

## UVA LAW | BeVeir-Kendrick-PODCAST

LESLIE KENDRICK: It's so wonderful to be here with you and with all of you this evening as we get to hear from a legend, a dear friend, Professor Lillian BeVeir. So I just want to say on a personal note, I first met Professor BeVeir when I was an admitted student visiting UVA Law for the first time. And now, lo, these many years later, I live down the street from her and have been so lucky in the years in between to be her student and to learn from her, then, as a fellow teacher.

And now I'm so excited, Lillian, to get to talk with you at this fireside chat. We don't have a real fire. We have a virtual fire, I guess, today. But I'm excited to be here with you beside this virtual fire to have a little conversation. Thanks for being here.

**LILLIAN BEVEIR:** I'm delighted to be here. Leslie, it's wonderful to see you and to be with everybody who's here. I'll try to give some life to the questions that you're going to be asking me. [LAUGHS]

**LESLIE KENDRICK:** That sounds great. That sounds great. Well, I wondered if we could get started just with you telling us a little bit about your background, where you grew up, where you went to school. How did you get started?

**LILLIAN BEVEIR:** I grew up in California, and I went to Stanford undergraduate for a couple years, and then I went back East to Smith College and came back to California for law school at Stanford. And I did several jobs right after law school. I worked in the development office at Stanford University. I worked for a professor who had a contract with the FAA and the ABA, and we did a very intensive two-year study of airport noise. It was absolutely thrilling, as you can imagine.

And we came up with some, we thought, really interesting ideas. It was an interesting project actually, just at that level to be a very young person watching the sort of big guns in the ABA and so forth trying to work this through. It turns out that Warren Christopher, who did become Secretary of State under-- I guess Bill Clinton, if I recall-- was the ABA liaison. So I got to know him at that time.

And then I went into teaching. Then I went into practice, and I was in practice for two years. But in the meantime, I got married and had two children. So I had these little kids, and I was not very interested in practice. And I went, and I took a leave of absence from my practice. And I went to two professors who had been interesting to me.

And they both said, you should try teaching. There's an opening at the University of Santa Clara. It's just down the street. It was 20 minutes away on the freeway. So I

did, and that's how I got started in teaching.

And it's important, I think, and hard to remember what a long time ago that was. It was 1970. You know the story, that there just weren't that many women in law. And the fact is women were not interested in law. The reason there were only five of us in our law school class was we were the only five women who had any interest whatsoever in becoming lawyers. It was just not something that women did then.

And for a variety of reasons. They didn't want to. They didn't think that they could. They didn't-- there were just all kinds of reasons. And I think in part because there were so few of us, the fact is that we were treated rather well. Because we were not, at that time, as I look back on it, we were not at that time perceived to be a threat, competitive threat. There weren't enough of us to have the men looking over their shoulders and thinking, oh my God, here comes this wave of really smart people. We'd better get working harder.

So anyway, that's how I went into teaching. There were a couple of women at Santa Clara Law School. There weren't any at UVA when I got here. So that's the beginning. I'll tell you anything you want to know, but I don't know where it becomes interesting and relevant for everybody.

**LESLIE** It's all interesting. It's all interesting. May I ask, how did you decide that you wanted  
**KENDRICK:** to go to law school? What was the appeal for you?

**LILLIAN** I took a course in constitutional law at Smith, and it was just completely fascinating  
**BEVEIR:** to me. So at that time, it seemed to women at Smith-- and I don't think I'm overstating this reality-- that you had a choice. You could get married. Well, I didn't even have a boyfriend, so I wasn't in that position.

You could become a secretary. A lot of women went to New York and Boston and became secretaries or went into publishing and that sort of thing. Or you could teach elementary school. That was a very common career path. Or a few of us took the Foreign Service exam.

But I had a friend at Wellesley, and she said, oh, let's take the LSAT and just see what happens. So we did. And I did fine. And so I applied to law school. It was kind of that I sort of knew that law was going to be fun.

It was done out of-- there was not really a career plan there. It was just, that's what I'm going to do for the next three years is go to law school. So I did.

**LESLIE**

**KENDRICK:**

Wow. And when you started teaching, what subjects did you teach and how did you develop your expertise? Was that something that was foisted upon you, or did you get a choice about what it was that you wanted to focus on?

**LILLIAN**

**BEVEIR:**

It was foisted, for sure. When I started, here's just an interesting factoid. The first faculty meeting I went to at the University of Santa Clara Law School took place-- I had not started yet, but I'd been hired. It took place right after the Kent State debacle that had happened.

And there was then, as there would be now, I'm sure, just considerable hand-wringing, and people were very, very upset about it. And the faculty decided that they weren't going to give exams to the first-year students because they were so unhappy. It turns out that was an unfortunate decision from the point of view of those kids because they had a very high bar failure rate after they finished law school.

But of course it was done with the best of motives by the faculty, and I was just a little surprised that the faculty would do that. So I taught a class called-- well, I taught Legal Process from the materials that have been produced by Hart and Sachs. It was in a looseleaf binder, and it was a disaster of a class. I don't think it's ever worked in any law school that's tried to teach it from those materials.

They're very interesting, but law students just hate them. And I can understand why. They don't seem to have any direct relevance to what they're there in law school to learn, which is how courts decide and how you interpret statutes and what the law actually is. They're at a very high level of abstraction and theory. And theory just wasn't part of the law school curriculum back in 1970.

Law and economics hadn't come on the stage. Critical legal theory hadn't come on the stage. This massive federal legislation hadn't been passed yet, so it was a whole different world in law. And so legal process just seemed-- if students didn't find it frivolous, they just thought it was completely irrelevant and wholly impenetrable. So they had no idea what they were being asked to learn.

So that was kind of a hard class to try to teach. It was not a great success. But I taught also property. And that was interesting and fun and not something that I would have ever thought that I would enjoy, but I ended up liking it. And then I guess I taught constitutional law as well, second semester. So those were my teaching duties.

And I probably could have taught anything I wanted to teach, but I was such a novice in terms of even thinking about this as a career. Again, it's important-- well, not important, but it's relevant to my telling you about what happened to me, that at that time, there wasn't theory. And there wasn't much law.

And so the past from beginning law professor to tenure was not very difficult. I wanted to write. I knew I did because I was becoming more and more interested in particular constitutional theory. But I remember my being in my office one day when the dean came in of [INAUDIBLE] law school. And he said, what are you doing? And I said, we'll I'm trying to write this article.

He said, why? Why? Why bother? Because you don't need to. So I knew I wanted to get out of there. So it was good to have an opportunity to come to Virginia, at least, try my wings there.

**LESLIE**

Can you tell us about how that happened, from Santa Clara to UVA?

**KENDRICK:**

**LILLIAN**

**BEVEIR:**

Well, once again, I was lucky. I'm both unhappy about this and of course completely grateful for the timing of it. It turned out that everybody at that time was talking about women. We need a woman. We need a woman. Got to have a woman. Got to have a woman. Got to have a woman on the faculty.

So Virginia didn't have one, and there I was. So they invited me to come back for a year, and I did. And then I ended up staying. So, yes, I was plucked from-- and I was both a victim and a beneficiary of affirmative action. And I had very mixed feelings about that whole thing.

There wasn't any escape from that. I could have said, well, fine. I'm not going to be a lawyer then. If the only way you're going to pick me for something is because I'm a woman, then I don't have any choice but to either take that and be grateful for it,

or to say, well, I'm not going to do this job. I'd like to be judged on my merits.

So I couldn't work my way out of what I perceived then as sort of-- again, I say it was both a trap and a great benefit. Because who knows whether I would have been a-- I don't know whether I would have wanted to be a teacher. It never occurred to me when I was in law school to be a professor because there weren't any women. So it's just very hard to kind of look back and unwind the choices that you made in that respect.

**LESLIE**

**KENDRICK:**

There's a question, one of the submitted questions. Actually, there are two that I think are relevant to this. And I'm going to read them as they're written because I think it's important to capture the thoughts of the question of the student who submitted them. And you can feel free to do with it as you like.

So here's the first one. "What did you tell yourself to avoid becoming discouraged when you had so many men who doubted your abilities?"

**LILLIAN**

**BEVEIR:**

Well, here's the thing. I've thought about this a lot. I didn't need men to doubt my abilities. I had plenty of doubts myself. So there was no-- the task for me was to try to figure out what I was doing, what property law was about, and how I was going to teach-- that was really hard.

And if I tried to think about whether I could and spent time thinking about that, then I would have gotten so distracted by self-doubt and worry that I would never have been able to even get a beginning on how to teach and what to teach and whether it's fun and whether I could do it. So that's one piece of the sort of answer to that question.

The second part of it is the men didn't come up and say, I doubt your ability. I mean, they didn't come up and say that to you. Every now and then, you would have-- oh, there is a person sort of on our faculty. I think he's retired now, who I have never spoken to since he sent this to me. Because he said, well, I had you for property, and it wasn't that you were so good at it. It was just that you could do it at all, that you could teach it at all.

Well, I have not spoken to him since. I thought it was such an insulting comment and so ridiculous. But what that reveals to me is this underlying doubt that was there.

And when I came to Virginia, there were a lot of old-- they were men in middle age approaching-- you know, they were people-- I'm sorry, Leslie, sort of where you are in your career [INAUDIBLE] problem. You guys are getting there.

**LESLIE**

Oh, yeah, I know it.

**KENDRICK:**

**LILLIAN**

But they couldn't-- they could not imagine. It was just simply, they could not

**BEVEIR:**

imagine what a woman could do as a law teacher, that they could do it. It wasn't that they thought that we were stupid. It was just that they couldn't believe that we could do it. And so the fact that they let us.

I mean, I don't need to sound so-- well, they did. They let us. They were persuaded that, OK, fine, this is happening. We've got to have them here, and then we've got to let them teach. But it was for them, for many of them, just a complete reversal of everything they thought about the way the world was organized and who should do what and who was capable of doing what.

So that transformation in expectations of women's abilities and their role has-- I think it's almost complete. I think there may be sexism. There probably is. I'm sure there is. I don't want to suggest that there's not. But it is of a different nature from what existed before. And when I was starting out, it was just a sense of, this is just wrong, just wrong.

Women shouldn't be doing this. I don't know what they're doing. I don't know why they think they can do it, and probably they can't. So that was something. But they didn't-- again, for the most part-- and this gets back to the question. They didn't-- if they doubted your ability, you only got hints like that sort of every now and then.

For the most part-- and I do remember being told when a professor here visited my class, when they were trying to decide whether to hire me and keep me there, keep me at Virginia. And he visited my class, and he came in. And he was a pretty good friend, had become a pretty good friend. And he said, I don't know how you stand it. And I said, what?

He said, they're gunning for you, all the time. That's what they're doing. And I thought-- well, I wondered about that. I wondered why sometimes it felt like there

was a lot of pushing going. So there was that. But, again, I found that the most useful way to overcome any of my own self-doubts, as well as other people's doubts about me, was to try to figure out what I was teaching.

What was this about, and how could I help students understand it? So that was that one. And also here's another sort of story about how do you overcome your doubts when the men are doubting you so much. When Bill Clinton was looking for an attorney general, he was determined to have a woman attorney general. And the first woman he identified was a woman named Zoe Baird, and she had-- she and her husband. Her husband was a professor at Yale Law School.

And they had a son who was four years old and a nanny for the son. And during the course of the vetting process of Zoe Baird, it was discovered that they had not paid Social Security taxes and so forth for their nanny. This became known as Nannygate because we'd had Watergate. It was one of those gates. And so there was a big swarm of publicity about this problem with Zoe Baird's nomination.

I remember just as it was very clear to just about everyone who was observing this process that she was in big trouble, and she was not going to be confirmed. But she came out of a Senate hearing and she said, it's going great. It's going just great. They were really nice to me.

Well, yeah, they were. But that didn't mean that they were going to vote for her, or that they were going to support her, or that they were generally supportive. So there's always this sort of, there's the public thing that people say to you. And then there's what they think of you and what they're-- so you can't always judge people's understandings and whether they actually respect you by whether they're nice to you or not, or treat you well or whatever in that sort of setting.

So that's a very complicated answer to what was a pretty simple question.

**LESLIE** Not at all.

**KENDRICK:**

**LILLIAN** It was an interesting question.

**BEVEIR:**

**LESLIE** These are always complicated. There's just always complicated problems and

**KENDRICK:** challenges.

**LILLIAN** Yeah. Yeah. I think that's right.

**BEVEIR:**

**LESLIE** There's another question that maybe follows on, which is about a particular way in  
**KENDRICK:** which this can manifest. It says, "There are a lot of instances, both in law school and the workplace, where women are criticized or face backlash for projecting a number of qualities that are praised when men exhibit them, assertiveness, confidence, et cetera. How would you recommend addressing these situations and standing up for ourselves without being perceived as doubling down on that criticized trait?"

**LILLIAN** Yeah, I think that's the hardest possible question. I just do not know what the answer  
**BEVEIR:** is. And part of my difficulty in answering it is that I worry about any young professional who is thinking about what other people are thinking about them and whether they are being perceived this way or that way or the other way.

This may sound Pollyanna-ish, and I hope that it's not just too crazy for people to understand what I'm trying to say. But I think the important thing to do is to always try to be-- first of all, I think being a lawyer is hard. And there's stuff that you-- you have to be paying attention all the time to the substance of what's going on.

And if you're in a negotiation, or if you're in a meeting, or if you're in any sort of encounter with people who are your superiors or your colleagues, you don't want to be too distracted by how you're being perceived. Of course that's silly, in a way, because of course you're going to be thinking about how you're being perceived. And you're going to be thinking about not coming across in too aggressive a way.

Because every move you make, every way in which you behave is going to affect things down the road. Nothing is its own thing. You know what I'm saying? Nothing has no consequences, and no behavior has no consequences. And it's important to be aware of that and to take a somewhat longer view than this meeting or this encounter.

So I know the problem that is being described, and I have great sympathy for the difficulty of that, that dilemma that women feel in terms of their behavior. And all I can say is what I've just tried to say, which is you have to pay attention to what



you're doing, and you have to understand that if you have to fight for your client, you have to fight for a client.

And it doesn't matter whether the other side says, oh, my, wasn't she bossy, or this or that. You have to do that. That's your job. So obviously you want to do it in the most effective way. And how you structure that, how that comes across, it's hard. It's part of the job.

So that's the only advice really that I can give. And I don't know that it's helpful as a strategy for the particular question that is being asked in terms of-- I take it that the question has something to do with modeling behavior as a woman. but I really can't say more than what I've said. And if you need me to clarify, I'd be happy to try to do that.

**LESLIE**

**KENDRICK:**

It's a tough question that gets at maybe a larger phenomenon that it can feel as though there's not a lot of margin for error or margin for difference. So that there's a particular way that you're supposed to be, and that's a very constrained kind of set of qualities. And deviation is maybe judged more harshly if you're a woman, or at least in some cases, if that's the case, or it can feel that way.

It makes me think a little bit about just thinking about the first time I met you, the time that I came to UVA as a visiting student. I met you. I met Liz Magill. And you two, I met you at the same time. We had a conversation together.

I met Diana Gribbon Motz, Judge Motz, who's on the Fourth Circuit, who's an alum. I met Beverly Harmon, and we got to visit her house there. She and her husband lived on the lawn in one of the pavilions. All just enormously accomplished professional women, who were also very different in lots of different ways, politically, jurisprudentially, in terms of background, in terms of outlook, in terms of personality.

And I think I benefited so much from knowing all of you. And part of what drew me to this institution was that it had so many vibrant women who were so themselves and so different from each other, but also very supportive of each other and clearly part of a real community in the true sense of that word.

And I think the sort of judgment can-- it seems, taken to its logical conclusion, is

trying to iron out all of that difference and say, there's one way to be. Or that the way of being a woman is kind of constrained enough that you're not going to get all of the different types of personalities and approaches and everything that we all benefit from.

**LILLIAN  
BEVEIR:**

Right. Well, of course, I had to be aware of that when I was the only woman on the faculty for nine years. I had to be aware that-- because I know that I'm a little bit different. I see the world differently from a lot of people. And my truth isn't their truth. And I don't want that fact to discourage women from becoming lawyers because they don't agree with me about things.

But I had to just-- I announced it whenever I could. Look, I am this person. It's true, I'm a woman. But I am this person. And finding my comfort level with that was very gratifying. And it was-- the fact is things like that come with age, and they come with experience.

And so you're not old, and you don't have experienced when you first start out. But if you have that sense of what you're going for, it kind of helps you through. So that notion that-- I mean, women are just very different from one another, as men are. And it may be that some of this behavior that women are describing that they get punished for-- I don't know.

It may be that some of them misbehave. Sometimes women do. Because, I mean, I think it's true-- in particular it was true for women who were sort of first out of the gate into law. There weren't very many women, and they didn't know anything about how the system worked.

They didn't know anything about it, and they didn't know about the old boys' club and the old boys' way of doing things. So that practicing law, they didn't know that you don't rush off and get some judicial order because you're disagreeing with the person that's on the other side. You work things out with the two lawyers, and you figure out how to come to some sort of an accommodation.

But at the same time, it is true that women do sometimes get punished for being just more themselves than perhaps makes other people comfortable. It puts other people outside their comfort zone. So, yeah.

**LESLIE**

**KENDRICK:**

I think we have another question that follows on with something that you were just talking about. And I'll just say that I always appreciated that you as an educator and as a mentor, it was clear that you were clear about your point of view and your perspective, and you were also clear that your students didn't have to share that perspective in order to be your students and in order to learn with you.

And I think it was probably pretty clear from pretty early on that I had a different perspective, and you were always very welcoming. And you were very much yourself, but very much also about a shared project in the classroom and beyond, which I always really appreciated.

So this is the question. "What challenges, if any, do you think there are unique to women in the legal profession who identify as conservative? How did you overcome any such challenges throughout your career?"

**LILLIAN**

**BEVEIR:**

Well, again, all these questions are interesting. I don't think the challenges for conservative women are any different from men. So in that sense, the woman piece is-- in my view, anyway. I could be wrong-- not any different from any other conservative.

But again, I have to go back to the time when I was teaching and when I was active, starting at Virginia in 1973. You weren't born yet. I was thinking about Amy Coney Barrett. When she was born-- she was born, I was 33 years old. I had two kids and I had started teaching.

So if you think about the way her and your and life unfolded and the world in which it unfolded, it was just completely different. And it changed so fast. Or course not completely, and there's still some real rough spots. I understand that. But it changed so fast that it's just sort of mindblowing.

And the context of my answer to this and why I bring it up is that for many, many years-- first of all, I should start out by saying I was not always a conservative. When I started, I was extremely liberal. I was rabid. So I'm sort of like a reformed smoker in that way.

And it's only sort of-- at one time, I read a bunch of books that suggested that-- when I worked for the professor that I worked for on the ABA project, he was quite

conservative. He was actually-- Reagan appointed him as head of the Antitrust Department in the Justice Department. He's the one that broke up AT&T and so forth. And he was a major antitrust scholar.

So at that project, I was just doing research and writing and stuff for him in a very sort of minor role. But just as I was close and watched him think and how he thought through things and what his approach to questions was, I just kind of had my eyes opened. He didn't do it on purpose. I just sort of then began to come at questions in a different way.

But I didn't ever think of myself as political. I mean, I truly didn't. I was so surprised when the first article I wrote turned out to be kind of a right wing screed. I wasn't setting out to do that. It was just that's where my instincts took me. And I tried to be thorough and so forth.

And so it turns out that that's where I went. And it wasn't-- I feel certain that it was much harder for the law school to give me tenure than I realized. But the fact is that piece of me-- again, my colleagues were always pretty nice to me, so I didn't know that they thought I was crazy. I didn't know-- I just didn't.

So where am I going with this? The conservative part. The law school was not divided into conservatives and liberals. It wasn't. Legal scholarship wasn't divided that way. Even the Supreme Court wasn't divided that way. Even after *Roe versus Wade*, it took a long time for these divisions that have now come and sort of rendered our world asunder to manifest themselves, to develop.

And the fact is that in your generation and with you and the dean and so forth, the perceptions of things is just it's a different place when you look at it. Because you would never say that the law school now is not a political place. It's a pretty welcoming place still. I think it still seems to have-- but it always had a place for me and the several other people of sort of my stripe that are on the faculty.

And don't ask me how that happened. It was a miracle, as far as I'm concerned. And it was sort of-- you now how-- well, of course you probably don't yet talk about how you and your children live in a sort of bubble because you have everything is so lovely, and you don't experience a lot of the things that people who are really much worse off from you experience.

I think about my grandchildren and the ones in particular that live in Mill Valley. And the life they have is so beautiful and so perfect that they can't imagine that it's not beautiful in that way for everyone. And the reason I'm saying that is I think I lived in a sort of bubble when I was on the faculty. I thought that everybody liked me, because I liked everybody.

I did. I liked them. And so it wasn't true, of course. But that's OK. I didn't know that. So the conservative part-- and then it did become-- about four or five years, five or six years before I left, it began to become very different. And then I'm sure I was perceived as a-- what, an enemy or whatever. I was somebody whose views were not as welcome as I thought they should be. Let me put it that way.

It's fine. Luckily I left teaching before cancel culture came and before the microaggression sort of thing started. So it was much easier to introduce difficult and controversial subjects and to talk about them openly, it seems to me. I don't know what it's like now, but I sort of have a sense of what it might be like.

**LESLIE**

I have two questions that both pivot off of things that we've been talking about, and

**KENDRICK:**

I'm trying to make a choice which way to go first. And I think it'll be this way. "What kind of challenging career choices have you had to make, and what factors have you found most helpful when making those choices?"

**LILLIAN**

These are really great questions, and they're just very, oh my God, how did I do

**BEVEIR:**

that? I suppose the first one was leaving practice for teaching. And I was not cut out to be in law practice. And certainly at that time, I was not cut out for it because of things that were happening in my life and so forth.

And I think those two professors that sort of pushed me down to Santa Clara had amazing perspicacity, if that's the right word. They sensed something in me that I didn't know was there. One of them I had taken a summer school class with. And he wasn't the teacher, but he was a student.

And in that class, for some reason, I had just had a really good time yak-yak-yakking all the time, which I didn't usually do. And the other one had helped me a little bit with a paper that I was writing. So the career-- I needed to do something other than practice law. And I had a law degree, and so I needed to do something.

And I kind of had a feeling that teaching was going to work out for me. I'm not sure why I had that idea, but I did. The other one-- I suppose you could say that it was a hard choice to come to UVA from Santa Clara, leave California with my children. But that was professionally a no-brainer, absolutely a no-brainer, because the people at Santa Clara had been wonderful.

It was a wonderful place to begin teaching because they were young and wet behind the ears, just like I was. And so I just had a great time there, and I learned a lot. But it was time for me to move on because I just was-- I guess I was just more sort of ambitious in a scholarly way. I wanted to be with people who were really, really interested in law.

So the other hard decision, I think, was what to write about. Because I was really discouraged from writing about what I wanted to write about. And I just said, well, to hell with it. I'm going to write about what I want to write about, and I sort of don't care. And that was probably sort of dumb. But, again, that's been sort of my lodestar in ways, that you have to pay attention to what it is that is working in your brain and how you can maybe understand something or contribute something, not what other people always tell you to do.

**LESLIE**

That seems exactly right. I just wonder-- it does seem as though coming to Virginia, I understand that that made a lot of sense professionally. But it did mean that you left California. And I think of you and Michael as being such California people.

**KENDRICK:**

Is that something that you-- did you experience that as a loss, to have to kind of trade that place for this professional place?

**LILLIAN**

Right. When I left California, my boys were 7 and 4, or 8 and 5. And California-- I'm going like this because California was sort of-- you had to-- oh my God, the next new thing, the next new thing, the next new thing. And it was sort of jagged in that way. And there was not any past to connect to.

**BEVEIR:**

I didn't have much family, and I sort of wanted to be at a place where it was a little bit slower for them and had been-- you know, that there was some history there. So it was hard for them. In particular, it was hard for our oldest son, Eric, who lives there now, who lives in Mill Valley.

Thank God he does, because I'm not sure why you think of Michael and me as California people. But the fact is that we go back there. Absent COVID, we would go back about every three months because we love to be with them, and we love-- it's beautiful, and that's where we met, and so forth.

But the sense of loss, no, I don't think so. I've never been a person who has this feeling of-- I don't know what the initials are, but this feeling of maybe I'll be left out or maybe--

**LESLIE** FOMO.

**KENDRICK:**

**LILLIAN** Yeah, FOMO. Fear Of-- what?

**BEVEIR:**

**LESLIE** Fear Of Missing Out.

**KENDRICK:**

**LILLIAN** Fear Of Missing Out. But in California you just sort of had to because it was going  
**BEVEIR:** on. So it's a good question. It's a beautiful-- but luckily I haven't had to give California up because of-- yeah.

**LESLIE** That's so good. That's so good. There's a question about, "What advice would you  
**KENDRICK:** give to a current 1L who aspires to enter legal academia some day? In particular, are there particular classes or professors to take, particular extracurriculars? Any advice about if you might want to enter legal academia in the future?"

**LILLIAN** Right. Well, I don't know what professors to take now. I mean, I've been gone for 10  
**BEVEIR:** years. I would say take Professor Kendrick, definitely.

**LESLIE** Thank you.

**KENDRICK:**

[LAUGHTER]

**LILLIAN** I think that the most important advice I would give is to pay attention to what it is  
**BEVEIR:** you're interested in and whether you like-- most importantly, do you like the kind of work that professors do? Do you like to sit by yourself in a room surrounded by

books or a screen that comes up with different stuff constantly and try to work something out that is hard?

And do you like making footnotes, and do you like-- do you like the whole scholarly enterprise and what it entails for your life? Because I think it's sort of like watching a movie with all these successful people, and they never are shown working. Like the professors are shown, there they are teaching their classes and interacting with students and everything.

And the really hard work that professors do, or some of the-- I mean, teaching is really hard, I think. It certainly was for me. It's really hard to do scholarship, I think. And so just be sure that you like that and that you think that law is just about the most interesting thing that you can possibly imagine spending your life in.

Because I think you need to feel that way if you're going to be a professor and be able to enjoy it and enjoy the teaching piece, where trying to convey both skill and knowledge and also an appreciation of what the legal world is about, what law is about to students.

And in terms of courses, I guess I would say just in general-- but this is what I always told students. I don't know about you, what kind of advice you give them. But I would always say, there are important basic courses to take. Just take the menu of basic courses. Get yourself a well-rounded legal education.

And in particular, this would be my advice. If you find yourself of a conservative mind, take from liberal professors. If you're of liberal mind, take from conservative professors at least once, at least once. And take classes where you don't really think you're going to-- even if you want to do con law constantly and that's all you want to do, take some private law classes. Understand what the legal system is that the Constitution sort of overlays or underlays or whatever.

Understand how the whole thing works. So just get the best legal education you can and the broadest legal education you can. And be sure you love it. What would you say?

**LESLIE**

**KENDRICK:**

That's a great question. I love the idea of making sure you're covering both public law and private law and making sure you're taking from professors with different



perspectives. I think that that's really important. And when I was thinking about where to go to law school, it seemed like this was the place to get a great legal education, just top to bottom-- not just con law, just everything. And that was part of what drew me to it.

Yeah, that's a great question. And also, I try to tell people to take those foundational courses. But don't think of it as a have to, like people are telling you, you have to take evidence. You have to take cooperation.

Think about where those classes are going to get you. That's the passport to your goals. And partly you're figuring out what your goals are, but partly also you might know where it is you want to get. And think about, if you want to be a trial attorney, think about what evidence can do for you. That's a set of skills that you're going to use instead of a have to that's being imposed on you.

**LILLIAN** Yeah, I think that's a great way to think about it. And I think that at least half the  
**BEVEIR:** people who practice tax law had no idea before they took their first tax course that they were going to like it.

**LESLIE** I wish I had taken tax earlier than I did. I took [? baby ?] tax the fall of my third year  
**KENDRICK:** of law school, and I really wish that I had taken it earlier.

**LILLIAN** Yeah. It's a [INAUDIBLE]. Yeah.  
**BEVEIR:**

**LESLIE** What about, what do you think about-- I think you're completely right about, if you  
**KENDRICK:** want to be a professor, you need to be able to be by yourself, pursuing an idea doggedly, working through the research, working through the footnotes. Do you have recommendations about how students can figure out if they like that?

Taking classes where you write papers, doing a journal, what do you think about ways to get that experience in law school?

**LILLIAN** Yes, that's good. I think you should definitely take classes where you have to write.  
**BEVEIR:** And obviously journal experience is the best path in that way because it is a forcing mechanism. So not only do you have to write, but you have to learn to edit and understand in that process what makes a good piece and how the thing works from beginning to end.

So, yes, a writing class. And another thing to do is to try to work with a professor on an independent project. Now, the thing about the independent projects is you have to get a topic yourself. That's really hard. I think I've lost students who have come to me and said, I'd like to write something under you. And I said, well, do you have a topic? And they say, well, no. Don't you have something that I could write?

The important thing is it's got to be-- that was my thing. It has to be their thing. So, yeah, so writing is good. They have to learn. They have to do the whole thing. If you want to be a professor, you think you want to be a professor.

You also have to get to know some professors, more so than otherwise. I think it's important because you need them for-- I guess you'd have to play a strategic game. You need them because you need professors to recommend you for the kind of jobs that you want to get and to help you along. And you need them so that they really know your work and know you. So that's important to do.

**LESLIE**

**KENDRICK:**

Something that I say sometimes-- and I don't know if you think this is true or not-- but that one way to figure out if being in professor is maybe something that might be appealing to you is to ask yourself, do I want to take paper classes? Do I want to get to know my professors and come by during office hours and that sort of thing?

And would I find being on a journal interesting? Although I had to come and ask professors, what is a journal for? I really didn't have any sense of it. So if you need ask these questions, please do. I asked lots of people those questions.

But if all of that sounds good to you and sounds like what you would be doing in law school anyway, then great. You don't have to change anything. Just do law school the way you want to do it. If it sounds like something that's not appealing to you, then think about whether that is actually what you want to do or not.

But if it's really something that's speaking to you, it might be that these are the things you'd be doing anyway, getting to know your professors, writing some papers, all these sorts of things. And then just do those things. Go out there. Your first job's not going to be an academic job, but you've got all those building blocks, and you can be working toward it.

**LILLIAN** That's right. I think of-- well, it's interesting. I think of our good friend who's recently  
**BEVEIR:** become a judge, who did law school in that way. And the great thing about him was he never seemed to be doing it strategically. And maybe he was, but he did everything because it was so interesting and he wanted to do a good job.

And of course, that's just advice that is whatever you want to do. Do law school with 150% of your effort. Just do it the best you can. Give it. And if you don't want to do that, then don't think of becoming a professor but you might want to think about not being a lawyer. So there are clues from how you liked law school and whether you like it and so forth about what you should be doing in your future.

Oh, God, it's so easy to know what people should do when they're young.

**LESLIE** Although sometimes that can be really helpful, like your professors who said, hey, I  
**KENDRICK:** think you should apply for this job. And they were right about that.

**LILLIAN** Yeah, they were. They were. I know. And one of the professors who did that, he  
**BEVEIR:** became dean of American University Law school, I think. And we used to see them. He used to go to the opera on Sunday with all the ancients. We would all go there on the Sunday matinee, and it was really fun.

And he was always there, and it was so fun to see him and stay connected to him for several years, we saw him. And I was always so grateful to him. I just wanted to get down on my knees and say thank you, thank you.

**LESLIE** That's wonderful.  
**KENDRICK:**

**LILLIAN** Yeah.  
**BEVEIR:**

**LESLIE** Lillian, do you have any last words, last thoughts?  
**KENDRICK:**

**LILLIAN** No, I don't Leslie. It's so nice of you to listen so patiently to me. I do want to remind  
**BEVEIR:** people that-- I don't want to be too self-conscious about this, but my life unfolded in a very different way from the way yours is and will and the way people who are students now will.

And there's nothing bad or wrong about that. It's just a fact of the way the culture has changed. And so in some sense-- and that's one of the reasons when I retired, I thought it's good. Because although there are some very important truths about life and living and, for example, what you just said about when you're going to law school, do law school. Do it the best you can.

That's advice that a 20-year-old could give. It's advice that an 80-year-old could give. But it does color sort of my memories, my recollections, my tolerance. I mean, I look back. People say, oh my God, you were the only woman in the law school.

And I look back on that, and it was sort of benign. It wasn't horrible. It was very lonely, but it wasn't horrible. So I'm not sure where I'm going with this, but I think I'm going to the end. I think it's time to call this little event. I think the fire's burning out, and I have to--

**LESLIE** I like that we take the metaphor all the way to the conclusion.

**KENDRICK:**

**LILLIAN** Yep. I love [INAUDIBLE] children.

**BEVEIR:**

**LESLIE** Well, it's been so lovely talking with you. I really appreciate it so much. And I'm  
**KENDRICK:** going to ask Chloe and Donna Faye if they have any closing words or goodbyes. But thank you so much, Lillian. It's been such a pleasure.

**LILLIAN** It's always fun to talk about myself. I'm so embarrassed to say that, but it's true.

**BEVEIR:**

**LESLIE** Not at all. Not at all.

**KENDRICK:**

**LILLIAN** Yeah.

**BEVEIR:**

**LESLIE** Chloe, Donna Faye?

**KENDRICK:**

**INTERVIEWER** Thank you guys so much. We really appreciate it. That was fantastic. Thank you so

**1:** much for your time this evening and for dedicating your time with us. We know you guys have a lot of other things you could have been doing tonight, so we appreciate it.

**INTERVIEWER** Yes, thank you so much.

**2:**

**LILLIAN** You're welcome. Thanks for asking me. I was really touched by the invitation.

**BEVEIR:**