

All right. Let's begin our conversation. Greetings, all of our to all of our listeners, for this preliminary conversation that we're having before our access to justice retreat, which is going to happen on March 9 2020. We're doing this podcast to save a little time before we meet on March ninth. I'm Michelle Barkley, and I'm the Director of Communications children family in the courts division, within Judicial Council Administrative Office of the Courts of Georgia, which is a very, very long title. But basically, I'm a staffer, and I one of the things I staff is a judicial council access justice committee along with our main staff person, who is Judge Tabitha ponder, she works for us via contract. We are very, very lucky that we found her. We also have the chair of the judicial council access to justice committee justice Berta Colden and we also have the chair of the Access to Justice Committee of the State Bar of Georgia. Judge Katherine Salinas, who is a US magistrate judge for the Northern District of Georgia. Did I get all that? Right? Good. All right. Let's start with Justice Colvin, just Colvin, can you tell us a little bit about your path to the bench? And why did you agree to chair the access justice committee for the Judicial Council Georgia.

Path to the bench was a little bit unconventional because I never planned on any of this. I was working, busy B, the last career move I made was with the US Attorney's Office had been there for 14 years, looking forward to retirement, and really enjoying on the work of being a litigator. And then one day in walk, Michael Moore, who was the US attorney at the time, and he wanted to sit down and talk with me close my door, and said that I think the making Judicial Circuit is ready for you to be on the bench. And I think you're ready. And just kind of out of the blue. And so I thought about it, prayed about it and had wanted to do more, I felt like I needed to do more because I was very active in our community, very community minded and task oriented. And so I thought maybe this is the more I'm supposed to do. So after praying about it, I'd started on that track, became a trial judge in the making Judas Judicial Circuit, loved every minute and every day of it really like interfacing with people, meeting them where they are, and seeing people not just processing people. And I thought I wouldn't be there until the in my career. And then about your four and a half or five, I started getting calls from people asking me to consider the appellate bench, I turned all of them down because I really loved doing trial work. But ultimately, after I got one call from one of our court of appeal judges who basically put me on the spot by saying you say you're a public servant, you want to serve the public. And if you want to do that in our state meet you, you need to offer yourself for service on a higher level. And so I did ultimately got the position of the Georgia Court of Appeals. And with the position on the Supreme Court became available for the first time in my judicial career, no one had to prompt me to put my name. And I just felt like I was supposed to do that. And so I did and that was appointed in the end of July of last year 2021. So the position of access to justice came to me as a result of cheap nominees coming to me and asking me, would that be something I would be interested in? And in fact, of all the extra duties that we have? That's the one that most appealed to me, because it makes me where I am as a jurist as a legal advocate that I've been, and meeting the needs of people. And so I was happy to say yes, excited to be a part of it. And as soon as March 11 is over, and I'm through with campaigning, I plan to be totally all in with everything we want to do in this effort. So glad to be here.

Very good. Very good. Judge Salinas. Let me ask you the same question. Will you tell us a little bit about your path of the bench and why are you chairing the Access to Justice Committee for the State Bar of Georgia?

Hey, thanks, Michelle. It's great to be here with everyone and I, maybe we all think we have unconventional paths, but I'm not sure what the conventional path anymore, but I think mine's pretty unconventional. I started my career as a legal aid lawyer on the Mexican border in Weslaco and Edinburg, Texas down in the Rio Grande Valley. And I did that for five years. Then I came back to Atlanta where I'd gone to college, and I moved back here to be closer to my family. And I worked at the 11th circuit as a staff attorney for a year. And while I was there, I realized that although I had really gone to law school to be kind of a fight the power kind of advocate which I was at Legal Aid, for sure, I really liked being a neutral, like there's something in my brain about, you know, trying to find the right answer, kind of the mathematician and you. And so I really liked it. So while I was at the 11th circuit, I hadn't been there very long. But I went ahead and started applying for clerkships with the district court, and I got one with Judge Willis Hunt, who was a he wasn't, I guess he was senior at the time. Maybe he was I can't remember if he was senior at the time or not. But I had it, I got the job. And I still had to wait, like two years to get it. You know how they hire in the courts. I don't hire that way. But that's some judges do. And so I had a little bit of time, and I could have stayed at the 11th circuit, but I decided to go and do something a little more fun. And so I went to the Fulton County Public Defender's Office, and I was there for two and a half years. And I really appreciate Vernon Pitts for hiring me knowing that I was a short timer, but he hired me that way. He dropped me into a courtroom with really experienced attorney Angela Clark, who on my first day, she said, I'll take the rapes and murders and you do everything else. So I was like, okay, so I spent the next couple of years, mostly bargaining and begging and doing social work. But trying a few cases, and just really having a great time. It was so much fun as a public defender. So that I got out I started working for Judge hunt. It was supposed to be one year, it turned into five. And I had a baby, I feel like every single job. And so by the time I was working for Judge hunt, I had, I had three small children. And then he became so senior in terms of how much what his caseload was, I had to, I had to go, there was two of us and I was the junior person. And so at some point, his caseload dropped soon behind, below a certain amount and I had to go. So at that point, I was either going to be a Federal Public Defender, or go into private practice. And I know I had an interview with the federal Defender's Office, and I can't remember if they really had a job, or if it was just like, a, like a courtesy, you know, to judge hunt. But I know I went I went into my interview, and I'm confident they thought that I was like a native speaking, Hispanic woman, because of my name. Because of Texas. I speak Spanish, my, my major at Emory was, was Spanish. But of course I walk in and as me for any of you who know me, I'm not JLo I think they thought they're getting JLo. And I'm like, Huh, you know, I'm pretty good at Spanish, you know, proficient, not native speaking. And I was like, eight and a half months pregnant, and I was wearing this black and white polka dot dress, I'll just never forget it. And I remember their eyes were like, Oh, okay. Anyway, I didn't get the job at the public defender. So I put out some resumes and I went into private practice. And I did that. I went to Carleton fields. And which was like, you know, I had applied to a bunch of different types of firms at that point, thinking since I had my clerkship, you know, I could go anywhere. And really, it was only like the regional firms that were starting new offices that were interested in that sort of, of experience, they wanted somebody that could just hit the ground running and take depositions and that sort of thing, which at that point, I could do. So I went in, I started even though I was like a 10 or 11 year lawyer went in, and I as like a third year associate, which was still a huge raise, and I was fine with it. I went in, and I actually did very well at the firm, and they bumped me. And the next thing I knew, you know, I'd made partner there and I stayed there for 10 years doing commercial litigation and some insurance coverage. So meanwhile, you know, when I was working for Judge Han, I learned about United States magistrate

judges, and I thought this is the judge job for me. I mean, when you don't have to run for office, to it's in the federal courts, which is where I was mostly comfortable. You know, you did some criminal, some civil and most of the civil was kind of the poor people cases, they handle the Social Security Appeals.

The consumer cases employment discrimination, kind of more the real people stuff. I thought this is the perfect fit. So I started applying and about I applied for Judge Anons position. I didn't get an interview for that. Then I applied for Judge Fuller's position he was in that's the position that there's only one there in Gainesville, and I applied for that one. thinking I'm just gonna try to get my name out there. I don't really want to move to Gainesville, but I will but then by the time I went through the whole thing, I was convinced that Gainesville was the place for me. I was ready to pick up my whole family move everybody, you know, anyway, I didn't get that job. But by the third time, the third time I applied, I made it through both sets of interviews. And I was selected and I replaced I'm Judge Schofield at the court. So anyway, that's how I got there. And it just seemed like a good, a good fit. But I will tell you that having gone to law school with the intention of being a, you know, a freedom fighter, civil rights lawyer advocate for the little guy No matter what, when I went into private practice, when I left, really when I left Legal Aid, I felt guilty, like all the time, like even, I mean, maybe not when I was a public defender so much, but you know, just seeing what could be done and what, you know, what, to me what the real diehards were doing in terms of every day, in the trenches, you know, for very little money really making an impact. And I really was kind of hard on myself about why I wasn't doing that. But at that point, I had little kids, I had financial obligations, I really couldn't do it. And, and so luckily, I ran into, you know, Atlanta Legal Aid, who kind of wanted me on their board. And I felt like that was kind of a sellout. And I was very, I have a very mean voice inside me. I've named him Ivan, if anybody wants to talk about how to get rid of your main voices, we can discuss that. But anyway, Ivan is just like, you know, that's, that's nothing, it doesn't matter. But so I joined the Atlanta Legal Aid board, and I realized that it really does matter. That's not to take away from what the staff attorneys are doing. But what the private lawyers on that board are doing does matter. And I met these just amazing people. And through that I got on the Access to Justice Committee, the state bar where I was on that for a long time. And for many years I was on and I didn't do anything I'd show up to the meetings are and I you know, eat the lunch that Mike Monahan would supply us and I like we went through everything in like an hour. And then I left and I just didn't do anything. Then at some point, I was made the, the chair of the pro bono subcommittee, and I was like, Okay, well, now that I have a job, you know, I'm the one that has to set the calls and make a report. What are we doing? And actually, that was, so it's really good for me, because now I get my group together. And I'm like, What are we going to do? And we started, we started doing things came up with ideas we had lots of I mean, I'm sure things were going on before, but I just had not been part of but once I got this little bit of a kind of a leadership role, it kind of brought out in me, you know, the desire to perform and have something to show, you know, I'm like justice Colvin and being a taskmaster, what are we doing, I want I want to action items. So I did that for a couple years under and during all that time. Judge Pryor was our was our chair. And so I kind of felt that as I was kind of in a supportive role for her. And then last year, she just asked me if I would take over that she has more obligations that she needs to take care of on her court. And so I stepped in. And so I you know, and this is a completely new role for me. And again, I feel like it's my job, I need to figure it out, I need to kind of think and you know, it's a whole new role to kind of direct a committee like this. And so I'm really excited to coordinate with the Judicial Council and in kind of understand in a more

deeper way, what they're doing and what our committee can do. And so that's why I'm super excited about our retreat that we're about to have.

That's great. That's great. So I'm going to turn to Tabitha now because I think one thing we talked about before, before we even had this podcast is that the history of how we got to this spot. The Judicial Council George's had an access to justice committee for many years it's been it's waxed and waned over the years, it's been called different things. Its last iteration was public trust, was access to justice, public trust and confidence Committee, which is quite a mouthful. And then it was, it was a little bit, I wouldn't say it's this was suspended. But it was we had lost a staffer who went on to another good job. And we were hiring a part time attorney for a while actually, we held our lease. And she did some great stuff. But she was it was a part time position, met a couple times a year. But it wasn't really that active. And then there was a group of people and I should know their names. And I'll try to find this out by March 9, because I just can't remember who were very active at the State Bar. And they said, We want to step up the efforts for the Access to Justice in Georgia. And they got their act together. And they applied for a grant. And they got a grant of about \$100,000 to do a six or seven months study about what could be done to improve access to justice. They wrote a report, which that's the report I sent out earlier. And that was done in 2000. And they got the grant 2016. And they finished the report up in 2017. The group of that group or another group of influential attorneys from the State Bar of Georgia met with Chief Justice Thompson at the time, and asked him to basically reinvigorate the Access to Justice Committee and to really make a stronger commitment to it and they put some state bar resources behind it. They made a grant to the General Counsel of Georgia. We just cancel Georgia also put in some funds. We advertised for the position. We interviewed a bunch of people. And that's how I met Tabitha because we interviewed Tabitha And then she joined us. And then Tabitha basically took that step the strategic plan, and began running with it. And I'll stop there because Tabitha, you kind of took that and became the bridge between the two committee would invent our committee or reinvent our committee. Council. But you also went into the first meeting, at when your new position with the State Bar of Georgia. So I'll stop there, and you take it from

there. Okay, well, thank you again, Michelle, for having us. So that happened around 2017 When I came to the Judicial Councils access to Georgia Access to Justice Committee, and we met with the state bar's access to justice committee around that time, the state bar's justice for all strategic plan was adopted by our committee, which is the judicial Council's committee, and we started working together and collaborating on different projects. So the different initiatives that we began working on were the Law Library, which was like our main committee, that we began working on what the main initiative that we began working on. And we there were some money that was invested from the State Bar, or the state. Justice. It's J, I believe, is the name of it. Yeah. Okay. So AI, so that grant was received, and the monies were invested into the law library, and that was Dougherty County Law Library. And it became our model project. At the time, we called it our. And Michelle, you got to help me this was our pilot project that we were looking at across the state to see what happened when we invested these monies, and funds and brought a law library up to what the the, you know, the patrons are needing now, what what does the public need from a law library, a lot of us, we, as attorneys, and judges, we saw the law libraries, and we've used them as students, some as attorneys. But now, most lawyers don't really use a lot of libraries. But we have this infrastructure here in our state, approximately 46 of them. And I would say maybe 5% are being really used by the public, to its full capacity. And so the funds were

invested there. And it's been a phenomenal project. There was a survey that was done. And the survey was answered by the judges in the circuit in Doherty County, and that is in the second Judicial District of Georgia. And 90, over 90% of the judges say, Listen, this works. When we have folks that come in from Georgia or who's in the system that are self represented. And they have gone through this center, use these resources. We don't have to reschedule them for court. They're able to get through the system and handle their their cases without a problem. So we know that this works, and it's come from the judiciary and the attorneys and the state. So that's how we started and I heard I believe judge, Salinas mentioned Mike Monahan. When I came aboard, onboard Mike Monahan was the the name that I kept hearing over and over, I would talk to Michelle. I'm like, Well, okay, so are we gonna do this, or we need to work in this area. And they were like, oh, yeah, Mike Monahan. He's done it or he knows something about it. And we just after I heard that, I was like, let me talk to Mike, I need to talk to Mike. So ever since the first conversation with Mike, we have been like, side by side as the community the committee's have been working together. So that's one project, I will say that he's been so helpful on me is to this day, we also work with the expungements clinic. So or I'll say record restriction, because that is the the technical name is not expungements anymore. In Georgia, we don't expunge, but we restrict the records. And that has been a huge project project. That project we have tapped into our faith based organizations. And I believe we started that project in 2019. I believe the pandemic has just kind of thrown all of us off. But I do believe it was 2019. We started we partner with the with Georgia legal services State Bar pro pro bono Center, as well as the Georgia Justice Project. And we would go out into the rural areas in Georgia, where there are so very little legal resources

Some in some areas, there are absolutely no legal resources. I'm from rural Georgia myself, and which is why I think it resonated with me so much working in this position is because I've seen firsthand. Being from rural Georgia, most of my law practice was in rural Georgia, I've seen the need and, and I just trying to help and do what I can, as it relates to access to justice is really hard as an attorney, by yourself, but when you're in a position, like this access to justice committee on both, you know, the State Bar and Georgia Judicial Council, you really can come in help on a larger scale, and I'm so grateful for that. But it's so very needed, some of our cities and counties don't have any lawyers. And so having the resources available for our for Georgians, and the state is really, really is necessary. And I believe once we figure out a way to provide the resources, which is, you know, kind of back to the law libraries, we can kind of put our resources there and technology, you know, that's a whole new world. That same law librarian, Dougherty County has been able to serve over 109 counties, and we have 159. But through the use of technology, we've been able to serve a lot of Georgians and all of these counties. So I'm really excited about what can happen in the state. And I'm trying to kind of put this in a jar, I'm trying to really just kind of minimize this, because there's so much that we've done. So Michelle, I'll let you ask any specific questions if you have at this point.

So before I move on to our justice, and judge, I, let's talk a little bit Tabitha about the evolution of the color Committee, which I believe evolved out of justice Milton, kind of seeking out ways to get some sustainable funding for the law libraries. Because what you want to talk about that there was a, there was a law that allowed us to have sustainable funding, but it's not really been working out for us.

Know, so we do have is written in the code section. And I believe that was early the early parts of 2019. Once we were working together as two committees, the Access to Justice Committee, wrote a

memorandum to the the State Bar, Judge Hodges, at the time, I believe, was the executive director, and y'all can help me out here, history. But at any rate, we knew we needed to find a way to keep this law library going because from the data, we knew it was working from the judges responding to the surveys, we knew it was working from the lawyers and the community, from the, you know, the residents in that that county that we knew it was working. And they're helping them approximately 40 people a day. So we needed to find out how do we figure out how, you know, to fund fund this, this library. Now, we do have funding set aside for law libraries. However, it's not been, I guess, revised or really considered since maybe 37 years. Before, you know, now it's like, so it's kind of outdated. We don't have enough funding. We still the problem is how do we how do we sustain what's, you know, what's here? We have the center, but how do we sustain it? We do have a funding mechanism. And but right now, it's so loosely used, because it's not really been tapped into or I don't know, I don't I'm trying to figure out the right words, but it's not really been, um, I guess the law libraries have not been really utilized in the way in which we know they can be successful. So the funding mechanism has been kind of questionable. So calor the calor Committee, which is the committee that Chief Justice, retired Chief Justice Milton created, and it was kind of born out of our memo memorandum to judge Hodges, asking how do we sustain this project?

Let's just say he was a state bar president at the time, but go ahead.

Oh, sorry. State Bar president and, and he wanted, so we wanted to know, like, how do we sustain that? And we were just, we submitted to him a possible way to fund the county libraries. Again since 1971, when the law levers were established through the Georgia legislature is not been reconsidered. I believe in 1982. There's this calculation that was kind of put in place and Right now, it's just it's kind of just definitely outgrown itself. And the need is present, I believe, in 2017, when the late Chief Justice Hines was with us, he, you know, he talked about self represented litigants, and how there were more than 800,000 cases of self represented litigants in our system. And it was just kind of the backlog. And then we look, then I believe our last number was 1.1 million. But we don't have enough lawyers in Georgia to represent our unrepresented folks, and not just self represented, we just kind of need to look at them as unrepresented. But I think if we provide the resources, I believe we can definitely help decrease the number.

Okay. I think that one of the things that you've made clear to me is that there's a provision in the law that allows us to fund to provide sustainable funding for the law libraries, but it's being it also allows you to use it for other court needs. And at this point, it's been going on so long, we'd have to claw it back to be used for the purposes that we're talking about. And that's kind of part of the reason why we're a bit stuck. But we can talk about that in a minute. Because I think I want it we want to move towards the end here, because we have lots of talking to do on Wednesday, March 9, and I'm going to ask just as Colvin, what do you what's your hope, as an end result of this retreat, when we finish, we only have two and a half hours to be together to talk, but we'll meet each other and socialize. But what do you kind of hope comes out of this, this this effort?

Oh, um, by us going to the the facility in Montgomery and hearing from Bryan Stevenson, that we will be galvanized and energized to come up with real actionable items that we can work toward achieving. I want us to move forward. And I don't want us to get so bogged down in doing what we've done that

we seem to be stuck on that we can't move to new and different initiatives to truly bring access to justice to people who so desperately need that the numbers that Tabitha just mentioned, from the 800,000 to the 1.1 million is just overwhelming. And so we need to do things to make that that population really have access to our system, so that they can remedy whatever issues they may have within the judicial system, despite the fact that they're self represented. So I hope we can come away with some real tangible items to move forward. That's my desire.

Okay, great. Just lead us what's your what's your hope that comes out of this gathering on March 9?

Well, I'm I'm excited that we have a lot of people from our committee that are going to go do this. And I'm really I'm excited about meeting together hearing Bryan Stevenson, I mean, that is going to be I mean, life changing might be an overstatement. But it might not be I mean, hearing somebody like that, who's really dedicated again, there are people in our myths that are just living and breathing access to justice every day. And we need to make sure we're supporting them. And that's why I tell people, if you go into private practice, you don't have to feel guilty, you just write a big check, you feel guilty, you know how to get rid of it, you write a big check, right? There's things you can do you take pro bono cases. And that's what I you know, that's these are the sorts of ideas that I need to figure out how we can give our bar ideas and ways to support access to justice in a real concrete way. And I and I don't want any more people on my committee to kind of do what I did for the first few years and kind of show up and eat a sandwich. I mean, now you don't even get a sandwich, you just show up to the Zoom call, you know, but to actually, and I think meeting in person is is important. I mean, I think Zoom is good, too. But I think like actually get putting your eyes on. People like justice, Colvin and thinking, well, what are they doing? And so I mean, I heard that we're doing working, you know, that you guys are working on, like the Law Library record restriction. I know, there's also a move to uniform to make uniform forms. I mean, when I when I hear that there's people, there are clerks in this state that will not accept a petition for divorce. If it's not on the right form, I mean, even if it's fine, and even if it's drafted by a lawyer, I mean, like this, there's several levels of this. But that, to me, is needs to be fixed. And I'm not sure if that's just something the judges can do or how the lawyers can help with that. But I'm excited to hear about your initiatives and then we can also share some of our initiatives with with the judicial council people to so the idea that we can know what you're doing and then support it and I you know, and I'm not exactly sure what we you know, the state bar, we have our we have our limitations. We're, you know, it's an organization it's a mandatory Bar Association. So we are limited in some degree what we can do, but I'm excited just like justice Colvin that we are going to make a we're gonna leave with a to do list I remember the first time I sat next to you justice Govan, it was at that, that check in meeting in Macon about the self help centers. That's where I met this whole group and where the idea, I think kind of came up as like, we need to get everybody together. But I remember I sat next to you. And I didn't know you, even though we kind of run in the same circles, but you're like, I like to do things. And I'm like, Oh, my God, I like to do things too. And not that nobody likes to do things. But there are some people who like to talk about things, and they like to have meetings about things and, and I'll go to those, and I'll talk about them. But if I don't leave with a to do list, honestly, it's not going to happen. I mean, I have to have like a to do list. And so I'm hoping that we can at least come up with we can all take a minute and look at all the work that's been done. You know, when creating the strategic plan, you know what it was seven years ago now or six years ago, like a lot of work when did that so we need to take that we need to figure out what the you know what the A to J committee is doing and what

the at J committee is doing and, and how we can all kind of get definitely get galvanize and energize. I'm definitely into that. With a to do list. So I'm, I'm really excited. And I can't imagine going to this museum, I'm so excited. And then actually hearing Bryan Stevenson speak, and then getting to sit in this in this room with all these really amazing people. So and I know everybody's excited about it, I've got I've got lots and lots of people coming and the fact that everybody's taking off the day to go to Macon and spend the night and, you know, I mean, the middle of the week, it's it, I think it really speaks to everybody's really need to re engage and tackle some of these issues, because the the situation is unacceptable.

But I can't wave a magic wand, but it's possible that all of us together can come up with a to do list that will at least take a take a chunk out of it and and get us moving forward. So I'm really excited about about seeing everybody there. And I'm excited about I mean, frankly, it's sitting around having dinner with people, and I hope that everybody will sit next to somebody they don't know. You can ride the car with people that you do know, but you can sit next to people that you don't know and start exchanging ideas and just getting to know people putting faces to the names, putting ideas, dropping bugs in people's ears, I think this is what it's all about. So I'm really excited. And and, Michelle, I know you don't want credit, but I'm gonna give you all the credit for this. I think this was your idea. You have you picked it up, you have organized it, you have pushed it through and you've made it happen and you got us Bryan Stevenson to speak at our event. So I know you're, you're very humble, and I love that but you get 100% credit, so I'm going to give it to you now I'm going to give it to you on the day of the retreat also. So just get ready for it.

Okay, so let's not do that. Tabitha actually played a huge role in getting Bryan Stevenson so for all that to her that Oh, my

God. Okay, Tabitha, I'm going to give it to you to show you this was your idea, Michelle, and you are and you have done the work. And so yay for Tabitha, for bringing in the big speaker, I will always give you credit where credit's due.

All right, that sounds good. Tabitha, what do you hope you've been working on all this? What do you hope is gonna be the end effort, end result of this effort?

Oh, boy, I have a lot of hope here. But I'm, I'm very grateful. Thank you again, Michelle. And thank you just Salinas for, you know, thanking Michelle and giving her her Do you know her honor, she's Michelle is a force to be reckoned with when it comes to access to justice. And I'm grateful to be under her leadership. I'm grateful to be working with Justice Colvin and you as well, Judge Salinas. So my hope is that we will walk away. And Michelle knows that I have a to do list about it to do with like, that's what I do. And but I want to check off some of this stuff on the to do list. We are going to need a lot of help. Even like with the Keller committee, that specifically looking at the law libraries throughout the state, it's going to get testy. Our next set of survey questions that are going out are strictly about the finances of the of the law libraries. All of us know what that means. And how hard it is sometimes to get folks to respond. Yes, through OCGA, I guess. I think it's 3615, seven or nine. It identifies the funding, and there's a way to spend the monies. And I know Chief Justice Melton wanted us to look at, like what do we have like we cannot go to Georgia legislature and ask them for a well i i wouldn't think we should go

to Georgia legislature and ask for more money or fundings and we cannot tell them what we're doing with the money we have now. There's a lot of money going through these law libraries. I'm not saying this is the way This is just a suggestion that we had with this memo to judge Hodges when he was the State Bar president. But at any rate, there's a, we definitely need to look at it because Dougherty county works. The law library works, is working for society, it's working for the judges, it's working for the lawyers. So at least let's look at this and see what's going on. Through the use of technology, we really can do a lot more whether we have a huge state law library, and, you know, managed by the state itself, and then two or three throughout the state or one in every Judicial District. I don't care, we just need to figure out a way to support our unrepresented and stuff represented folks throughout the state. So that's my hope. We we need support.

Okay, great. So we're coming up at the end of our time together. So I think I'm going to close this out for it with final thoughts. And then we'll we'll wrap up. I want to just think about a couple of things. One is when we talked to judge when I when we met in making with just Salinas and and the other law library folks, you know, I feel like tablets are a little bit stuck. But we also part of it is they have this tunnel vision of getting this money that's been designed to solve this. But I mean, one of them judge Salinas helped me think about was, why are you so focused on that, you know, maybe you should just go ask for maybe, maybe we're too focused on clawing money back, this being used for other coordinates. And the other thing I started thinking about is Judicial Council, I mean, the judicial branch of Georgia gets less than 1% of the entire state budget. And maybe we should just go ask for \$300,000 to fund one library. And then another thing we talked about was using technology to serve the whole state, maybe we don't need to have 10 Library's maybe we can do this with just one, maybe I'm stuck on this, this this plan, or we're stuck on this plan that has 10 across the state. And I do like the idea of somebody talking to somebody in person. But we know with COVID, that's kind of turn that upside down. And you said that was written in 2017. So I'm really excited about meeting with folks who help us think outside the box that we made a put ourselves in. And the other thing I wanted to talk a little bit about, as we close out is Tabitha had me listened to a panel on Alaska, which was amazing. I mean, they have a huge rural community. And they serve the entire state with one access to justice center that's basically uses the phone as their primary vehicle because everyone's spread out so far. And they provide their legal help their legal self help services to their citizens via this phone, certainly via the phone tree, or this phone service. And I'm thinking, you know, maybe we are maybe you are too stuck on this, because we are we have a weird, pretty rich state. And Alaska has less of a tax base than we do. They have a lot of federal funds. That's true, but we can do better. And so I'm interested in hearing other people's ideas, and I'm interested in us all get an airing together and listen to Bryan Stevenson, seeing the museum and sharing, breaking some bread together sharing some wine, and I think it's going to be a great meeting. And I'm going to end it right here unless somebody else has something to say. Everyone have a wonderful trip down to Montgomery. I think I just need to say Macon, but that was where we met before we go into Montgomery, making sure you go Don't turn around. You're gonna make an skips. Keep heading to Montgomery. And we will see you all there very soon on Wednesday, and have a wonderful trip. Bye, everyone.

Thank you.