

The Thirty First Annual
Chester Bedell Memorial Lecture

"THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE AMERICAN LAWYER"

*Presented to The Florida Bar
By
The Chester Bedell Memorial Foundation
in cooperation with
The Trial Lawyers and Criminal Law Sections*

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HONORABLE HENRY L. ADAMS JR.

WILLIAM J. SHEPPARD

Jacksonville, Florida

The Honorable Henry Lee Adams, Jr.

Senior United States District Judge Henry Lee Adams, Jr. is a 1962 graduate of Matthew Gilbert High School in Jacksonville, Florida. He received his B.S. Degree in Political Science from Florida A & M University, Tallahassee, Florida in 1966 and his Juris Doctor Degree from Howard University College of Law, Washington, D.C., in 1969. He was admitted to The Florida Bar in November 1969.

Judge Adams is married to the former Bernice Elaine Harris. They have two children, Cheryl L. and Henry Lee II, and three grandchildren.

Judge Adams was awarded a Reginald Heber Smith Fellowship in April, 1969 and after completing a Consumer Rights and Poverty Law training program at Haverford College, Ardmore Pennsylvania, was assigned to the Duval County Legal Aid Association (n/k/a Jacksonville Area Legal Aid Association, Inc.). In November 1970, he was appointed Assistant Public Defender of the Fourth Judicial Circuit and remained in that position until January, 1972, when he joined the law firm of Sheppard, Fletcher, Hand & Adams. In 1976, he joined the law firm of Marshall and Adams where he maintained a general practice of law until October 1979. At that time, he was appointed Circuit Judge, Fourth Judicial Circuit (Clay, Duval and Nassau Counties), by Governor Bob Graham. As a Circuit Judge, he was assigned to every division of the Court and each County in the Circuit. Judge Adams served in the Civil Division from October 1979 to December 31, 1979; From January 1980 to December 1980, he was assigned to Nassau County part-time, and the Juvenile Division in Jacksonville, part-time. He continued full-time in the Juvenile Division from January 1981 through December 1982, and full-time in the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court from January 1983 to December 1983. In 1984, he was assigned to the Civil Division in Jacksonville and remained there until December 1986. In January 1987, Judge Adams was assigned to the General Jurisdiction Courts in Clay and Nassau Counties. The assignment was changed to full-time and restricted to Nassau County in July 1988, where he remained until December 1990. He returned to a Civil Division in Jacksonville in January 1991, and was reassigned to Nassau County in January 1993.

In October 1993, President Clinton nominated Judge Adams to a vacancy on the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida. The nomination was confirmed by the United States Senate on November 20, 1993. Judge Adams was assigned to the Tampa Division of the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, from December 1993 until April 2000, when he was reassigned to the Jacksonville Division. In April 2010, Judge Adams assumed his current status of Senior United States District Judge.

Judge Adams is a former board member of Communities in Schools of Jacksonville, Inc., and the Jacksonville Public Education Fund.

Judge Adams has been a regular instructor and workshop leader at the Prosecutor/Public Defender Training Program of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. He served as a workshop leader at the Florida New Judges College in 1983 and the Trial Lawyers Section of the Florida Bar's Trial Advocacy Seminar in 1984-85, 1985-86, and 1989-90. In addition, he served as a lecturer at the Bridge-the-Gap Seminars of the Young Lawyers Section of the Jacksonville Bar in 1991 and 1992.

William J. Sheppard Esq.

William J. Sheppard is a Board Certified Criminal Trial Lawyer. After receiving his Bachelor's Degree at Florida State University, he served two years in the United States Army Artillery as a First Lieutenant before attending the University of Florida College of Law where he graduated in 1967. He has a criminal defense and civil rights firm in Jacksonville with his wife and two other partners.

He has argued in the U.S. Supreme Court on three occasions including *Doggett v. United States*, 505 U.S.647 (1962) which established that a delay between indictment and arrest can violate the constitutional right to a speedy trial.

He has received The Florida Bar Foundation Medal of Honor, which is the highest honor bestowed upon a lawyer by the legal profession in Florida, the Tobias Simon Pro Bono Award, which is given annually by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court to the attorney in Florida who has given the most outstanding pro bono service, the Selig I. Goldin Memorial Award, which is presented annually by the Criminal Law Section of the Florida Bar for making significant contributions to the criminal justice system of the State of Florida, and the Steven M. Goldstein Criminal Justice Award, the highest honor awarded by the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

INTRODUCTION

MR. PILLANS: The next feature on our program is the Chester Bedell Memorial Foundation annual lecture. This will be the 31st in a series of these lectures that have been given here at the Florida Bar. Our speakers, who will be bit players, to be honest with you, in a very moving film which is a tribute primarily to Judge Henry Adams and to Bill Sheppard. Bill is a Jacksonville lawyer who started out his practice about the same time I did in Jacksonville with a silk stocking law firm representing banks. But that didn't last very long, and he went out on his own and formed a firm and has ever since practiced criminal defense work and as a civil rights lawyer.

And as you will see from the film, he and Judge Adams, in 1972, formed the first integrated law firm in the state of Florida. Bill's bio is in the program, but there's several highlights that I think need mention.

He was the Florida Bar Foundation Medal of Honor winner. He was the Tobias Simon's Pro Bono Award winner. And for you in the criminal law section, he has been the Selig I. Goldin Memorial Award winner.

I have followed his practice and on one occasion, unfortunately, to be opposed to him in a matter, and I know that Bill always practiced in a highly intense and emotional area of the law. But he's done it always with perspective, with humility, and with a sense of humor. He's never let the cause become so important that he doesn't see the common good of all. And, indeed, he has been recognized as a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers for his professionalism.

Now, we're going to show the film that Bill and one of his sons put in motion, and it features Judge Adams. So I will not tell you much about Judge Adams' background because it's all here in the film.

Chester Bedell, for whom the Foundation is named and for whom these lectures occur because he always believed that the independence of the American lawyer is significant to our liberties. Judge Adams became a lawyer during the Civil Rights Movement. And as you will see in the film, he said he did so in large part because, in the civil rights struggle that was going on at the time, it was the lawyers that were causing the changes to be made.

As far as the independence of the American lawyer and taking a brave stand in controversial and difficult issues, Bill Sheppard and Judge Adams are the epitome of the independent American lawyer that we honor with this lecture.

Bill, would you tell the audience what it is that motivated you and Judge Adams to get together and form this law firm.

MR. SHEPPARD: Two things, I think. Number one -- and Adams was ahead of me on this -- he was aware of what was going on in our country at the time that we hooked up together. I started practicing in 1968 at McCarthy, Adams and Foote.

Judge Adams came from the inner city of Jacksonville. And so it was the times that motivated me in part and I think Judge Adams, but more importantly I think it was our friendship. We'd gotten to know each other coming off of a civil rights riot and had worked together, and we created a mutual respect, and we wanted to do this stuff together, so we did. And we had a lot of fun. He taught me how to

practice criminal defense law, and I think that I taught him a little bit about how to handle civil rights cases.

And I left a prestigious law firm to open my own firm 100 percent because of the times. I wanted to make a difference. So that's what I've done with the firm that I practiced with, and I've always practiced with other fine, fine lawyers. And we're a family. We're unique in that we go to lunch every day together. The only other law firm that I knew about that did that was the Bedell Firm. I would see Chester Bedell and his brigade of young lawyers going to lunch. So I stole the idea, and it works. We get more done in that hour and get to know each other better and get more law practiced than we do if we had a meeting every week or every month.

But I think the film will do the talking. And the reason that I did the film was because I see Judge Adams as a piece of history, and I wanted to preserve that history because he came from nothing to become what you will see in the film, an outstanding citizen and public servant.

MR. PILLANS: Bill, hasn't the film won some recognition and awards around the country?

MR. SHEPPARD: Yes. The person that put this together was my son. He's an independent filmmaker. At the time we put it together, he lived in Hawaii. And a couple of buddies of mine lured Judge Adams down to the office for a couple hours, and we got him to talking, and we filmed it. And then my son, who is a film editor, put the piece together.

We entered it in several film festivals. We won two awards at the Los Angeles Movie Awards, and we got it in the Amelia Island Film Festival.

MR. PILLANS: Now, with a little luck, I'm going to start the film. And after which I'm going to call on Judge Adams for his comments and reflection on what's there.

CONVERSATIONS ON CATFISH, COURTROOMS AND CHANGE: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF HENRY LEE ADAMS

GROWING UP IN JACKSONVILLE

JUDGE ADAMS: When I was a young kid, we used to walk behind the Duval County Courthouse and fish for catfish. I even walked through the courthouse a couple of times until somebody threw us out of there because it was a long way to find the colored water fountain.

My name is Henry Lee Adams, Jr. I grew up in Jacksonville. And when I say Jacksonville, specifically, the east side of Jacksonville. We're talking about a period of time, especially as far as black communities are concerned. It was kinda divided between the east and the west, and I was on the east side of Jacksonville.

Like I said before, it was a poor neighborhood. East Jacksonville was a poor neighborhood. But, you know, when everybody is poor, there's no hierarchy. Everybody's the same. So that wasn't a major problem. Some of us were lucky. We had both parents; some were not. Quite a few of my friends were not. But everybody seemed to get along and survive.

I went to an elementary school on the east side called Oakland -- Oakland Elementary School. And at that time Oakland was the primary elementary school in East Jacksonville, obviously segregated. There was another one on Florida Avenue, but it was a white school. And from there I went to Matthew Gilbert, and I went to that school from seventh grade through 12th. You know, it was the eastside high school. So that being the case, the whole community was centered around Matthew Gilbert High School. And at Gilbert we'd get used books from the white high school in the neighborhood, which was Jackson. But we'd get used books from them. We'd get used football equipment from them.

The facility was really a second-rate facility. I guess the good thing about it was the teachers knew everybody's parents. So they didn't have the disciplinary problems that they have now. You know, Gilbert School, you could walk down the halls of Gilbert School and hear a pin drop. I mean, you see 500 kids in the hall, and they just had it under that type of control. But they got that control by not sparing the rod. And we had some teachers out there who were very good. So we were fortunate.

Now, in my high school graduating class -- and I think it was a couple hundred students -- I think about four or five of us went to college. I looked at the yearbook every now and then and see how many of my friends survived. There's a picture of me. There is this -- what I want to be in the future was a lawyer. And so, it was kind of, it was something that was with me for a long, long time.

I think when I was in ninth grade there was a lawsuit about the city swimming pools or the city had policies that blacks couldn't go to this golf course or blacks couldn't go to this swimming pool. And we used to walk from East Jacksonville over to Jefferson Street to go to a swimming pool and pass by a white swimming pool. And I was impressed with the lawyers who were actually doing that kind of stuff. It was hard to believe that there were really black lawyers out there doing this stuff.

And I didn't know any white people. But I knew that there was a problem because you -- the problem was -- it was actually every day. And the teachers were telling you about the problems, and your teachers were telling you about segregation. And you get a chance to hear speakers at the school about it.

Our principal, when I was in high school, was a guy named Charles F. James. His brother was Chappie James, and Chappie James was one of the first black generals in the United States Army Air Corps. And he'd fly in to give a speech maybe twice a year. And the most impressive thing to see was this black guy in a flight uniform being escorted to Matthew Gilbert by motorcycle cops. I mean, it was amazing. So, you know, we were exposed to what was going on. It's just that it didn't really affect us, so we thought, in our immediate life because there was nothing to integrate. There were no white folks there, anyway. You realized when you went downtown Jacksonville, though.

You know, we'd go downtown to shop for a suit. They wouldn't let you in the brand-new building, which is amazing. So you knew about those things, and you knew those things were wrong. I knew they were wrong. And you didn't know any white persons except -- you know, my mother worked with Jack Wayman. Jack Wayman was a lawyer here. I'd hear from her all of the time about this lawyer and some of the things he's doing. And she used to tell me about how he was representing these people who fell.

The elevator, when they first opened the building -- the Duval County Courthouse, the elevator collapsed and killed a couple of these people, and he represented all of them and kind of nailed the county or the city or somebody about the elevator. And, you know, I'd always think of that when I'm going there. And I was deeply offended by the whole thing. That's why those lawyers meant so much. They meant so much to me and so did Howard University because it was where most of the black fighters in the legal profession came from, and that's why I decided to do that. I knew I didn't want to teach.

And all of this presupposed that I could get into somebody's college. And by the time I was in 12th grade I didn't think that was a possibility. And I'm not sure I even wanted to do it at that point in time. You know, Florida Avenue was

going fine. I was having a good time. I got home one day, and all of my clothes were packed. And I'm gone. I'm gone to Tallahassee. My clothes stayed packed for a whole semester. I was ready to get back to Jacksonville, get back to Florida Avenue. And then life changed up there. It got interesting. The social aspect of it got really interesting.

GETTING INTERESTED

College had an effect on me that it may not have had on most other people because, generally, in my neighborhood, you tend to accept our plight as our plight. And regardless of what the teacher said, I just couldn't get that motivation because it was so bad that, you know, there was a feeling that this will never change. And then it started falling apart.

I mean, you get a federal judge to do this, and everybody's going around with their eyes wide open disbelieving that this is all of a sudden happening. Some judge just said, "You can't do that anymore." And then folks start realizing that it could change. And when you got to college, you met people who really believed that, students your age in the same plight that really believed that this could change, and signed on to it.

And that's what happened with me. I mean, I met some really interesting people up there. Stokely Carmichael was all over the place the day I got there. He came up to the law school and said, well, you boys are giving up your dignity. He said, you're joining the establishment. Go on now. Go on to law school and become a lawyer. It was a conflict, but it had some validity to be able to fight this fight, you have to give up something. I mean, you got to join something that's pretty much rule oriented and pretty much regulated. And you got to join that establishment, that part of it, to fight it.

But frankly, the most effective fighters I've seen were lawyers. That was just the bottom line. I mean, everything was going on. It was going on in the court system. So, you know, it was worth giving up, if that's what you call it.

BACK TO JACKSONVILLE

When I graduated, I'm a week away from graduation and it dawns -- a couple of weeks -- it dawns on me that I don't have any money and I don't have a job. And I went ahead and applied for the Reggie Program. And the Reggie Program gave you a list of cities to go to that you could apply for. It was my intent not to come back to Jacksonville at all.

So they accepted me and assigned me to San Francisco, and they had a summer program at Ardmore College outside of Philadelphia. So I had to go to that summer program, and that thing lasted the entire summer. I had to stop in Pennsylvania at

the law school to register and everything. And when I got there, they said, well, we can't send you to San Francisco.

I said, well, what's the problem?

They said, well, Jacksonville, Florida is requesting the assignment of a fellow there, and I don't think anybody else that gotten this far is going to voluntarily go to Jacksonville.

And sometime in October we got the Bar results. And it was '69, and I think the official name of it is the Halloween Day Riot or something in East Jacksonville. And frankly, I was in that store that day, which is scary because I was asked by the NAACP to accompany them to talk to these people about something that they had done with one of their customers.

I think she challenged the bill, and some guy threatened to -- he might have even put his hand on her -- threatened to throw her out of there. And I went up to talk to him, and we talked. We had a meeting out there. The enemy had a group outside. We didn't get anything resolved, and we were going to come back and try it again. But the owner of that store was really hostile. He was really hostile. And sometime that night his business caught on fire. And as a result of his business catching on fire, a lot of other businesses caught on fire. And it became a big issue.

And I think I went on television with Major Tanzler and his General Counsel, Mr. Durden. And I was telling the mayor, you need to go out there -- you need to go out there like you go to all of these other places and talk sometime. And I reminded him that, you know, a couple of weeks ago it was posted that you would be out there to talk about resolving some of the issues in East Jacksonville. It would have been a good day because it was flooded with water like it usually is when it rain, you know? And you could have gotten out there and gotten on your waders and made a comment.

THE REAL EXPERIENCE

Sometime in '70 I went to the Public Defenders Office, which is the best move insofar as actually being a lawyer. I mean, it was the experience, the trial experience, the actual courtroom grinding. And it was during a time when you walk in on a Monday morning with 500 files in your hand. You had a judge call them out so you can meet your client. I mean, you know, you had to do it on your own. And I think in two weeks I had been in two -- two armed robbery cases. Got my ass whipped by both the prosecutor and the judge. And from there on it just was grinding it out, trials. I think in a two-month period of time I was ready to try a case. I mean -- you know, was ready to go.

THE FIRST INTEGRATED LAW FIRM

MR. SHEPPARD: I think at the time there were in Jacksonville probably a couple thousand lawyers, and there were nine African Americans. And we became closer and closer friends over time, and he joined us, and it was Sheppard, Fletcher, Hand & Adams. This would have been, like, January of '71. And it was, indeed, the first integrated law firm in the state of Florida. As a result of this joining together, it put me more in touch with the African American community and it put Archie, we called him, more into the white community.

My black brother lawyer had been a public defender, and he literally taught me to be a criminal lawyer -- a criminal defense lawyer.

JUDGE ADAMS: We started practicing on Newman Street. Kay Isley introduced us, and Urban Jax was doing things in East Jacksonville. I had met some of the people associated with Urban Jax and Kay, and, you know, we kind of knew we were headed in the same direction. Some people were really upset about that, but then most were not. It was not a problem. I didn't see it as a problem, but, you know, like with anything else, you're going to find some folks that didn't think I should do that.

It wasn't far from a point in time where black lawyers could not represent white clients or black lawyers could not pick a jury in any trial. It was not far from a time when black lawyers really had some serious problems with fairness in court. I remember there was one judge -- and I won't call his name -- and I slipped in the back of the courtroom, and I just kind of sat back there for a minute. And this man was as happy as I've ever seen this man before, and then they call my client. And I got up and walked up, and his whole demeanor changed. I mean, it was like he was going to have me thrown out of the courtroom. It was an experience I'd never forget.

We made quite a bit of difference. I mean, first we showed them how an integrated law firm could work, which started some of the more progressive law firms to hiring -- hiring black lawyers, and today even some of the conservative law firms have black lawyers. And I think we started that trend. Some of the agencies -- I don't think the city ever had a black lawyer until after we started. So some of the agencies did it. That's one thing. So it's been amazing. I think we've had a tremendous impact on the legal profession and this city.

THE POLICE

Lyman and I got into this conversation about what was going on with the police. And I ended up saying, Lyman, you know, if you and I were in a car and we went through certain areas of Jacksonville and did nothing wrong, the police would stop us. And Lyman didn't think they would do that. We left here and drove up

to Davis Street, and by the time we got to Davis Street they had the blue lights on us.

You know, I've had some personal experience with policemen that was just not too good. And I had a hard and fast opinion about some of the stuff that they do. In fact, they jacked me up one day. And I guess I was about 16, 17 years old in high school. A cop stopped me; parked me a couple of blocks away from the school on Florida Avenue so that when school let out, everybody could come by and see me in the back of the cop car. I'm sitting in the car and all my classmates just looking at me sitting in this police car. And they didn't charge me with anything.

SOME PLACE ELSE

MR. SHEPPARD: Another experience that really showed how serious this racism game is, we went to a club called the Someplace Else, and it was a disco-type dance club on the river. And I was late. We went in at different times. And when I sat down, Adam said, "How much they charge you to get in here?"

And I said, what do you mean?

They charged me three bucks to get in.

I said, "They didn't charge me anything." I said, "You go ask the black guys what the hell is going on. I'll go ask some of the white guys." So we did, and it was pure race. So Adam and I went back to the office and pulled the books and we put together a lawsuit on public accommodations. It's a violation of the Federal Civil Rights Act, so we sued Monday morning in federal court.

So we were in court, and what had happened is this club changed hands, and the new owner was a lawyer. And apparently too many blacks went to this place because it was a good disco, and he was trying to keep the blacks from coming to his club, and so he installed this \$3 cover charge. I remember he was on the witness stand, and I'm cross-examining him, and the judge is "raising Cain." And, I looked over at him, and Adams is giving me a "come over here." And I went over there, and he said, man, we need to drop this case. This judge is going to put everybody in jail. And I said, no. We ain't dropping this case. And we went on, and we prevailed.

JUDGE ADAMS: But Someplace Else brought all of that stuff back to me. I had the experience when I was at Florida A&M University, I was interning in Tampa, Florida. And we were coming back to Florida A&M, and it was about ten or eleven o'clock at night. And somewhere in one of these little towns between Tampa, Florida and Tallahassee, Florida we stopped to get a sandwich. And there was this lady, and she said, "If you don't get your black ass out of here, I'll have you arrested."

I said, "I just want a sandwich and -- to take one."

And she said it again. And I remember if I had a Molotov cocktail in my hand, I would have walked out of there and thrown that damn thing in there. I knew eventually something could be done about it when it first happened. And it was because of becoming a lawyer. You realize then -- you know then that you can do something about it. That kind of kills the urge to throw that Molotov cocktail because there are other -- you understand that there are other remedies or other avenues to do it.

BECOMING A JUDGE

In spite of everything that we had done, over that period of time, I think I had developed a pretty good relationship with the Jacksonville Bar, especially the younger lawyers because we were all out there still struggling. And then the Judicial Nominating Commission got a couple of blacks on there. And I applied for a position. There was three of us. They sent our names to Governor Graham and he appointed me to a position. And I think -- that was in '79, and I think in '84 Al Washington was appointed as a county judge. I was the first. There was never another -- another black judge in the circuit.

I think the general feeling among the judges and most of the Bar was that a black lawyer just couldn't do this job. You got some lawyers who kind of talked down to you because they still don't think you can do the job or you know what you're doing, especially if they're losing. And those were really the older -- older, and I'll say, silk-stocking-type lawyers who probably wouldn't put a black judge on the bench under any circumstance.

But, I remember one day we were at a party during the Christmas holiday. I was outside of the office at an elevator talking to a white female, and one of the partners of that firm walked by and said to me some comment, like, "Damn, what's the World turning to?" That changed quite a bit, and now it's not, really. I don't think anybody's uncomfortable putting a black judge on the bench. We put several; probably not enough. But I think everybody recognized there's nothing that say black lawyers can't do this job.

I stayed on that bench until '93. And being quite frank with you, I think I was burned out with the state court by 1993. So this vacancy in federal court was really a timely type of opportunity. If I did not get this seat, I probably would have gone ahead and gone back into practice. Bill Clinton appointed me, but it was as a result of a recommendation from Senator Bob Graham, who was Governor Bob Graham before.

I became the first black district judge in the Middle District of Florida in its

history. I think I went in 1993, and I ended up being the first -- the only black in that court until, I think, two years ago. First black senior federal district judge in the state of Florida. So I ended up coming to Jacksonville, and, you know, it's been interesting.

Jacksonville -- I've always felt for the last 40 years, since I came back here, that Jacksonville is on the verge of being a great city, and I wanted to be a part of it. Things were changing. I would say that during that entire 31 years, lawyers have been involved in some fashion with the change. In fact, causing the change. And I guess I was fortunate because I lived through it, and then I ended up in the most exciting period that I could imagine in the history of this country or at least the history of the black community in this country. I ended up with it in Jacksonville, Tallahassee, and Washington D.C. And it was good. It was an experience.

I have seen so much change in 40 years that even 35 years ago we thought it was impossible. And, you know, you see so much change, but then so much remains the same. I have to think that one day all of that will change. This will be a color-blind society.

(Video ended.)

MR. PILLANS: It's hard to imagine something greater than Judge Adams' story, who optimizes the independence of the American lawyer. Judge Adams has said in the film that the lawyers were the most effective means of bringing about the change.

Could you elaborate on that a little bit, what you saw in the courtroom and what you see that the lawyers have done to bring about change?

JUDGE ADAMS: First, let me say thanks for your inviting me to participate in this.

Charlie and I live in the same community in Jacksonville. In fact, we are about maybe a mile apart from each other, but it's two different worlds. And I'm not going to say which world appears to be the best.

But to answer your question, my story -- and I got to say something before I do that with Senator Arthenia Joyner there. I met her, I believe, in '63 at Florida A&M. And it was my intent to go to Florida A&M law school. She was the last person admitted to that law school. Just before I was ready to apply to that law school, she was admitted. They closed the door on the law school, and she was the last one to graduate from the law school. They opened FSU, and that's another story, but I won't get into that. And she's been doing what she's done in the senate, and it's really been impressive ever since then.

That story about that theater in Tallahassee that she decided she wanted to go into, caused the arrest of probably 4- or 500 students out of Florida A&M who spent the weekend -- I think it was the fairgrounds -- at the fairgrounds. And I remember I had to call and beg my momma to send me some money so I can go get my sister out of that situation. So we had an interesting future.

But to answer your questions, what got me on this track was some of the litigation that was going on in Jacksonville. If you recall, there was the old Golfair golf course. I think they would let us play on Wednesdays. And then there was a swimming pool, the Jefferson Street swimming pool. Jacksonville is a really big city, and it had one black swimming pool. And it was probably five -- it was an Abraham Lincoln-type story. If you wanted to swim, you walked five miles to that swimming pool, but we did it. And there was some litigation about the swimming pool. The city was ordered to integrate the swimming pool that was across the street, which was white. And the city, in turn, tore the white swimming pool down and planted some roses out there and left the black swimming pool in place. And it's still in place and it's still being used quite -- quite well today.

And the golf course was ordered to be integrated, and the city shut that down, also. There was a basketball court -- I think it was on Eighth and Jefferson Street up there by the old St. Luke's Hospital -- that the city pulled the court up, and planted roses. And the lawyers involved in that were Leander Shaw, Earl Johnson, Earnest Jackson, and Jimmy Demenis.

And, you know, I was of the opinion that lawyers couldn't and didn't do that type of stuff, and it was quite a pleasant surprise. And that motivated me. Thurgood Marshall had been to town, so we knew about Thurgood. That was my inspiration for wanting to go to law school.

Now, having said that, what I said in the story is just pretty accurate. By the time I was in 12th grade, it was really a crapshoot as to whether I get into anybody's college. But I got fortunate. I did pretty well. A&M shut the doors on me, so I ended up going to Howard, and that significantly changed my life, it being the cradle of most of the civil litigation -- the desegregation litigation in the country. And we had the benefit of professors who were lawyers in Brown versus Board of Education and some of the other cases that had a tremendous impact on the lives of black folks in this country.

Did that answer your question?

MR. PILLANS: It did. I have another one.

JUDGE ADAMS: Go ahead.

MR. PILLANS: As a federal judge you may not feel comfortable answering it. But the last thing you say on the film is you say, someday we'll all be color-blind. Do you see, from your perspective on the bench or otherwise, that we're still making progress in that direction?

JUDGE ADAMS: Charlie, that's a good question. I -- I think I said earlier in that that I told Bill, you know, I've always felt like Jacksonville, Florida was always on the verge of being a great city when I first came back. And Bill must have edited the other part out of it, which was I'm still thinking that Jacksonville is on the verge of becoming a great city.

There was time when I thought the purpose of *Brown v. Board of Education*, which was geared toward eliminating the color of this society, was -- was being worked on. Now, whether or not it was ever going to be achieved, I doubt it. And I say that because my feeling some time ago was that maybe it will be. Over the last couple of years, it's changed considerably. I've seen what appears to me to be a backwards move of society, for the most part. But, you know, it's still a dream I hope will happen.

MR. PILLANS: And you haven't given up on that dream, I take it?

JUDGE ADAMS: No, no, no. That's what we're still striving for.

MR. PILLANS: We all agree.

All right. Ladies and gentlemen, if you have any questions for Judge Adams, I'm sure he'll stay here a minute or two and entertain those questions.

JUDGE ADAMS: I have one more statement. When I went on the state bench as a state circuit judge, there were -- I think it was myself -- I think Elsie Kasting was still on the state bench at that point in time, and there was Eddie Rodgers and Henry Latimer. And of those four black judges, in Jacksonville's defense, three were from Jacksonville, Judge Thompson, Judge Latimer, and myself. They just went different places. I stayed and took the heat.

MR. PILLANS: And you need to add Leander Shaw to that list, too, because he made a great contribution in the State Attorney's Office and then as a judge from Jacksonville.

JUDGE ADAMS: That's correct.

MR. PILLANS: All right. Any -- any questions?

MALE SPEAKER: Where -- I would like to show this film to my assistant public defenders. Where can I find it?

MR. SHEPPARD: I would be happy to send anybody a copy of the film. And I'm Bill Sheppard. I'm from Jacksonville, Florida. I've been in the same address for 46 years.

I encourage you all to get a copy of it and get it to the high schools, get it to the community. I still think it has a relevant message.

MALE SPEAKER: You can start putting it on YouTube.

MR. SHEPPARD: There's a video link. I don't have it right now. But if somebody e-mails me, I'll be happy to do it.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Well, I think what you're saying is -- well, we've been taking it to the high schools, and we've been taking it to high school teachers, too. And the teachers seem to really embrace it because what they tell us is a lot of their students really see that it will help because as much as we sit here and think that there's opportunity for their students, their students don't see that.

And so the biggest audience that we had for this film is actually the high school teachers. It's amazing.

MR. SHEPPARD: We had 70 teachers over at the federal building for a day, exposed them to the system, and we played it for them. They were absolutely enthusiastic and excited.

FEMALE SPEAKER: It's sad. You know, you have these sports role models, but you don't have a lot of role models in certain communities where you can say, this is a person that started where you started and look at where they ended up. So that's really been, to us, the most effective use of the film is to high school students.

MR. PILLANS: Any other questions for the judge or Bill Sheppard?

Well, thank you. We appreciate it.

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