**BASIC OUTLINE FOR PODCAST WITH JUDGE LAMAR SIZEMORE**

* 1. Hello everyone, welcome back the Good Judge-ment podcast. I am Wade Padgett…
  2. and I am Tain Kell and together we will be your hosts
  3. This podcast is designed for judges, lawyers and others who are interested in judges, and the law and procedure that occurs in a courtroom. We spend a great deal of time dealing with substantive law and procedure. For those who have been listening to our podcasts, we want to thank you and tell you that we have a very special podcast to share with you today. Something a little different than what we have previously recorded.
  4. That’s right. We have a very special guest today, Judge Lamar Sizemore. We have several podcasts on legal topics that contain case citations and similar detail. But today, we wanted to step back, get out of the weeds, and talk with a man who served on the Superior Court bench in Georgia with great distinction. We wanted to pick his brain and let him share his experiences with our audience.
  5. When we first began this project, I told Tain that I really wanted to try to get Judge Sizemore as a guest. I hoped he would be willing to share some of his wisdom and experience with all of us on the podcast. I was honored to be asked to speak at a law school class at Mercer University a few years ago and, in preparation for that presentation, I saw some YouTube videos of Judge Sizemore speaking to that same class at Mercer. I was completely blown away with some of the thoughts he shared about his time on the bench and wished I had seen those YouTube videos earlier in my own career.
  6. Wade told me about some of the things that Judge Sizemore shared with the law students and we have actually incorporated some of those thoughts and ideas into our New Judge Training sessions. I guess we should have asked his permission first, huh?
  7. Yeah, I guess so, Tain, Well, let’s get right into our conversation with Judge Sizemore. He drove all the way to Athens just to participate in this podcast and we are all very grateful for his willingness to do so.

*[Judge Sizemore: We will not follow this “script” but there are a couple of areas we have thought about discussing that I have outlined here. We will probably allow the conversation to take us wherever it leads but I know we want to discuss these issues. Please feel free to add if you have others.]*

a. Judge Sizemore, welcome to the Good Judge-ment Podcast.

b. Judge, tell us a little about your legal career before and after you served as a Superior Court Judge. You served in the Macon Circuit, correct? When did you serve?

*{Tain may have defended the State as an Asst. Atty Gen. in a case brought by Judge Sizemore as an attorney}*

c. Did you decide to serve as a Senior Judge after you retired from active service or did you return to the practice of law? What factors led to your decision?

d. Judge, I have to tell you something. When Tain and I were planning New Judge Orientation for the new Superior Court Judges, I came across one of those YouTube videos I mentioned earlier where you were talking with law students and I really wanted to use something that you had said to the students about three pieces of advice you would give judges. I admit that I should have called you and asked for your permission but, instead, I called Judge Trip Self to make sure that quoting you was a good idea. At the time, he was on the Superior Court bench and we all are aware that he is now a US District Court Judge for the Middle Circuit. Anyway, he paid you the ultimate compliment.

e. Judge Self told me that you had the finest reputation of any judge he had ever known and that he could only aspire to have a reputation like yours when he retires. Sir, I cannot imagine a greater tribute to you and your service on the bench than the one Judge Self gave you.

f. Let’s go over those three pieces of advice or “rules” that you suggested for judges

**(1)** **Remember that you were once a lawyer and what it was like to earn a living as a practicing lawyer.**

**(2) When in doubt, choose mercy.**

**(3) JUST RULE!**

g. Tell me your thoughts on that first piece of advice—remember what it was like to earn a living as a practicing lawyer.

h. Judge, your second “rule” was when in doubt, to choose mercy. You actually presided over death penalty cases and similar types of serious felony cases. Do you mean that everyone should get probation?

i. Judge, we really emphasize your last piece of advice during NJO, “Just Rule!” Those two words really say a great deal to judges. Can you talk a little more about that last one?

j. Is there something that. looking back, you wish you had known on day one of your time on the bench?

k. There has been a good bit of conversation recently about a concept relating to judges that is known by several different terms but most refer to it as “decision fatigue.” You know better than anyone that every day and all day a judge is asked to make decision after decision. Did you experience that type of “decision fatigue” where you went home at the end of the day and did not even want to decide what to have for dinner? How did you deal with that?

l. Is there anything you would change about the day-to-day workings of Georgia courts and the court system as a whole?

m. Everyone knows that the practice of law and service on the bench has really changed over the years. Are there things from past years that you think we are really missing in more recent years?

n. Similarly, are there things in the more recent years that are actually better than they were in the past?

o. During felony sentencing, did you find yourself giving speeches or moral comments to the defendants? Why or why not?

p. Did you have any tips or tricks when dealing with domestic relations cases?

q. Judge, you have a very unique perspective on the topic of being a good judge. You were a lawyer, a judge and now back to lawyer and mediator. What are your thoughts on judges in general and the things we do well and areas where we could improve?

r. What did you like the most about serving as a judge? Is there something you liked the least?

We want to thank Judge Sizemore for his willingness to share his time with us on the Good Judge-Ment podcast. As judges, sometimes we feel that we are the only ones that feel the way we feel. It is a treat to speak with one of the judges who paved the way and made it possible for the rest of us to serve as judges across Georgia. Thanks again to Judge Lamar Sizemore.

We want to thank our listeners for listening to the Good Judge-ment Podcast. As always, if you have thoughts, ideas, concerns (or even criticisms), please contact us as **goodjudgepod@gmail.com**. You can follow the podcast at **goodjudgepod.com**. We really want to create something that is helpful to judges across the country, with particular focus on Georgia judges. Your input is invaluable.

As always, we want to thank Doug Ashworth with ICJE for the idea.

Thanks to Jim Henneberger at the University of Georgia law school for his willingness to help us record these podcasts. The facilities here are really first rate and UGA has been incredibly gracious with their time and facilities. We could not do it without them.

Thanks also to our friend, Stephen Turner and his company, TurnerUp Media. He has performed magic on our podcasts and made the things that Tain and I say into somewhat coherent podcasts. He is invaluable.

By the way, I think Stephen has some exciting news. I am pretty sure that Stephen and his Wife, Sally, have just had their first child. [Stephen on the mic]. Is everyone doing well, Stephen? Tell the world your girl’s name. Congratulations from all of us and thank you for being willing to be here with so much excitement going on at your house!

Well Tain, if we had a gavel, I guess we should bang it and close out this session of the Good Judge-Ment Podcast. Anything before we wrap this one up?

You know, this podcast with Judge Sizemore would have been the perfect opportunity to have some callers. We really need to get that worked out.

Folks, you cannot see my head shake on the podcast. Just know it is happening. Thanks for listening. Remember to contact us at **goodjudgepod@gmail.com**. Have a great day!

[Tain’s sign off of the day]