I am.

23 JUDGE STONE: Listen, listen, listen to what I'm
24 saying. You're not listening. You know what? You remind me
25 of myself. That's bad. Okay? You remind me of myself.

1 That's bad.

2 JUDGE TANNER: So, I mean, but I'm serious about
3 this --

4 JUDGE STONE: You're so --

5 JUDGE TANNER: -- because this has been an
6 interesting --

7 JUDGE STONE: -- you're so strong willed and just
8 like I am.

9 JUDGE TANNER: How am I not being nice?

10 JUDGE STONE: I'm not saying you're not being --

11 JUDGE TANNER: Right.

12 JUDGE STONE: I'm not saying --

13 JUDGE TANNER: So then the issue isn't me. You see
14 what I'm saying?

15 JUDGE STONE: The issue is this.

16 JUDGE TANNER: If what you mean by me being nice is
17 I'm going to keep taking it from Skipper --

18 JUDGE STONE: No, no, no, no, now, I know that
19 there's an issue with Skipper. I'm going to talk to him.

20 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, or I'm going to take -- and I
21 haven't -- and listen --

22 JUDGE STONE: Okay.

23 JUDGE TANNER: But this is -- and this is -- you and
24 I have had this conversation, and you're right, you do -- I
25 think you do understand what I'm saying when I say this. In

1 order to win a reelection at this point I've got to fight
2 that, it sounds like, the way I've got to fight any other
3 campaign, and I will, if that is the choice I make.

4 The best -- but, I will tell you, that is going to
5 look the way it looks. And I don't mean that -- that is
6 not -- I'm not here to say anything. I'm just telling you
7 what the reality is. I'm already -- I have already met with
8 a campaign -- I've already met with my campaign manager,
9 we're already doing things, but right now in order to, even
10 just defend my seat with him refusing to bring me back in
11 Moore County, and with the Honorable Todd Maness going
12 around --

13 JUDGE STONE: I told you --

14 JUDGE TANNER: -- touting out.

15 JUDGE STONE: I told you I'm going to work on that.

16 JUDGE TANNER: I know. And so I'm just letting you
17 know, if that work is successful over the next couple of
18 months, then great, I don't need to run a hard reelection
19 campaign, and that's amazing. And listen, that's easier for
20 me. I'll be clear with you, I don't own a seat. I don't. I
21 don't believe that I'm entitled to an unopposed election.
22 But, if I don't have an unopposed election and I've got some
23 people out against me, I have to run a campaign. I mean,
24 that's just how it goes.

25 JUDGE STONE: No, I got it. I understand.

1 JUDGE TANNER: And I'm not -- and listen, in
2 elections, and I've been clear about this, I've never been
3 anything. I am professional, I am within the rules --

4 JUDGE STONE: Just so --

5 JUDGE TANNER: -- of conduct --

6 JUDGE STONE: Just so I know --

7 JUDGE TANNER: -- but I am not nice.

8 JUDGE STONE: Just so I know --

9 JUDGE TANNER: Just like you told me. Just like you
10 told me today, I'm not nice if -- when I have to run
11 campaigns. That's not what campaigns are about. They're not
12 about being nice. They're about being professional; they're
13 about being honest; and they're about following the statute.
14 But I'm not nice. So that's a win.

15 JUDGE STONE: Just so I'm clear, you want to come
16 back to Hoke County; that --

17 JUDGE TANNER: To Moore County. I'm in Hoke County.
18 I'm in Hoke County every day.

19 JUDGE STONE: I'm sorry, Moore County. You want to
20 come back --

21 JUDGE TANNER: Correct. I want to come back to
22 Moore County evenly. I don't want to be there a day a month.
23 That's not a thing. I want to be in Moore County. I live
24 three minutes from the courthouse. We spend -- do you know
25 how much you're paying, your tax dollars are paying? Eight

1 hundred dollars is how much y'all pay me about every month to
2 drive to Hoke County. I'm 45 minutes away from my family. I
3 can't -- I missed quite a bit of the experiences of my
4 daughter's senior year over this. Okay?

5 JUDGE STONE: Beth, Beth, Beth, Beth.

6 JUDGE TANNER: And now I have a 14-year-old. I
7 can't -- I've been to one basketball game. One.

8 JUDGE STONE: Beth, Beth, hold on. I get it. Take
9 a deep breath. I'm talk -- trying to talk to you.

10 JUDGE TANNER: I know, but I just want to make it
11 really clear, like, I get what you're saying --

12 JUDGE STONE: Listen, you're --

13 JUDGE TANNER: -- but I think what you want is you
14 want me not to run against you, and I totally get that, Judge
15 Stone.

16 JUDGE STONE: No, hold on. Hold, hold on, hold,
17 hold, hold, hold, hold, hold, hold, hold on a minute here.
18 Hold on a minute. You can run against me any time you want.

19 JUDGE TANNER: No, I understand what you're saying
20 about that, Judge Stone, but --

21 JUDGE STONE: No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no,
22 no, no, you don't understand. I think you're a good judge
23 and I'm willing to help you, but when you say you don't
24 want -- I -- you can run against me every day of the week and
25 twice on Sunday, and I'll be honest with you, I fancy my

1 chances.

2 JUDGE TANNER: Okay.

3 JUDGE STONE: This isn't about -- this isn't about
4 me you running against me. This isn't about that.

5 JUDGE TANNER: Well, I fancy my chances, too, in my
6 own reelection campaign and in any other campaign.

7 JUDGE STONE: And --

8 JUDGE TANNER: But I'm going to tell you the truth,
9 it is certainly difficult for me because of some choices that
10 friends of yours are continuing to make.

11 JUDGE STONE: Well, here's the thing. Here's the
12 thing. You want -- you want to run against me, you roll your
13 dice and you go ahead and take your chances. That's number
14 one. I'm not here to -- to -- to -- to talk to you about
15 that. I'm here to help you in your career as a judge, and
16 I'm here the help you with --

17 JUDGE TANNER: Then help me.

18 JUDGE STONE: -- with your reelection.

19 JUDGE TANNER: Then help me.

20 JUDGE STONE: Okay?

21 JUDGE TANNER: Tell Skipper I should be the primary
22 juvenile judge --

23 JUDGE STONE: That's what --

24 JUDGE TANNER: -- and tell him I should rotate
25 evenly in Moore County.

1 JUDGE STONE: That -- that's what I'm here to help
2 you with.

3 JUDGE TANNER: Then help me.

4 JUDGE STONE: But -- but don't --

5 JUDGE TANNER: That's how you can help me.

6 JUDGE STONE: But -- but don't ever -- let me re --
7 don't ever, don't ever allude or something, you know -- you
8 want to do that, all games are off and I'll take my fucking
9 chances. And I will -- and -- and -- and -- and -- I'm not
10 even going to give in to that.

11 JUDGE TANNER: Then Judge Stone, help me, because
12 what I'm telling you is, I'm not here -- it's not personal to
13 you. I need you to understand that. It's not personal to
14 you. But right now my real life is that I get up every
15 morning and I --

16 JUDGE STONE: Okay.

17 JUDGE TANNER: -- leave my house, and I drive --

18 JUDGE STONE: Okay.

19 JUDGE TANNER: -- almost an hour to work.

20 JUDGE STONE: I told you four -- listen, I've told
21 you four or five times.

22 JUDGE TANNER: Great. Then do that. And as far as
23 a peace summit with Todd, I don't -- I have peace with Todd.
24 Todd does not bother me. I don't think about Todd. Todd, I
25 live rent free in his head, it appears, because the number of

1 people that come to me --

2 JUDGE STONE: Listen --

3 JUDGE TANNER: I don't think about Todd. Do you
4 know what? I can walk into the Moore County courthouse and I
5 can work my entire day without ever seeing Todd Maness. He
6 doesn't impact my day-to-day. He doesn't.

7 JUDGE STONE: And it shouldn't. It shouldn't. It
8 shouldn't.

9 JUDGE TANNER: The only time he comes up is when
10 someone let's me know or I hear it directly.

11 JUDGE STONE: I'm going to --

12 JUDGE TANNER: Because I've overheard it that you
13 and he are supporting a candidate against me.

14 JUDGE STONE: First of all, listen, I'm not
15 supporting anybody. I -- I could care less.

16 JUDGE TANNER: That's great.

17 JUDGE STONE: Again --

18 JUDGE TANNER: And I think telling me that is
19 certainly helpful today.

20 JUDGE STONE: I don't --

21 JUDGE TANNER: And making sure everybody else
22 understands that would also be helpful.

23 JUDGE STONE: But here's the deal. He hates you.
24 He's going -- he hates you. He's going to do everything he
25 can to fuck with you and run somebody against you.

1 JUDGE TANNER: He should move on.

2 JUDGE STONE: Okay.

3 JUDGE TANNER: He should move on.

4 JUDGE STONE: Okay. So --

5 JUDGE TANNER: Because the person the bar doesn't
6 like more than me is him. And the person -- okay. I'll help
7 you with that. I've been to two dinners at the Pinehurst
8 Country Club. Two. Don't know these people from Adam.
9 They're just -- we're members there, we go to stuff,
10 whatever.

11 At both of those dinners in the last two months
12 someone recognized my name, and do you know what they said?
13 Oh, you're that judge that's keeping things straight over
14 there at the Moore County clerk -- clerk's office. That
15 clerk is awful. He needs to worry about him.

16 And you know what I said back to him? Oh, I'm
17 sorry, I -- I -- I -- I -- let's, you know, let's move onto
18 something else. I don't say a negative word.

19 JUDGE STONE: I --

20 JUDGE TANNER: Because that wouldn't be proper.

21 JUDGE STONE: Listen, that's --

22 JUDGE TANNER: So if you're his friend, I would tell
23 him, if I was his friend I would tell him, you need to leave
24 her alone. You've got bigger fish to fry today.

25 JUDGE STONE: Beth, Donna Elizabeth, is that your

1 name, Donna Elizabeth? Donna Elizabeth, let me tell you
2 something. People have talked to him about this.

3 JUDGE TANNER: Then I pray for his heart, because it
4 is so sad to me that he has so much hatred.

5 JUDGE STONE: People have talked to him about this.
6 Okay? In the -- and we have a lot of time left. And the way
7 you're speaking, the -- the -- the vibrant, again, you remind
8 me of myself. That's bad, because I was the same way. Only
9 with a little bit of age that you can, you know -- listen.
10 Listen. Nothing's going to happen to you. You -- as long as
11 you just be nice and play things cool, you're going to get
12 reelected.

13 JUDGE TANNER: And I think that's true, too, but
14 here's the challenge. Something is happening to me, Judge
15 Stone, every day.

16 JUDGE STONE: What is that?

17 JUDGE TANNER: I don't get a week, a week does not
18 go by that the chief district court judge doesn't find some
19 way to --

20 JUDGE STONE: I'm -- I'm going to --

21 JUDGE TANNER: -- stick a knife in me and turn it.
22 A week doesn't go by --

23 JUDGE STONE: First of all --

24 JUDGE TANNER: I know, but --

25 JUDGE STONE: First of all, I'm going to --

1 JUDGE TANNER: And I hear you, but you have to
2 understand that that's my life.

3 JUDGE STONE: But you need to listen to this. I am
4 going to talk to him. I'm going to talk to him. But be --
5 but be -- he's pissed off at you. He's pissed off at you
6 because of some fucking bullshit about God knows what over
7 some fucking --

8 JUDGE TANNER: And that is made up. It's made up.
9 I don't know what you're talking about. Skip --

10 JUDGE STONE: I don't either. I'm just telling
11 you --

12 JUDGE TANNER: I can tell you why Skipper's mad at
13 me. I can tell you why Skipper's mad at me. I know it.
14 Skipper is mad at me because he is concerned I make him look
15 incompetent. But that is not -- I can't do anything about
16 that, Judge Stone. That's on Skipper.

17 JUDGE STONE: Well (laughing), I'm laughing. I'm
18 laughing because it doesn't require just you.

19 JUDGE TANNER: Right. I mean, listen, and that's
20 right. So that's the other thing, too. And can I tell you
21 something that may be helpful? Let me -- I mean, seriously.

22 So, remember when he told me I couldn't take any
23 leave? You know what I said to him? Judge Creed, you need a
24 full written leave policy. He put in place this vacation
25 policy. It's crazy. Whatever. I noted my disagreement with

1 it. I moved on. Like I get less vacation now than I ever
2 did as a state employee. That's a crazy policy. But he's
3 the chief, he can put it in place. I said what I had to say
4 about it. I moved on. That's how I am. You know that.

5 You've had that very conversation with me where I've
6 said to you I disagree with you about this, you've said thank
7 you so much for your opinion, don't -- I'm not going to -- I
8 hear you but I'm still going to go this other way, and I'm
9 like, great. And I never -- that's who I am as a person. I
10 believe in bringing disagreement to the table, hashing it
11 out, maybe they listen, maybe they don't. If it's their
12 statutory authority, I move on with my day.

13 JUDGE STONE: Can I ask you a question?

14 JUDGE TANNER: I said to Skipper, though -- I think
15 this is important. I said to Skipper, Skipper, you need a
16 full leave policy because without that you can't tell me I
17 can't take off for doctor's appointments. You're sending me
18 45 minutes away from my house.

19 JUDGE STONE: Well, that's --

20 JUDGE TANNER: I've got to have a whole day off.

21 JUDGE STONE: That's not -- that's -- that's --
22 that's not, that's -- I mean --

23 JUDGE TANNER: Do you know happened? Do you know
24 what happened in December? He called some people because he
25 was -- because they tell me. He called other chiefs in the

1 state to try to figure out how he could tell me not to take
2 days off to go with a mock trial team somewhere, you know,
3 the thing that Paul Newby thinks we all ought to be doing --

4 JUDGE STONE: I -- let's --

5 JUDGE TANNER: -- the thing that Jimbo Perry is
6 using my name specifically.

7 JUDGE STONE: Listen. Listen.

8 JUDGE TANNER: Do you know what he got told? Do you
9 know what he got told? He got told, oh, you need a full
10 leave policy. So let me tell you what. If he had just done
11 what I said to begin with, he would have looked real smart.
12 I'm not out to hurt Skipper. I am out to help him.

13 JUDGE STONE: You need to --

14 JUDGE TANNER: Our family court rules are abysmal.

15 JUDGE STONE: Beth, Beth --

16 JUDGE TANNER: He's had -- this will help you in
17 your conversation with him. He has had -- he has had at his
18 desk --

19 JUDGE STONE: You're preaching to the choir.

20 Listen. Just stop. Stop.

21 JUDGE TANNER: Right. Then when you talk to him --

22 JUDGE STONE: You're preaching to the choir.

23 JUDGE TANNER: -- I think it would help him to
24 understand that him being angry at me doesn't make sense.

25 JUDGE STONE: Listen. You're preaching to the

1 choir. Okay? Just stop. Okay. Listen. I get it. I get
2 it. You know I was on -- I was on the district court bench
3 for four years before I got on the superior court bench.

4 JUDGE TANNER: I know that.

5 JUDGE STONE: I had a wonderful, wonderful chief
6 district court judge in Scott Brewer, I mean, wonderful.
7 Okay? We didn't have any of these issues. We all worked
8 together as a team. We all went to dinner as a team. We had
9 Christmas parties as a team. It was all wonderful.

10 JUDGE TANNER: And we all do that except for
11 Skipper.

12 JUDGE STONE: Okay? So what I'm saying is this. I
13 understand completely what you're dealing with. Okay? I --
14 I can't go into more detail. I don't want to go into more
15 detail and I can't go into more detail.

16 JUDGE TANNER: And that's okay. I don't need more
17 detail.

18 JUDGE STONE: Let me --

19 JUDGE TANNER: I'm just telling you when you talk to
20 him, I'm not hurting Skipper. I'm trying to make him look
21 good.

22 JUDGE STONE: Listen, I understand that. I
23 understand that. All I'm saying is this. You and I, whether
24 you believe it or not, see eye to eye on issues. You may not
25 agree with that, you may say he is a son of a bitch, you

1 know, but we see eye to eye on issues. Okay? Would you
2 agree with that or not?

3 JUDGE TANNER: I think, yeah, I think we do see eye
4 to eye. Like are you talking about like with court issues?
5 I think that's true.

6 JUDGE STONE: Anything.

7 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah.

8 JUDGE STONE: I'm not talking about court. I'm
9 talking about in life. We see eye to eye on issues in life.
10 Okay? All I'm trying to say is this. I'm going to talk to
11 him. In fact, I'm going to lower the boom on him. He's
12 afraid of his own shadow so it's not going to be -- it
13 shouldn't be that big of a deal, other than the fact that he
14 doesn't like you. Okay?

15 Second of all, second of all, if you want to run
16 against me, you run against me, you throw your dice in the
17 game, we'll have our thing. That's number two. I'm really
18 not, forgive me for saying so, I'm really not afraid of that.
19 Okay?

20 JUDGE TANNER: Okay.

21 JUDGE STONE: Number three, number three, number
22 three, I want you to get reelected and I want you to keep
23 your seat.

24 Number four, and you need to listen to this, and you
25 need to listen to this burn into your soul. Can you do that?

1 Can you listen to me and let it --

2 JUDGE TANNER: Sure, I can listen, absolutely.

3 JUDGE STONE: -- burn into your soul? Okay. I told
4 you -- I've told you this in the past, and I'm going to tell
5 you this again. You are a spirit. You are a spirit that has
6 incredible energy, and I've told you in the past all you had
7 to do was be nice, not creating waves, and you are going to
8 be the chief judge. Now you probably thought, well, I don't
9 know this -- I don't know him from fucking Adam. You were to be
10 made the chief judge because -- well, I'm not going to get
11 into the reasons. But you were going to be made that. It
12 was a done deal.

13 All you need to do now is get reelected, be calm,
14 and you're still going to be made chief judge. We're going
15 to see to it. But when you create all this fucking conflict
16 it causes problems for you being district court judge.
17 Nobody wants for Creed to be chief judge. Nobody. They all
18 think he's a fucking moron.

19 JUDGE TANNER: Sure. So I need you to hear from me.
20 I'm not creating conflict. Like maybe you feel differently,
21 and if you can give me examples, Judge Stone, I will improve
22 my -- I will.

23 JUDGE STONE: Listen, listen.

24 JUDGE TANNER: But Skipper is mad at -- that's
25 not -- that's not real, Judge Stone. I never did anything.

1 JUDGE STONE: Beth, Beth, Beth, listen.

2 JUDGE TANNER: It's made up. It's just made up.

3 JUDGE STONE: Beth, I'm not -- Beth, I'm not saying
4 you did. Okay?

5 JUDGE TANNER: But I can't control the conflict that
6 exists.

7 JUDGE STONE: But there's -- there's a difference --
8 there's a difference between politics and realities. For
9 instance, if you go to the grocery store and you're in line
10 at the grocery store, and somebody puts one of those bars in
11 front of the groceries to delineate things and, you know, and
12 you're looking at a magazine, and the guy in front of you
13 says, oh, that shit's not mine, as the check -- as the
14 checkout lady is trying to -- you know, the checkout lady is
15 going to say the guy in front of you, what an asshole. But
16 if you've got the bar up and you're putting things in and
17 you're reading a magazine that's in the rack, and you're
18 saying oh, how you doing, can you believe this article, blah,
19 blah, blah, blah, the checkout lady's going to think,
20 what a nice woman.

21 That's what I'm talking about. All you have to do
22 is just be nice, even including Skipper. Everyone knows
23 Skipper's a fucking moron. You know that? Everybody knows
24 that. You were on pace before you even got fucking sworn in,
25 we were going to have you as the fucking chief judge in a

1 year. And then you pulled all that shit that you did, and
2 I'm not -- I'm not casting judgment on it. But what I'm
3 saying is, you got the world by the oysters, you know, you
4 got everything.

5 And the thing is, I understand you. I respect you.
6 I wouldn't -- I would, A, not only would I have gone with it
7 then, I'll go with it now. But just be nice. All I'm trying
8 to do is get your ass fucking reelected so you can be the
9 chief judge. And -- and I'm being about as honest as I can
10 with you. No one else is going to talk to you like -- no,
11 nobody else is going to talk to you like I'm talking to you
12 now.

13 JUDGE TANNER: And I --

14 JUDGE STONE: You should --

15 JUDGE TANNER: And I totally appreciate it. Like I
16 do appreciate your honesty with me. I've always been willing
17 to hear that. Judge Stone, I don't mean this in any ugly
18 way, and you can tell me, I am nice. Like I think -- have
19 you talked to anybody in Hoke County --

20 JUDGE STONE: Listen, listen, listen, I know you
21 are.

22 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, but the problem is if I can't
23 come to Moore County and show how nice I am --

24 JUDGE STONE: Listen, we're going -- we're going --
25 listen, I'm going to take -- we're going to get you back.

1 We're going to get you back. That's not the issue.

2 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, I mean, I think if you -- I
3 mean, it seems like you talk to Robert, I think what you
4 would hear from Robert is -- I mean, I'll give you an
5 example. This week I had attorneys that had to stay with me
6 until six, you know how district court can be on, you know,
7 private warrant day.

8 JUDGE STONE: Of course.

9 JUDGE TANNER: You know.

10 JUDGE STONE: Yeah.

11 JUDGE TANNER: And I sent an e-mail to Michael
12 Hardin, I sent an e-mail to Ms. Evelyn, and I sent an e-mail
13 to our new public defender thanking the attorneys and the
14 staff that were there. I sent an e-mail to the sheriff.
15 That's a regular practice for me. That's a regular practice.
16 I -- I -- I'm regularly like that.

17 And I've had -- and I think the truth is, I think if
18 you asked the attorneys in Hoke County, no, I know that's the
19 truth, they prefer me and my temperament over any other
20 sitting district court judge right now, including Judge
21 Namkung.

22 So I do think I'm nice, but I think Judge Creed is
23 intent on disliking me. I can't -- I mean, and you're right,
24 listen, I've given up. There was a time when I first started
25 that I believed we could do amazing things for our district.

1 I have been disabused of that notion. As long as Judge Creed
2 is the chief we will not do amazing things for our district.
3 That's how I feel about it.

4 But I will try very hard to try to do amazing things
5 inside my courtroom that are in my control, and I think I've
6 done that.

7 JUDGE STONE: Well, Beth, Beth, Beth, this is what
8 I'm trying -- God -- you know. I'm starting to get
9 frustrated. Listen, goddamn it, would you just listen to me?
10 If -- he was -- he was going to be gone. You were going to
11 be the chief district court judge within a year but for all
12 that shit that happened. And now, now we've got to get -- we
13 have to rehabilitate you, get you to be nice. I have to get
14 fucking what's his name, Skipper, back to when he brings you
15 back. Do you know what I fucking -- I mean --

16 JUDGE TANNER: No, I do, I do understand it, Judge
17 Stone.

18 JUDGE STONE: I don't know how to fucking explain
19 this to you.

20 JUDGE TANNER: But I don't have any control over
21 Skipper, just like you don't.

22 JUDGE STONE: I don't have -- well, no, I don't have
23 control over Skipper, but I can -- I will make something
24 happen. I will make something happen.

25 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah. And in all seriousness --

1 JUDGE STONE: The problem -- the problem is this.
2 The problem is this. He's got shit -- he -- and I'm not
3 talking out of turn because I know you know this, he has shit
4 against you about some kind of J.S.C. stuff. That's the
5 problem. He hates you. He has shit on you. So as soon as I
6 can get this J.S.C. shit away from him and you I can get you
7 back in Moore -- in Moore County. Do you understand what I'm
8 talking about, or no?

9 JUDGE TANNER: No. I'm not aware of any active
10 J.S.C. issue.

11 JUDGE STONE: Okay. Well, he's filed some shit
12 about you electioneering. Now you didn't hear that from me.
13 If -- if it comes back I'm going to know it came back from me
14 and I'm going to be pissed off at you. Don't do that.

15 JUDGE TANNER: What is electioneering? What, I
16 mean --

17 JUDGE STONE: I don't know. I don't know. But what
18 I'm trying to tell you is, I'm going to try to do everything
19 I can to get you back. I don't have any -- again, I don't
20 have any fucking issues with you. None.

21 I told you -- and see, I'm frustrated, no, I'm very
22 frustrated with you, because in July of 2023 I said to you,
23 what do you need? What can I do for you? What can I make
24 you happy? I'll go about doing whatever it is to get you
25 what you need. Do you remember that? I don't know if you

1 remember that conversation.

2 JUDGE TANNER: I do. And I think my needs were the
3 same as they are now.

4 JUDGE STONE: I -- I said to you back then almost
5 two years ago, and you -- you were like confronta -- and I
6 was like, why are you confront -- I mean, I don't have any --
7 you know, I don't -- my friends are your friends. My friends
8 are -- I don't have any issues. I tried to help you, and in
9 the process you went scorched earth with the clerk and
10 apparently with -- with -- with Skipper. I don't even know
11 what the fuck you did with Skipper. I don't know. I don't
12 know why the fuck he -- I don't know. I don't know.

13 JUDGE TANNER: I did nothing. I'm going to be clear
14 about that, I did nothing with Skipper.

15 JUDGE STONE: Yeah.

16 JUDGE TANNER: I've done nothing.

17 JUDGE STONE: I don't know. I don't know the
18 details. Honestly, I don't know. But the problem is, you
19 know, I'm going to try to get you back to Hoke as best I can.
20 And just be nice, you'll win reelection, even if it's -- I
21 don't even think -- I think Marissa's going to get talked out
22 of the whole deal. Okay? I think she's going to get talked
23 out of the whole deal. If she doesn't, so be it. It's not a
24 big deal.

25 The Sharlene Anderson thing, I don't know her. I

1 just don't -- I don't know her. I've talked to her once.
2 But, you know, I still think even if she runs I think you can
3 win that race.

4 But -- but you've got to be mindful that in
5 politics, politics is not a trial court trial thing, one
6 person winning against -- politics is -- is, you know,
7 helping everybody, doing the right thing by everybody. And I
8 see that in you, which is the way I was younger in life.
9 Forgive me for saying so. Okay? I don't know if I'm making
10 sense.

11 JUDGE TANNER: So at what point is somebody going to
12 help me? Is that today?

13 JUDGE STONE: You -- you -- you are going to help
14 yourself. You are going to help yourself by just being nice,
15 by just being nice and people saying, you know what, she's
16 been a good judge. Don't be confrontational with people.
17 And I know you got the issues with Skipper. Okay? I got
18 that. But he's a nonfactor. He's a nonfactor. Just be
19 nice.

20 JUDGE TANNER: Well, I'm not going to lie, Judge
21 Stone. It sounds like he's not a nonfactor. It sounds like
22 he's weaponizing judicial standards against me for something
23 I did not do.

24 JUDGE STONE: Okay. Let --

25 JUDGE TANNER: Judge Stone, I didn't do anything.

1 JUDGE STONE: Listen, Beth, Skipper couldn't won --
2 win reelection. If anybody ran against him he couldn't win
3 reelection. He has no political clout. He has no political
4 power. Do you not know -- I'm -- I'm just telling you that.

5 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, I mean, I'll be honest, it's
6 news to me. Like that's news to me. I've not been notified
7 of anything.

8 JUDGE STONE: Okay. But I'm telling you right now,
9 he has no political clout or power. None. If -- if -- if
10 anybody wanted to take him out, they would. But the best
11 thing he does is he just flies under the radar and is a nice
12 guy so nobody runs against him.

13 JUDGE TANNER: I have a different assessment of him,
14 but sure.

15 JUDGE STONE: Well, you may have a different
16 assessment of him, but I'm telling you, that's the truth.
17 That's the truth.

18 I mean, again, and I'm not -- you know, I'm on the
19 short list for a fucking federal district court seat; did you
20 know that?

21 JUDGE TANNER: I have heard that.

22 JUDGE STONE: Okay. He has no fucking political
23 clout whatsoever. None. If somebody were to run against
24 him, he'd fucking lose. The only thing he has the ability to
25 do is send you down to Hoke County. I'm going to talk to him

1 about it. Okay?

2 JUDGE TANNER: Uh-huh.

3 JUDGE STONE: I'm going to help you. And I'm going
4 to help you -- and again, I'm going to help you, you know
5 why? You remind me of myself as a younger age. That's bad.
6 But I still -- that's what -- you remind me of that. You're
7 a good judge. You do the right thing. Okay? That's -- I
8 need you to relax. Just relax.

9 JUDGE TANNER: And I'm telling -- I will tell you,
10 I'm totally relaxed. So if there was something -- because
11 it's --

12 JUDGE STONE: Marissa -- Marissa Curry -- listen to
13 me. Marissa Curry, this is not going to come from me, but
14 Marissa, it's already been told, Marissa Curry is already
15 going to have a communication to bow out. Okay? People are
16 going to talk to her to bow out. Any issue will become
17 Sharlene Anderson and you. I don't know her from Adam.
18 Okay? I don't know anything about her. You might; I don't.
19 But if you're the incumbent and you're nice and you don't
20 piss people off, you'll win. Okay? You'll win.

21 JUDGE TANNER: Sounds great. Um, I'm dis --

22 JUDGE STONE: When we talk --

23 JUDGE TANNER: I will tell you I'm disappointed to
24 hear that Skipper has used judicial standards against me.

25 JUDGE STONE: Do what?

1 JUDGE TANNER: I'm disappointed. I'm disappointed
2 to hear that Skipper has allegedly weaponized judicial
3 standards against me for something that I --

4 JUDGE STONE: I don't know that for a fact so don't
5 repeat that.

6 JUDGE TANNER: Of course, I will not repeat that.
7 But I just --

8 JUDGE STONE: I don't --

9 JUDGE TANNER: It's disappointing to hear --

10 JUDGE STONE: I do not know that for a fact. I do
11 not know that for a fact so do not repeat it. That would be
12 conjecture on my part. But I do know that he doesn't like
13 you, I can tell you that right now.

14 JUDGE TANNER: That he what?

15 JUDGE STONE: I do know that he doesn't like you.
16 (Laughing).

17 JUDGE TANNER: So what? So what? Does he like you?

18 JUDGE STONE: Who knows?

19 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah.

20 JUDGE STONE: You know, who knows?

21 JUDGE TANNER: Listen, I'm not -- and I really -- I
22 don't mean that to be really kind of like any one way about
23 that, but my assessment about that, Judge Stone, is that
24 Judge Creed doesn't like me because I'm competent, and
25 because when I push on issues, not in an ugly way, I honestly

1 90 percent of the time have no idea it's going to be an
2 issue.

3 Like, for example, when I -- when I -- about the
4 leave policy, I just -- I was like, hey, like, like the way
5 you're talking to me right now, I -- I tried to talk to him
6 and say Skipper, you can't tell people they can't take leave.
7 And I just -- I just need to figure out how to do that. And
8 because I'm not in Moore County and my doctors are here, like
9 I just have to take a whole day off, like I'm -- I'll do it
10 however you want me to do it, but you can't write me an
11 e-mail that is -- that is entirely inappropriate.

12 And I'm going to tell you, Judge Stone, I don't go
13 off tattling every time Skipper does something inappropriate.
14 I just try to handle it in-house. But I'm trying -- I really
15 am as a judge, I'm not trying -- I'm trying to make him look
16 good, and so because if he looks good our office looks good.
17 You know what I'm saying? Like --

18 JUDGE STONE: Yeah, of course.

19 JUDGE TANNER: -- in my mind it's the same thing
20 with the superior court. I mean, I could have a thousand
21 opinions about the people are in there, I feel the same way
22 about Todd. If they look good, we look good. That's all it
23 takes. You know what I mean? And then we all kind of all --
24 I mean from a political perspective we kind of all ride off
25 into the sunset for however long we want to hold our offices

1 if we all look good.

2 So I'm never out there with Skipper trying to make
3 him look bad, but he is definitely making some very
4 vindictive decisions that are putting me in a political
5 position that's really challenging.

6 And I will be frank with you because I think
7 you've -- you've -- you know, called me today in a spirit of
8 transparency, which I appreciate, but I'll be transparent
9 with you and tell you that at this point in order to win
10 reelection it is the opinion of my campaign manager and the
11 people I'm getting legal advice from that I'm going to have
12 to fight back over the fact that Skipper is ignoring the will
13 of the people, which is to elect me in Moore County.

14 JUDGE STONE: Okay. The people that you're hiring,
15 managers, consultants, I -- Skipper has no political clout,
16 just so you know.

17 JUDGE TANNER: I know, but the challenge of it is,
18 because he won't assign me here, I have to force his hand on
19 that in some way.

20 JUDGE STONE: I'm going -- listen, I'm going to
21 talk -- I've told you five fucking times --

22 JUDGE TANNER: No, no, I know. I'm just letting you
23 know, I mean -- and so I don't know what Skipper's talking
24 about. I never said anything about Skipper. I mean -- I
25 mean, if people -- like, the only thing I ever say about

1 Skipper is like for example you know how that administrative
2 order is, we can't schedule in opposite courts or whatever,
3 we have to get the chief to sign off in writing. So I tell
4 people, hey, I'm happy to do that but I just have to get
5 permission of the chief to do that, and then I shoot out an
6 e-mail. And I will tell you, because he gets mad, because he
7 doesn't like me for whatever reason, he denies it every time.

8 And I'm going to tell you, it puts him in a pickle,
9 because he has made some decisions to deny me to allow to
10 hear things in opposite courts. Like I had a case with Jody
11 Foyles, and Jody Foyles had to file a motion to get a
12 continuance in another county, and, I mean, he basically
13 blasted Skipper in that motion.

14 But that's -- I can't do -- that's not -- those -- I
15 tried to explain to Skipper that he needed to allow me to do
16 that, because I -- and I tried, but because he, whatever, for
17 whatever, like you're saying he just doesn't like me, and I
18 don't know why, but I'm really trying to help him.

19 Like in that circumstance I was trying to explain to
20 him like, hey, this is what the attorneys want, I need you to
21 let me hear this 50B in my chapter 50 day because it's a
22 divorce for bed/board action. We just need to hear it all
23 together. And he was just like, nope, not doing that.
24 Sorry. And I was like, okay. And I just let the attorneys
25 know. I wasn't rude, I wasn't ugly, I didn't say anything

1 other than, hey, pursuant to this administrative order I've
2 got to ask the chief, and then I said, hey, the chief
3 declined so just I went ahead and scheduled it for your next
4 day. I was perfectly polite. I was.

5 And that is his authority. I don't -- like, listen,
6 I don't care. You know this, Judge Stone, and you may
7 recognize this in me. If the senior resident or the chief
8 district court judge want to tell me I can't do something and
9 that rests at y'all's feet, I'm good with that. You know
10 what I mean? Like I'm okay with that. I don't -- I don't --
11 y'all are big grown men. I don't need to defend your
12 decisions to people. You know what I'm saying? Like I don't
13 have any -- there may be a thousand reasons you're making a
14 decision that maybe I don't understand the background about.

15 Like I do, I trust, and again, I'll just take this
16 back to my faith, I believe God puts up kings and he takes
17 them down. So I believe that if God has put you in that role
18 it's because he believes you're meant to be there. And so I
19 trust that.

20 And any other disagreement I have with Skipper I
21 have inside our office. You know? And but you know this
22 about me. If I think that something is a problem or a
23 challenge I bring it directly to you. I say, hey, this is
24 the issue, I want you to work with me on this, and this is
25 why, and if you tell me no, I mean, I think you've had that

1 experience with me, right, that like, I may disagree --

2 JUDGE STONE: I don't -- listen. I don't have any
3 problem, Beth, I don't have any problems with you whatsoever,
4 never have.

5 JUDGE TANNER: So I will tell --

6 JUDGE STONE: And -- and --

7 JUDGE TANNER: -- you that's how I work with
8 Skipper. Like I don't have a problem with him.

9 JUDGE STONE: And just so you know, this has come
10 back, I am not endorsing what's her name, Marissa Curry to
11 run against you. None of that's true. I know -- I had a
12 discussion yesterday about this issue. I know where that's
13 coming from. You know where it's coming from. And I think
14 that -- in fact, there may be a discussion that's going to be
15 had with her to not even run. Okay?

16 So just -- just -- just hear me out. I don't have
17 any animosity towards you. I'll do whatever I can to help.
18 I'm going to talk to Skipper about getting you back to -- to
19 Hoke.

20 JUDGE TANNER: Great.

21 JUDGE STONE: But -- but you're barking up the wrong
22 tree if you think I'm your enemy, because I'm not. I am
23 probably the least of your --

24 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, I don't think that, Judge
25 Stone. I don't think that. So I don't -- and I -- and if

1 anybody has spoken in a way that would suggest to you that I
2 think that, I don't think that. I am aware that people have
3 credited you with endorsing my opponents, and I am aware that
4 Mr. Maness throws your name around.

5 JUDGE STONE: What opponents? What opponents? I
6 mean --

7 JUDGE TANNER: I'm just telling you, the things I've
8 already told you. And I am aware that Mr. Maness regularly
9 uses your name as someone who finds me to be difficult. And
10 I -- I sign that exactly where I sign it. That's -- that's
11 what I would say about it.

12 JUDGE STONE: The bottom line with him is he hates
13 you. You hate -- you may not hate him --

14 JUDGE TANNER: I don't.

15 JUDGE STONE: But he hates you.

16 JUDGE TANNER: I don't. And Todd doesn't -- Todd
17 does not take up any of my life space. He really doesn't. I
18 just want him to do a good job.

19 JUDGE STONE: Well, he -- he -- he like -- he likes
20 to use my name and I like to have my name in good source, so
21 I'm going to have to talk to him about that, too.

22 JUDGE TANNER: But my only thought about Todd is,
23 and again, I'm not -- you're correct. I mean, Todd's not
24 somebody I'd go have a beer with. You know what I'm saying?
25 But as far as working with him, there are times when I know

1 that Todd has asked for things from the chief, he does not
2 even know that, but if they are the right thing I absolutely
3 advocate for it. I'm like absolutely, that's not right.

4 I mean, I will tell you, there was a real issue when
5 we were going to Odyssey training that Skipper like wasn't
6 going to let anybody -- like he was going to put visiting
7 judges in, but then it meant that like none of the clerks
8 could go for the training. I mean, I really pushed that he
9 needed to actually cancel courts, which he really was like
10 did not do as well in Hoke County as in Moore. But I pushed
11 on both counties. I said the clerks got to go to the
12 training, man. You can't -- you just can't have -- if you
13 put a visiting judge it let's us go but it doesn't let
14 anybody else go.

15 And as far as my reputation, I will tell you when we
16 went to that training, very few people came from Moore
17 County. Every single one of my involved people, attorneys,
18 clerks, juvenile court counselors, everybody, showed up, and
19 this is something that I think made Skipper mad.

20 Skipper looked at me and said, well, I don't know
21 where the Moore County people are. You know what I said to
22 him? I said, I don't know, Judge Creed, I'm assigned in Hoke
23 County and all of my Hoke County folks are here. I made sure
24 they knew about it. I made sure they were here. He got mad
25 about that.

1 I'm just trying to do my job. Like I'm just trying
2 to do my job. And I thought he would be proud that I had
3 made sure that all of our people in juvenile courts in Hoke
4 County were Odyssey trained so we moved seamlessly. Instead
5 he was angry. And if I may be so bold, I think that's
6 because in that moment he felt outperformed.

7 JUDGE STONE: So -- what's -- it's -- so -- you
8 know -- what's the deal with you and Skipper? Why don't
9 y'all get along? What's the deal with that?

10 JUDGE TANNER: I don't know. I think if I could
11 be -- well, if I could be introspective, I think that
12 probably at the base of it we just have a different style.
13 Like, maybe even just as basic as communication style, I
14 don't know. Skipper I don't believe dissent is a problem.
15 So I -- the only reason we've had office meetings every --
16 since I've been a judge is because I've asked for office
17 meetings. Okay?

18 I don't believe Skipper is -- I believe that Skipper
19 just doesn't like any time someone disagrees with him, even
20 if that's just like in a meeting with him one on one. Like,
21 I'm not out in the world disagreeing with Skipper. You know
22 what I'm saying? I don't do that, because he is the chief.

23 Just like -- I mean, I'll tell you, it's just like
24 with you and the whole, like the -- the CRAVE thing. I know
25 that's a silly -- but it's just a good example of how well we

1 worked together. We worked really well together on that. He
2 put the kibosh on it. And then like when somebody asks me
3 about it, I just said, hey, like a different decision was
4 made, we've got this screen. And I can't even tell you,
5 Judge Stone, that one little screen that's not even a CRAVE,
6 we have had so many WebEx hearings that have been so helpful.
7 I've been able to hear from therapists. It's been amazing.

8 And I have been, when I talk about it, I'm like, I'm
9 so grateful that Judge Stone and Judge Creed worked that out
10 for us. Like that's really who I am.

11 And so I don't know, I mean, I think Skipper gets
12 mad because, I mean, if I can be honest, I think that because
13 sometimes when he makes decisions that aren't great
14 decisions, and I say, hey, I have a question about this, or
15 I'm concerned about this, and it -- I think he just -- he
16 doesn't like to be told he's wrong, even when his wrongness
17 is really negatively impacting how we serve.

18 And I do choose my battles. I don't, like, go to
19 him with everything. I mean, I'll give you an example. That
20 vacation policy is crazy, but, I mean, I just don't go to him
21 about that. But, I mean, like to tell me I can't ever take
22 sick leave, I mean, Judge Stone, I can't do that.

23 JUDGE STONE: Well, I --

24 JUDGE TANNER: So but let me tell --

25 JUDGE STONE: I canceled, I told him I canceled --

1 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, but he gets mad at me about
2 that. And like I'll tell you, like I can guarantee you if he
3 finds out I'm speaking --

4 JUDGE STONE: I told him -- I told him it was bad
5 precedent to even start that shit.

6 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah. Well, so he'll get mad -- so
7 I'll tell you. So for example, I need -- I was taking a
8 class. I went up -- and I appreciate my colleagues. I say
9 it every time when they -- when they -- I appreciate my
10 colleagues for me going to these juvenile classes.

11 But I went to this great class, about a juvenile
12 class up in the mountains about ICWA. It was amazing. I
13 learned so much. I completely changed how I did things. I
14 bring things back to my colleagues and I'm like, hey, this is
15 what I learned. We're supposed to be asking in all these
16 cases, when I ask it in -- like I learned a lot to help our
17 district. And -- and I -- there's -- I've garnered a lot of
18 respect at the School of Government.

19 Well, Skipper went behind me, called two of the
20 professors at the School of Government to say -- I -- I mean,
21 basically to bad mouth me. And people tell me that. And
22 when they tell me that, you know what I say? I'm like, hey,
23 thanks for supporting me going to this class. I don't -- so
24 it's not me. That's what I'm saying. It's not me. It's
25 just Judge Creed.

1 JUDGE STONE: You don't -- you don't -- you don't --
2 you don't, you don't even know this, but, no one knows this,
3 but I got -- I told him that whole deal with leave policy, I
4 told him that was a bad precedent. I said that is not
5 something you want to start. And --

6 JUDGE TANNER: And I -- but so I think he just, when
7 he --

8 JUDGE STONE: You know what I'm talking about?

9 JUDGE TANNER: I do. And I think, Judge Stone -- so
10 when I went to him about that, I think any time I disagree,
11 he doesn't like it when anyone disagrees. But I think the
12 way I approached that, I mean, hey, Judge Stone, you and I
13 have had this whole conversation, and we did have an honest
14 conversation about my future plans. But, I mean, I think
15 even after that, like we've been able to work well together.

16 Like, I'll be honest with you, and again, I mean, my
17 whole plan this whole time has been I just want to be a
18 district court judge. That's what I always wanted to be.
19 I've got a young family still. Like these are all things I
20 want. And I told you the truth when I told you the problem
21 is it's just so hard to be a district court judge when you
22 get picked on like every day for nothing.

23 JUDGE STONE: And by the way, I want to ask you
24 something. So, you know, my name -- I'm on the short list
25 for one of Trump's appointments. You know that. You've --

1 heard --

2 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, I've heard that.

3 JUDGE STONE: Okay. So another thing is, Moore
4 County judges, because we're all Republican, have you -- have
5 you thought about running for the Court of Appeals? Because
6 there's two or three seats available, and they're recruiting
7 people to try to run. Have you thought about that?

8 JUDGE TANNER: I've considered it. I just want to
9 get through -- I'm not going to do it in '26, obviously.
10 Like I'm gonna -- I mean, my -- I have always -- and I told
11 you this at lunch. My plan was always to run for purposes
12 when I had a safe seat. That's what I always wanted to do.
13 So that puts me in an off, like in a presidential year
14 running for something else.

15 JUDGE STONE: Yeah, I gotcha.

16 JUDGE TANNER: And that's kind of what my plan --
17 that's the safest -- I mean, that's what I'm -- I mean, in
18 all seriousness, that's what your campaign people advise you
19 to do, you know.

20 JUDGE STONE: '26 there's two or three people that
21 are up and have a good shot. I don't know if there's anybody
22 we can put up in the Moore County judiciary, but they would
23 have a really got shot at winning.

24 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, I mean, the only thing -- I
25 mean, truly, what I have heard about that is that there's

1 been some discussion about you running for the Court of
2 Appeals --

3 JUDGE STONE: Well, that --

4 JUDGE TANNER: -- which I've sort of been paying
5 attention to, but, you know, I --

6 JUDGE STONE: That -- that's been brought up, but I
7 mean, hell, I'm -- I'm -- I'm -- I'm already -- I was asked
8 to submit my paperwork. I've already submitted my paperwork
9 to --

10 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah.

11 JUDGE STONE: -- Trump's person on the judge thing.
12 I mean, but that's neither here nor there.

13 JUDGE TANNER: But Judge Stone, as far as why
14 Skipper doesn't like me, I literally, if I'm being honest
15 with you, because I have been asked this question a few
16 times, I -- I think what you said in the beginning of the
17 conversation is I think he's scared of me but I don't know
18 why.

19 Like I'm not -- I wouldn't have any reason -- I
20 mean, the only reason I would have to run against him is if I
21 lost in my next campaign, and, I mean, I certainly think he
22 would be the weakest link on the district court bench.

23 JUDGE STONE: (Laughing.)

24 JUDGE TANNER: Does that make sense?

25 JUDGE STONE: Really it makes sense --

1 JUDGE TANNER: But outside of that --

2 JUDGE STONE: It makes sense. But listen, listen to
3 me. I'm going to be very candid with you. You're a strong
4 woman. Okay? You're a very strong woman. You're smart,
5 educated and you're strong (laughing). I'm laughing because
6 I'm getting ready to say the converse of that.

7 I -- and don't take this the wrong way. I can
8 handle you and I can talk with you, and you and I can be
9 friends. We can have conversations that have, um, I guess we
10 can have a formal communique. Okay? You intimidate him.
11 You intimidate him. And that's a bad -- that's a recipe for
12 disaster. Does that make any sense to you?

13 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, it totally does, but the
14 challenge I have with that, Judge Stone, is I can't control
15 that. You know what I -- like --

16 JUDGE STONE: And I -- you know what? I can't
17 control it either but what I am (inaudible) is how long
18 you've been --

19 JUDGE TANNER: Four years.

20 (Background noise.)

21 JUDGE STONE: -- rotation in Moore County is time.
22 Now, I know he doesn't -- I'm going to talk to him about it.
23 I promise you, I promise you, I'll talk to him about it.

24 JUDGE TANNER: Great. And I would really appreciate
25 if you would -- I know you can't promise it, but I would

1 really appreciate if you would talk to him about the best
2 thing for the district is that the judge who's going through
3 all this juvenile training be the primary judge in all the
4 juvenile courts.

5 JUDGE STONE: Hold on.

6 JUDGE TANNER: That's the best thing. We know that;
7 right?

8 JUDGE STONE: Well, I'm --

9 JUDGE TANNER: And that leads me to a certification
10 I'm already halfway to, and that is a certification specific
11 to a benefit to me running to district court. And I will
12 tell you freely, getting that certification would signal to
13 me that God wants me where I'm at. But --

14 JUDGE STONE: I promise you I'm going to talk to him
15 about it. Not only am I going to talk to him about it, I
16 will lean on him about it. Okay?

17 JUDGE TANNER: Sure.

18 JUDGE STONE: And -- I don't know what you're doing
19 but I don't know if you're hearing?

20 JUDGE TANNER: I can.

21 JUDGE STONE: I'll lean on him about it. Okay?
22 Again, I can't control him, but I'm going to lean on him.

23 Second of all -- second of all, this has to do with
24 (background noise), and I know you're in the kitchen doing
25 something.

1 JUDGE TANNER: Sorry, I am.

2 JUDGE STONE: I want you to put the water down and I
3 want you to listen to me. And I want you to listen to me,
4 and I want you to really take -- when you're lying in bed
5 getting ready to go to sleep tonight, I want you to listen to
6 this. You promise me you'll do that?

7 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah.

8 JUDGE STONE: Okay. You are a smart woman. You're
9 a smart lawyer. Okay? In life, in life, there's -- there's
10 several things that have to happen. One is patience. The
11 second thing is knowing when and how to pick your battles.
12 And three, just try and be a good person. And from what I'm
13 hearing you're trying to be a good person in Hoke County and
14 everyone loves you, and that's good. Okay?

15 JUDGE TANNER: Uh-huh.

16 JUDGE STONE: The second and third thing is this.
17 His days as chief justice -- chief judge are limited. I told
18 you this a fucking year and a half ago, if you remember.

19 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah.

20 JUDGE STONE: All you -- all -- and forgive me for
21 saying so, all you have to do was be the nice Beth Tanner.
22 All you had to do was be the nice Beth Tanner and we were
23 going to make you -- we, not just me, we were going to make
24 you the chief judge. And then you stirred all this shit up,
25 and now you got shit stirred up with Skipper.

1 Just settle everything down and we will make you
2 chief judge. Even fucking Todd will come to you -- to your,
3 I don't want to say rescue. What's the word I'm -- even Todd
4 will come to your advocacy to do that. But you just -- just
5 be nice and bide your time, and you're going to be the chief
6 judge.

7 And I don't know if I'm making any sense to you. I
8 don't know if you believe me. I don't know if you don't
9 believe me. But -- but -- but that is the honest to goddamn
10 truth. And I want you to listen to me, and I want you to let
11 that burn in. When you're going to sleep, let it burn into
12 your soul.

13 JUDGE TANNER: I hear ya. And I --

14 JUDGE STONE: Okay?

15 JUDGE TANNER: And I'm excited to hear that, and I'm
16 hopeful that I will not have anymore impediments to sort of
17 my reelection that are put on me by Skipper. It sounds like
18 we're going to make headway on that hopefully.

19 JUDGE STONE: Skipper -- Skipper has no clout. He
20 has -- Skipper has no political clout. He has no political
21 clout. None.

22 JUDGE TANNER: Well, and I -- and you may not even
23 know this but we have not yet received our March calendar, so
24 that is a perfect opportunity for there to be sort of an
25 olive branch so that we can just sort of start a new day.

1 JUDGE STONE: Yeah, exactly.

2 JUDGE TANNER: Yep, and that kind of -- for making
3 that choice --

4 JUDGE STONE: Just -- just.

5 JUDGE TANNER: -- that sort of starting in March I
6 see a regular rotation of me through my home county and I see
7 that I'm now able to get enough juvenile court that I can
8 complete that certification, that puts me -- I'm going to
9 tell you, that puts me on a train to defend my seat in
10 district court. That's the train. Seriously. I'm not being
11 funny. I'm being serious.

12 JUDGE STONE: Yeah, no --

13 JUDGE TANNER: That's the train. Right now it looks
14 like all those doors have been shut. That's how I feel.

15 JUDGE STONE: I mean, all you have to do, just be
16 nice. Don't be confrontational. Look, everybody in the
17 world, everybody in the world will take care of Skipper. You
18 don't even need to worry about that. Everybody in the world
19 will take care of him.

20 JUDGE TANNER: Great.

21 JUDGE STONE: Okay? Just be nice. See, and --
22 and -- and I have to get on your ass a little bit here. If
23 you wouldn't have done all that shit last year, you would
24 have been chief justice now -- not chief justice. I keep --
25 you would be chief judge now if you wouldn't have pulled all

1 that shit, because he was on -- he was a lame duck then.

2 And -- and you -- and listen, I understand what
3 you -- I get it. I get it. I understand things. Okay?
4 Unfortunately I have a lot of gray hair. I get it. And it's
5 going to happen, but you got to let -- you have to let things
6 evolve and let it happen. Because nobody even wants him as
7 chief judge. Do you know that?

8 JUDGE TANNER: I -- well, I'll be honest I have
9 heard that. I have really tried to keep, you know, in an
10 effort to try and be nice to Skipper, if anyone tries to
11 bring to me concerns about him --

12 JUDGE STONE: No, no, don't be political --

13 JUDGE TANNER: No, no, no. I'm being serious. I
14 have really tried to steer clear of those conversations
15 recently.

16 JUDGE STONE: No. Okay. But I'm not asking you to
17 steer clear of that. I'm not asking you to give an
18 acceptance speech at the Golden Globe.

19 JUDGE TANNER: No, no, I know, but I'm just telling
20 you the truth. I have heard -- I have heard that in the
21 past. I just haven't --

22 JUDGE STONE: Okay.

23 JUDGE TANNER: -- heard it recently, is what I would
24 say.

25 JUDGE STONE: Well, people -- people will have that

1 happen, but you've got to allow -- it's like that scene out
2 of Jerry McGuire, help me, help you.

3 JUDGE TANNER: And I feel like we're on a good track
4 on that.

5 JUDGE STONE: Yeah. Help -- help us. Help us, help
6 you. But when you did all that shit you were being so
7 aggressive it wasn't helping us help you.

8 JUDGE TANNER: Well, I don't anticipate that I'm
9 going to have any issues with the Moore County clerk's office
10 upon returning to Moore County. I mean, that's -- that's my
11 understanding.

12 JUDGE STONE: Well, A, that's good. Okay? A,
13 that's good. But B, what I'm saying is, just be nice, play
14 it cool, go to your court. He's going to be gone. Nobody
15 wants the other people to be chief judge. We will support
16 you. Okay? That's all I'm -- you know, I've talked to you
17 more -- I've talked to you like a fucking grand uncle or
18 something that we talk -- no one -- and I think if you're --
19 I think if you're honest with yourself, no one has even
20 talked to you like I'm talking to you. And maybe if I had
21 talked to you earlier in life, and, you know, maybe if -- I
22 think that -- maybe things would have been different. But --

23 JUDGE TANNER: Well, hopefully from moving forward
24 today things can be different and some things can be put in
25 place that will help me win a reelection, and we can all roll

1 on. That's kind of -- that feels good to me. Does it feel
2 good to you? It feels good to me.

3 JUDGE STONE: Well, listen, here's the thing with
4 reelection. Marissa is either going to get talked out of the
5 whole thing or she's going get like five percent, ten percent
6 of the --

7 JUDGE TANNER: Sure.

8 JUDGE STONE: The issue -- now, here's the issue. I
9 don't know this woman. I don't know this -- what the fuck's
10 her name? Tell me what the fuck's her name.

11 JUDGE TANNER: Sharlene Anderson.

12 JUDGE STONE: Sharlene, yeah.

13 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah. She's a D.S.S. attorney in
14 Moore County. And I was the favorite judge in D.S.S. in
15 Moore County.

16 JUDGE STONE: So I don't -- I don't know her. Okay?

17 JUDGE TANNER: Uh-huh.

18 JUDGE STONE: So I can't really -- if I knew her I
19 could probably tell you well, we can -- I don't know her. I
20 don't know what her game is, you know, I don't know.

21 JUDGE TANNER: I was surprised to hear -- she has
22 told me directly that she wasn't running against me, so I
23 didn't really think anything else about it. I was surprised
24 to hear some rumors otherwise. I don't put a lot of stock in
25 rumors. I really don't. I just sort of live my life and

1 move on with my life.

2 You know, Judge Stone, my position about that is,
3 again, right now the direct challenges to me winning
4 reelection are the things we've talked about that you said
5 you'll work on. So I think -- you know, to the best of your
6 ability, I understand that. But I think, you know, that sort
7 of really does make a difference. And her claim to fame is
8 that she's the D.S.S. attorney.

9 But the reality is, again, if I'm in juvenile courts
10 enough to get my certification, which I will have by the end
11 of this year if I continue to start rotating back into a
12 normal -- I have to be in 50 percent of the cases of the
13 district, or I have to have like some ridiculous number of
14 actual litigated cases, which in a small district is hard to
15 get to. But I think if I get that, I get that certification,
16 I'm the incumbent, I'm the only one with a juvenile court
17 certification, it makes a ton of sense for me to continue
18 being a district court judge.

19 That's it. It's just that simple. It really is
20 just that simple.

21 JUDGE STONE: Yeah.

22 JUDGE TANNER: And as far as saying ugly stuff about
23 Skipper, I can assure you I'm not saying ugly stuff about
24 Skipper. I'm just not. Like, I think Skipper is --

25 JUDGE STONE: I don't care if you are or not.

1 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, I think Skipper is doing things
2 that make him look bad, but that's all -- that's on him. I
3 can't -- I -- I don't control -- you know what I'm saying?
4 Like, I get it, he makes some decisions that make him look
5 bad sometimes, and I'm the person I think he's trying to
6 blame for that, but it's not me. You know what I'm saying?
7 Like it's just happening. It's just like he used to blame
8 Steve. It used -- it wasn't Steve, either. It's just he
9 blames Todd, he blames --

10 JUDGE STONE: Well, he didn't like Steve -- look, he
11 didn't like Steve because of his wife. His wife hates Steve.

12 JUDGE TANNER: Yeah, and that's okay. But, I mean,
13 I -- that's not -- I don't have any control. All I can do is
14 go to work every day and be respectful to Skipper, and that's
15 what I do. So that's what I'm doing. You know what I mean?
16 I mean, I'm just going to work, I'm doing the best job I can
17 in my courts.

18 JUDGE STONE: Well, just -- just do that. And all
19 I'm saying is this. All I'm saying is this. No one else --
20 I can -- I'm willing to wager everything, no one else has
21 talked to you like I'm talking to you. Okay? Have they?

22 JUDGE TANNER: No.

23 JUDGE STONE: Okay. So just fucking listen to what
24 I'm saying. Be nice, don't worry about Skipper, be nice,
25 worry about this -- I'm not endorsing anybody against you,

1 especially Marissa Curry. She's -- she's probably going to
2 be dropping out anyway. I don't know anything about this
3 Sharlene. I don't know her. I don't know, you know. A, I'm
4 not endorsing her, number one. Number two, I don't even know
5 her. Okay? You worry about running your race. You're going
6 to get reelected. And just -- just -- just be nice. Okay?
7 Just be nice.

8 JUDGE TANNER: Sounds good. And I'm so sorry, I
9 have got to go, because I've got something I've got to be at
10 today.

11 JUDGE STONE: I've got to go, too.

12 JUDGE TANNER: All right.

13 JUDGE STONE: I've got to go, too.

14 JUDGE TANNER: All right. Thank you.

15 JUDGE STONE: You're welcome.

16 JUDGE TANNER: All right. Bye.

17 (End of recording.)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT OF AUDIO RECORDING

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript of an audio recording dated January 18, 2025, is a true and accurate transcript of the recording and was transcribed by me to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I was not personally present during said recording, I am not related to any party or attorney, nor do I have any interest whatsoever in the outcome of any matter involving said recording and/or transcript.

This the 23rd day of February, 2026.



Cynthia L. Hall, RPR