

WILLIAM & LONSDALE – Lives in the Law

E03: Joan Murphy

Vocieover [00:00:03] This is William and Lonsdale, a podcast about the legal ecosystem in Victoria and the fascinating people and stories that make it tick. For over 25 years, Joan Murphy has volunteered her time one day every week to Court Network, an organization who supply our community with volunteers that stand beside, empower and instill confidence in all court users. She has seen a lot in her 25 years at Frankston Magistrates Court, and no two days are ever the same. As we will here today, Joan finds the work incredibly dynamic and rewarding, but some days are harder than others, and she is careful to manage her mental well-being, which has no doubt contributed to her longevity.

Michael Green [00:00:41] I believe you have a habit of something you do every day when you're driving home from the court.

Joan Murphy [00:00:47] Yes. When I leave the court and I go up to the roundabout, I pull the window down and I say to "out you go", and then I drive home and I'm fine. I'm fine.

Michael Green [00:00:59] So what's going out when you say out you go?

Joan Murphy [00:01:02] Well all the day. Whatever has happened during the day

Michael Green [00:01:06] Out the window and and go home with a fresh light.

Joan Murphy [00:01:09] Yes.

Michael Green [00:01:29] Welcome to William and Lonsdale Lives in the Law, great to have you here today. Take us back to when you first were introduced to the legal world. You don't come from a legal family and yet the laws played a significant part in your life in the time you were a child. How'd that all start?

Joan Murphy [00:01:47] Well, my father was transferred to the Children's Court clinic. He was the psychiatrist there. And during the school holidays, he asked me to go in and view some kids court cases. So I can't remember how I felt at the time, but I went.

Michael Green [00:02:08] So how old were you at that time?

Joan Murphy [00:02:09] About 12. And I was hooked. I thought it was great. I came away and I remember he would talk to me afterwards and said, how do you feel about being in court? I remember that distinctly. And I said, I'd like to go again. So I did. Now, whether or not that was to keep me on the straight and narrow or whether or not he was hoping that down the track I'd studied law, I don't know. But I was hooked.

Michael Green [00:02:37] And then I think your first job when you left school was in the legal world.

Joan Murphy [00:02:41] Yes. Well, it was in the legal department at the Tramways Board. Well, claims department was called there. So I learned about running down matters and interrogatories and interviewing people who had run into trams or been struck by a tram or cars, blocking the trams or damaging the trams. So it was interesting work. But after a couple of years, I thought it's time to get into a legal office.

Michael Green [00:03:10] And you were always fascinated by the criminal law system.

Joan Murphy [00:03:15] Always yes.

Michael Green [00:03:16] And you found a job there.

Joan Murphy [00:03:18] So I went to see a man by the name of McLimont, and he said, I've got the job for you. And I said, oh, is that with? He said, Ray Dunn. He said, he's been looking for someone for two years. And I said, well, you think I can do the job? I've never, you know, worked in criminal work before. And he said, I certainly think you can. And I went there and loved every minute of it.

Michael Green [00:03:42] And in the, well, really, you're probably going back even maybe to the 40s, the 50s, the 60s. Ray Dunn was a famous criminal lawyer in Melbourne, very high profile, very highly regarded. What did you do with Ray?

Joan Murphy [00:03:58] Well, I was actually, I guess, his law clerk assistant. He employed me on the basis that I would interview clients of his for all sorts of matters. He said to me, if you've got any reservations of any of the cases I give you, I'd like to know about it. So he would call me in and say, would you have any qualms about interviewing a rapist? And I said, no, Mr Dunn. Or the next time was, would you have any qualms about interviewing an abortionist? Because that was a very big thing open at that time. So I would actually sit down with each of these people and interview them and take a statement. And then Mr. Dunn would decide whether or not he would personally act for that person or whether or not he would pass it on to a barrister.

Michael Green [00:04:55] To a criminal barrister to go to court and do the case.

Joan Murphy [00:04:58] Yes, because a lot of the times, I mean, he was a very busy man.

Michael Green [00:05:02] And at this time he was the president of the Richmond Football Club.

Joan Murphy [00:05:06] Exactly right.

Michael Green [00:05:07] Which at the time was a highly successful football club. So he was a high profile and very busy person.

Michael Green [00:05:13] Yes. He wasn't impressed that I barracked for Hawthorn.

Michael Green [00:05:20] By this time we thought of taking you up to being I guess in your early 20s and you are getting married and having children. Did you then, um, the law dropped out of your life for a while?

Joan Murphy [00:05:32] Yes, it did. Yes. I traveled a lot because my husband was always traveling on business and because he was traveling so much, I had to be at home with the boys. And that was the way it was in those days. Then when they finish school, I was listening to the ABC radio, which I never do normally, Peter must have had it on to listen to the cricket. I remember turning the radio on and on and I thought oh, that's not my station, and then I heard this woman named Carmel Benjamin speaking about Court Network and I thought, gosh, this sounds terrific. She was asking for volunteers to come and work in the courts. And I thought, this sounds very much what I'd like to do.

Michael Green [00:06:19] Can I just put a little bit in there about Court Network just for people who haven't come across it before. Court Network, and please correct me Josn if I've I've got this wrong, it provides the community with volunteers who stand beside, empower and instill confidence in all court users.

Joan Murphy [00:06:38] Yes.

Michael Green [00:06:40] It provides support, information and referrals to people attending court. And an advocates for the needs of all court users. I mean, what a wonderful community organization which I suspect most of us know very little about.

Joan Murphy [00:06:56] Well, Court Network is an independent organization. They have no affiliation whatsoever with the courts. But Carmel Benjamin actually was a volunteer at Dame Phyllis Frost and that's where she recognized there was a need for people to be helped after going through court, families that needed to be supported and so she worked on that theory. And she knew a lot of people in the law and approached them and they said, oh, it sounds like a good idea. And I think it took her over twelve months, two years to get it up and running. And what she did was she found that she started doing it herself and she set up a table and chair outside the cells in the Prahran lock up. She realized it was just too much of a heavy workload for herself. So she got friends, girlfriends to come in, help her, she said, I'll train you up and I'd like you to help me out and do this project. And it worked.

Michael Green [00:08:03] And now you've been doing it for the last 25 years.

Joan Murphy [00:08:06] Going on twenty six.

Michael Green [00:08:07] Going on 26 - continuously.

Joan Murphy [00:08:10] When I first finished training, you were men taught and I was sent to the coroner's court. So I was there for probably six to eight weeks. And unfortunately at that time they didn't have a vacancy because I would have loved to have stayed there. It Was a very exciting time, it's when all the market gardens and the Italian mafia were had loggerheads and that was extremely exciting.

Michael Green [00:08:41] Creating work for the coroner.

Joan Murphy [00:08:42] That's exactly right. I was then asked, because I didn't have a vacancy, it was full, I was asked if I'd like to go somewhere else and I said, oh, yeah - County Court or the Supreme. Sorry, there's no vacancy there. Alright, ah, Melbourne Mag?

Michael Green [00:09:01] No can I just jump oin there, maybe for the nonlawyers amoung us County Court and Supreme Court are the two highee courts to the State of Victoria, and the Magistrates Court is at the bottom rung of the legal process.

Joan Murphy [00:09:11] That's right. Anyway, I was offered a position with the brand new magistrate's court at Frankston. And I sort of hesitated and then I thought, yes, I'll take it. So of course, over the years I've been offered if I'd wanted to, you can have a transfer if you've been at a court for a number of years. There's no way I wanted to leave because I

love Frankston. I love it. I love the people I work with. I love the lawyers. The police are terrific. It's great.

Vocieover [00:09:50] Frankston Magistrates Court is one of the busiest Mag courts in Victoria. It sees up to 800 cases a week with six courtrooms operating Monday to Friday. On any given day, there are people from all corners of our criminal justice system working and volunteering, including six judicial officers, 20 court staff, members of the local police prosecution unit, Victoria Legal Aid, corrections officers, security staff, protective services and of course, Court Network volunteers.

Michael Green [00:10:19] So it's been the Frankston Magistrates Court and you've loved your time there. Is there such a thing as a typical day at court? And even if there's not a typical day, what is your day at Frankston Magistrates Court often look like?

Joan Murphy [00:10:32] You never know what you're going to walk into. And that's one of the beauties, I think most networkers in any court would say the same thing. You just don't know what to expect. And in fact, that came up today in a meeting. That's part of its appeal, that it's not run of the mill. It is all different. Like I could walk in to the court and I've got to go to a meeting for domestic violence at nine o'clock that goes for about 10, 15 minutes, and then I might have a police come and approach and say, would you be able to go into the remote witness room? They have a client, a young client, sexual assault matter and they need someone to be in with them whilst they go through the evidence. That's fine.

Michael Green [00:11:26] And in the remote witness room, that for the victim of sexual assault.

Joan Murphy [00:11:30] Yes.

Michael Green [00:11:31] To give their evidence.

Joan Murphy [00:11:32] Yes. In private.

Michael Green [00:11:33] In private are they're not stressed by the defendant

Joan Murphy [00:11:37] I'm there to just sit and make sure that they're okay. That they can see the TV monitor, that the microphone is working and just to bond with them. Before I always ask for 15 minutes bonding time and I don't ever ask any person that's in that remote room to tell me what the case is about. We don't discuss that. If it's a child I'll discuss animals. If it's an adult, if it's a male, I'd say football or find out what their hobby is. And we talk about that so that we bond and then they feel confident that they can be in that room with me and I'm not pressuring them. If they get distressed, then I know that I have to interrupt the proceedings, that hasn't happened yet. But I'd interrupt and let the magistrate know that we need to have a break. We're not allowed to talk whilst the proceedings are on. So I could be in there for half an hour, could be in there for hours, could be in there for a day. Just depends. So there's no real typical day. But on the other hand, I do a lot of domestic violence, and quite often we'll have people coming back to the court for a second for directions hearing and they'll come straight to our room. Our room is the safe room. Quite often we'll have people who are being harassed by the other party in domestic violence work and we might have a referral from the police, might bring that stress person in, say, can you look after this person or they'll self refer they've heard about us from friends or lawyers, sometimes a legal aid lawyer will bring in a distressed client

and say, can you keep an eye on them? So yesterday I had six women in my room and I had to find some chairs, cuase there was nowhere for them to sit. It's interesting because I had one particularly distressed woman, and when they're really distressed, I'll sit quietly like I'm sitting here with you now, we'll have the box of Kleenex tissues in front of us and I won't say anything. I'll just sit. I will say, I'm Joan, then I'll just let and cry because all that yuck, that's built up I believe needs to be released. So if they're really distressed, I will then get up, I don't encourage all the networks to do this but I'll get up and I will put the palm of my hand or their back and they're able to recover it, and they're able to talk. Now, the amazing thing about that is when you have a number of women in the room together, after a while they start talking to one another. And after a while they start telling each other what's been happening in their lives. And quite often, we've had women who've never met in their lives before will exchange phone numbers so that they can give each other support when they're out of the court. And sometimes the domestic violence work or come in and say, goodness, this is like a big party. You know, the women are laughing. These are the women that were crying earlier.

Michael Green [00:14:53] It sounds like a wonderful therapy session.

Joan Murphy [00:14:59] It is, and it's fabulous for them.

Michael Green [00:15:02] Now, it's a highly emotional place, the courts and particularly the Magistrates Court. How do you cope with it? How do you cope with all of the emotional energy that's in the room and how do you avoid being exhausted by it yourself?

Joan Murphy [00:15:24] Well, I do go home tired, all of us do. However, if I get emotionally involved, then I can't help the client. So it's their story, not mine. And I keep on top of that, that something's happened to them in their life. And I'm there to get them the best help that I can get. Or give them the best help. I'm not there to be, Judge, we're non-judgmental as humanly possible. I just like to be there as their friend, someone that they feel comfortable with, which I think is very important because, you know, they don't, sometimes they just feel they haven't got anyone in their life. And I think if they are opening up to me, I want to be able to give back. So I can't afford to get emotionally involved because otherwise I don't do a good job.

Vocieover [00:16:31] William and Lonsdale is brought to you by Green's list, one of the leading multi-disciplinary barrister's lists in Australia. Green's list believe in promoting conversation around the ideas and issues that shape not only our legal system, but our wider community.

Michael Green [00:16:53] Now, you've said, Joan, that you strongly believe that this work should be voluntary or not paid work. What brought you to that conclusion?

Joan Murphy [00:17:03] Oh, because it attracts the right people. If if they were paid, I think it would absolutely ruin Court Network. I really strongly believe that you do court Network because you really want to do this service. And if you're paid, I think you have it put a different slant on it. And I really believe that.

Michael Green [00:17:25] It certainly makes sense. Is there such a thing as a typical volunteer Joan? Who are the people who volunteer for Court Network and do this wonderful work?

Joan Murphy [00:17:37] Well, because it's volunteer I think it's people who care. They they care about human beings, they care about people being in trouble, they want to help them get through the trauma that they're presently in court over. So they come from all walks of life. I mean, Sue and Jillian, Sara, she's 25 years and another Julian and she's 25 years. So last year when we were honored for being 25 years, the three of us were there together. There is a girl called Sandra who's been doing for 33 years. She's in the County Court. So I admire that. That's real dedication. And I'll I won't get to that. So she's doing well.

Michael Green [00:18:26] I'm picking up Joan, that is more women than men who volunteer.

Joan Murphy [00:18:29] Yes.

Michael Green [00:18:30] That's interesting isn't this possibly more compassionate than men?

Joan Murphy [00:18:35] Yeah. Maybe. Yes, maybe that. Or maybe it's a bit too daunting for them. I'm not sure that the men that we have down at Frankston, we got two and one of them, I mentored David, and he's terrific. He's doing really well. My offsider, Peter he's great. He you know, we're just we've got a great team down at Frankston, they're really caring and we all get on well. And it's great.

Michael Green [00:19:02] And you're there one day a week, every week of the year, sometimes two days away.

Joan Murphy [00:19:07] Yes.

Michael Green [00:19:09] It is a huge commitment and a wonderful thing.

Vocieover [00:19:12] In recent years, pressure has been mounting on Court Network resources, in large part due to the dramatic increase in domestic violence cases. On average, Australian police deal with 5000 domestic violence matters every week, which breaks down to one case every two minutes.

Michael Green [00:19:29] The statistics say that there's a huge increase in that work coming before the court.

Joan Murphy [00:19:35] Yes.

Michael Green [00:19:35] Anecdotally, is it would you see in the Frankston Magistrates Court and from 25 years ago to now?

Joan Murphy [00:19:41] Oh, yes. Oh, yeah. It's it's it's out of all proportion. It really is. Twenty five years ago, there was domestic violence, there's always been domestic violence. I can remember that we were actually looking after both parties at the same time. And I'm quite gobsmacked when I think back that we could be talking to the applicant as well as the respondent.

Michael Green [00:20:11] So that the victim as well as the accused or the violent person.

Joan Murphy [00:20:15] I can remember once, I picked up on a respondent once and he was a bit upset, and he said, why did you go and talk to my wife? And I thought, yes! I did, I did. Now, has it changed? Yes. We now have domestic violence workers. We have an applicant worker and we have a respondent worker. And it's the best thing that's ever happened. We've had so many cases of women being empowered, hearing other women talk about domestic violence that they are now, they've got the courage to speak out. And they're not going to put up with it anymore. Now, I think the police have made a big change. In the past you'd ring up the police to a reported incident, "What do you think we can do about it? You'll have to have more evidence than that." And now they're specialized police that deal with domestic violence. But 25 years ago, that wasn't so.

Michael Green [00:21:25] Would the majority of people that you see in Court Network, in your volunteering be in a domestic violence situation?

Joan Murphy [00:21:37] Yes.

Michael Green [00:21:37] Overwhelming majority?

Joan Murphy [00:21:37] Yes

Michael Green [00:21:38] So in some ways, Court Network or the increase in domestic violence has possibly been a reason why a body like Court Network has come into existence?

Joan Murphy [00:21:50] Well, probably, although I did a lot more criminal work when I first joined Court Network. But I'm pleased to say that we're putting on more network workers, that frees one of it's up to do criminal work because I've actually said to Court Network that I'm concerned that the criminal side of things isn't getting the same attention as domestic violence, but that's because we're overwhelmed with domestic violence. But yesterday, I have to say, I was able to do some criminal work as well as domestic violence and it was good.

Michael Green [00:22:24] Going back to your days as a young legal clerk with Ray Dunn.

Michael Green [00:22:36] The training goes on, you had training when you started, by coincidence, you've been at a training session this morning.

Joan Murphy [00:22:43] We have three compulsory training sessions to do a year and there's no getting around that. You have to do it. Which I think the laws, change too we've got to keep up with changes. Not that we're lawyers. And that is the cardinal sin, if anyone ever gave legal advice, that is the first thing that a networker, and when I was mentoring, that was the first thing I made sure that everyone understood that there was no legal advice to be given whatsoever. Absolutely taboo. We're there to look after people, get them through their day in court. Give them referrals to other services.

Michael Green [00:23:30] And therefore, the training that you do, is it about knowing the services you can refer people to? Training in counseling skills of some variety things of that nature?

Joan Murphy [00:23:41] Yes. It might be housing. It could be for counseling. All sorts of things that we can refer them on to.

Michael Green [00:23:50] You also did a lengthy course at one stage with the victim assistance or victim assist network. How does a system work and how did it play out for you?

Joan Murphy [00:23:58] That was a very special piece of work. Court Network was given some funding and I think part of that was from the Barristers Association. Does that sound right? Victorian Bar maybe? So there was a woman employed by the name of Robin Jool. She was a specialist trainer in grief counseling. She asked if there were any Court Networks that would like to do this victims assist network program. Is going to be approximately nine weeks, one day a week and if you graduated from that program, which was intense work let me assure you, she would then tee you up with a person, might be the family of a homicide case or it might be culpable driving matter, you were going to be liaise with a member of deceased family. So I was accepted to do the course, I think there were about 24 networks that did it. And I can remember one of the first training sessions we had was a police policewoman from the major accident squad, and I'll never forget this, she came in and she had a shoe box under her arm. She said, before I start this session, I just want to ask any of you would you like to have a look at some photos of the deceased who have been killed in accidents before we start? And I think there was just this silence, no one got up, no one moved, no one looked at each other. We just sat there stunned. And then she started. Well, I think it was about two hours later and it was the finish of the session and we were intrigued, we were enthralled. And she said, right, we're finished now, she said, now, would anyone now like to have a look at the photos? And every single person, including myself, got up.

Michael Green [00:26:13] Now, what about in doing that course and then following up with the course, did you help some victims? Were you involved in any cases you can tell us about?

Joan Murphy [00:26:24] Once you'd finished the course, if you were suitable, you would meet up with someone. Might be that a person has been killed in a car accident and you would be linked up with their family to go through say the coroner's court and you'd look after the family. In my case, I was asked if I'd look after the mother of a boy who'd been murdered. And I was given her address to go to her home because when her son was killed, she would not move out of her house. And so I remember having a meeting in Court Network and told that when I'd go to her house, not to be shocked, that there would be photos of her son, I'll call him John, in every room of the house. The house would be spotless because she spent her days since he died just cleaning and painting. You could eat off the floor. So I went and met up with her, and she provided morning tea and we chatted. We got on really well. So I asked her if there was anything that she needed to know from the police, well, the homicide squad. And she said, no, they'll contact me, I'm sure, if anything's known. So I organized to see her the following week and this went on for probably four weeks. I'd go once a week and we'd have morning tea. She still hadn't been out of the house. So I said, right. I'm not seeing you now for a fortnight. I made this decision. I thought, I've got to get her out of this pattern. So I said, I'll see you in a fortnight. And this time I'm taking you for morning tea. She was sort of a bit stunned by that. Anyway, I went and picked her up and she came and I took her down the beach, we went walking on the beach and I found a cafe and we went and had morning tea. And that became our place to go. And this was the start of her getting out of the house. In the meantime, if she had any questions, which sometimes she did, I'd bring the homicide squad and speak to Ron Iddles, he was the lead detective, one of his underlings was the one I really liaised with. I'd get the questions to him, what she wanted to know and get them back to her. And then the committal proceedings came up in the magistrate's court

melbourne. I accompanied her, that's when I met up with the stepmother of this boy that had been murdered, ex-husband and all the friends and there were aunt and uncle and I think there were 19 people sitting in the court. And I can remember I'm sitting next to the mother and I noticed that the magistrate kept looking at me and then looking down the row of people. And I'm thinking, what is going on here? And I look again and looks at me and he looks down and I lean forward and I see that stepmother is about to lose it. And I thought I've got to get her out of this court. So I would quickly say to my lady...

Michael Green [00:29:51] Can I just break in there, did the magistrate know you as a Court Networker?

Joan Murphy [00:29:53] Yes, because I wear lanyard.

Michael Green [00:29:55] Oh, you had the lanyard on of course

Joan Murphy [00:29:58] So I get this lady out, get up and I say, we've got to get out of the court right now. And I just get her outside the door. Close the door but we're in the vestibule outside the court. And she absolutely freaked and went hysterical. So the next day or the next time we were back in the committal court, I remember that the detective came up to me and he said, look, it's going to be really rough today. We're going to go into the itty bitty of what happened to her son and he said it's pretty gruesome. He said, you better ask her if she wants to be in the court or does she want to go out? No way was she not going to hear. So I thought, oh, boy. And I didn't know what had happened to him either. Well, it was absolutely gruesome. And she sat there and I thought all I have to do is make sure she's okay and she was she just sat through it. And it was dreadful. After that of course, the person was sent for trial and that took probably two years. I went to the trial and sat with her. So the accused was sentenced to 18 years granting parole after 13 years. The shock came then that we found that he'd only been out for two years. He'd already committed another murder.

Michael Green [00:31:25] How terrible for the mother and the step mother, I guess, to have to have lived through and experience that. And that whole process, you were assisting the mother over a period of two years. It's wonderful. Wonderful. What it's sort of unheralded work that we don't know about in the community. But it's great that you're here talking to us today for us to learn more about what you do Joan and what Court Network does for us as a community.

Michael Green [00:31:55] Among the people you've helped Joan over the years, are there any particularly which stick out and which you can tell us about?

Joan Murphy [00:32:02] The first one I'd mention is a fellow that used to come in and he'd have his bag packed with clothes and he'd have his hair or brill creamed up, and he'd come in and say, "I'm back love, today's the day." And I'd say, "What are we talking about?" And he'd say, "I'm off to jail today. So I just want to come and leave my luggage here so that when I'm sentenced, I'll know to come back and it'll be here. Would it be possible to have a cup of coffee now?" And I'd say, "Yes, of course." He'd go into court and be adjourned, so he'd go home. So that's that fellow. And that happens three times.

Michael Green [00:32:45] Did he finish up going to jail?

Joan Murphy [00:32:46] He did.

Michael Green [00:32:48] For a long time?

Joan Murphy [00:32:48] No, about three months. The other one was sad. Um, I'd made friends with him. He didn't not want any help from Court Network. What he did want was a cup of coffee. He come in and say, "How is your day going?" And I'd say, "Oh, it's going really well, but I'm really busy, yes, I'll make you a coffee". And this particular day he came in a second time and I was busy and I sort of said, "Okay, I'll make you a cup of coffee". Then the third time, about three hours later, he came in and I said, "I haven't got time, John, to do this now I'm really busy, as you can see". And he said, "Okay, that's okay, love." And off he went. Well, two weeks later, I hear that his body has been found, he's been murdered. And I was really sad. I never knew what it was that he'd been killed for but I can guess it was dealing with drugs. So I thought I wish I had been more pleasant with that last cup of coffee.

Vocieover [00:34:04] Court Network services are delivered by over 450 highly trained volunteers. In 2018, Court Network assisted more than 190,000 people across Victoria and Queensland, including victims of crime, vulnerable witnesses and family members of homicide victims or deceased persons.

Joan Murphy [00:34:23] I mean today I was with a number of different court Court Networkers from different courts they were absolutely like me, we just love what we do. And that's, I mean, you couldn't do this job, it's not for the faint hearted. And you couldn't do this job for as long as I have or whoever was doing it, unless you really were dedicated to do it, because it is very challenging.

Michael Green [00:34:51] You're not disappointed even do law? Became a criminal barrister?

Joan Murphy [00:34:55] No, not at all. What I'm doing now is exactly where I want to do. I mean, I admire the criminal barristers, okay. I think they're terrific. I mean, I'm fascinated watching them do it. No what I'm doing I love. See, I'm, I'm not, I don't have to take the responsibility of trying to get someone off. What I'm doing is actually speaking to people and I'm humanizing what is going on in the court for them - I'm hoping. Look, I get so many hugs. I can't tell you. You've got no idea. That to me is priceless. I just adore what I do.

Michael Green [00:35:43] Joan, thank you very much for your generosity in coming today and telling us your story, which is so, so interesting and inspiring to all of us. And I say thank on behalf of all of us to Court Network what a wonderful job that it does, and Carmel's inspiration all those years ago to inspire you and inspire countless other people. It's a great story.

Joan Murphy [00:36:07] Yes, it is. It is. I love it. I love it. I've found me niece in life.

Michael Green [00:36:12] Thanks, Johan.

Vocieover [00:36:15] As always. Show notes, useful links and a transcript of today's episode can be found at greenslist.com.au/podcast. This week we linked to an article in The Monthly written by iconic Australian writer and future guest on our show, Helen Garner. Titled The Court Networkers, Helen spent a week shadowing a volunteer and was awed by the empathy and strength she witnessed. We're keen to know what you think, so please reach out by all the usual channels. Let us know the questions you'd like us to ask, topics you'd like explored or ideas for future guests. If you're enjoying lives in the law,

please tell your networks and subscribe rate and review the show. It really helps others find out about us. Our show is produced by me Catherine Green, recorded and mixed by Alex McFarlane, who also wrote and performed all the music for the series. We acknowledge the Wurundjuri people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging. There is no doubt that conversations about justice have been taking place on this land for thousands of years, and we are privileged to continue this discussion here today.