

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**CORDEL FAULK:** Hi, I'm Cordel Faulk, Assistant Dean and Chief Admissions Officer at the University of Virginia School of Law. In this episode of *Law Schooled*, we talked to second year law student Molly Cain.

Molly tells us how a future veterinarian made the decision to switch to a career in public policy - then how she discovered the importance of practicing so-called impact litigation. She'll help lead the UVA Law Peer Advisor Program for the class of 2022, so she also describes that program and its importance.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Molly Cain.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Hi. [LAUGHS]

**CORDEL FAULK:** Thank you so much for joining us for the podcast today.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Of course.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Excellent. So let's start off by talking about Molly Cain. So who was Molly Cain before the first day of orientation? Who were you before leading up to this beginning of law school?

**MOLLY CAIN:** Who was I before?

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yes.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Well, I guess 10 seconds on who I am now, so that people don't--

[LAUGHTER]

--say, why are you talking to her?

**CORDEL FAULK:** No, at this point, they've accepted that.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Oh, [INAUDIBLE].

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah. [LAUGHS] No, but go for it.

**MOLLY CAIN:** I'm a 2L.

**CORDEL FAULK:** OK.

**MOLLY CAIN:** I'm a 2L public interest wannabe civil rights lawyer. But before law school, I grew up in Seaford, Delaware, which is southern.

**CORDEL FAULK:** OK, great state of Delaware.

**MOLLY CAIN:** So I grew up in southern Delaware, which is home of chicken farms-- used to be the home of nylon manufacturing-- [? may have been ?] DuPont? But then DuPont--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Chicken farms.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Chicken farms and DuPont [INAUDIBLE]

**CORDEL FAULK:** So Delaware-- I always think of Delaware as urban-- and a suburb of Philadelphia.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, Wilmington is.

**CORDEL FAULK:** But you're telling me that-- yeah, you're telling me that this is--

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, Wilmington is definitely a suburb of Philadelphia. I don't know that life. I know, like--

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** I know southern chicken farms, like--

**CORDEL FAULK:** I didn't know there were chicken farms in Delaware.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah. OK, number one Senator Coons and Senator Carper started the chicken caucus on the Hill.

**CORDEL FAULK:** What? Are you kidding?

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah. Yeah, it's for chicken farmers-- I don't really know. But it's got a unique smell.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Huh.

**MOLLY CAIN:** It's in southern Delaware, unfortunately.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** --which I don't mind, but everyone gave me crap for it. But it is what it is, so. Yeah.

Yeah, my parents are both veterinarians-- or my dad was, and then my mom is. My dad was a racetrack veterinarian, and my mom started off doing horse-- I think she did some racetrack and just some random horse stuff-- and then cats and dogs are a safer animal.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yes.

**MOLLY CAIN:** [LAUGHS]

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah, you can't get kicked--

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, you can get kicked.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** --get kicked into the hospital by many cats and dogs.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, the [INAUDIBLE] is that I think my mom was working on a horse, and then the person holding the horse passed out-- because they saw blood or something. My mom was very pregnant with me, and then it got hairy.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Ooh, what do you mean by got hairy?

**MOLLY CAIN:** I think the horse kicked out or something, and I was almost collided or something. So my mom was like, let's go to small animals.

[LAUGHTER]

**CORDEL FAULK:** Let's go to small animals.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, but--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Wait, OK. So I have to give you my trivia.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Uh-huh.

**CORDEL FAULK:** It is harder to get into veterinary school than medical school.

**MOLLY CAIN:** It is.

**CORDEL FAULK:** It's extraordinarily hard to get into them.

**MOLLY CAIN:** It's really, really hard to get into them.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Because aren't there-- there are something like 22 vet schools in the country. That's it.

**MOLLY CAIN:** There are not much.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, there are not a bunch. Yeah, there are not a lot, and then my parents were-- are-- very smart and got in--

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** --got into Cornell. So that was like--

**CORDEL FAULK:** And that's a good one.

**MOLLY CAIN:** That's, well, depending on [INAUDIBLE].

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** It's usually UPenn and Cornell are always fighting it out for number one. But--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Wait, wait. I didn't know UPenn had a vet school.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, UPenn has a vet--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Got you.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Bolton horse center is where they sent-- when Barbaro, the race--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**MOLLY CAIN:** --when he broke everything, he hung out at New Bolton.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Ohhh.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Until it didn't go well.

**CORDEL FAULK:** We just gave these people a lot of information about veterinary school.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, lots of horse things. If you just want to talk about horse veterinary [INAUDIBLE]--

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** --holla at your girl. My name's Molly.

**CORDEL FAULK:** OK, so you were raised in southern Delaware?

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yep, raised in southern Delaware and then wanted to be a veterinarian. And then I took AP Gov and was like, government's dope.

[LAUGHTER]

No, I mean like-- more to that--

**CORDEL FAULK:** That's what I love about your generation. I love that your generation can look at government and be like, that's dope-- even with everything that's going on-- and you guys still aren't turned off. I like that.

**MOLLY CAIN:** No, yeah. See, my dad passed when I was 12 from mental health things, and that more than halved our income.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Wow.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And things like that. And so we really survived thanks to lots of inventions of government. So one that was the most present in my eyes and life was Social Security survivor benefits.

**CORDEL FAULK:** That's right, yeah.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And here my mom, making sure that they would last through high school. Because they cut off immediately when you turn 18.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Oh, OK.

**MOLLY CAIN:** But me and my brother are pretty old-- we're October babies. And so in Delaware, we were 18 fall of our senior years of high school. And so my mom had to petition to make sure that was extended through graduation, et cetera. So we grew up with this thing-- like a big tragedy that you had--

**CORDEL FAULK:** I can imagine that wasn't easy.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Not easy.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Just even the petitioning [INAUDIBLE].

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, I don't really know. Yeah, she was always-- I have no idea, actually, how much you-- but yeah, it's great. So they used to go through college, and then it got changed in the '80s. So a notable very recent former Speaker of the House paid for his college using Social Security survivor benefits-- Paul Ryan.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Oh.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Which just goes to show you how much, one, college costs have increased, because they were not that much. I mean, I'm pretty sure it's calculated the same as-- maybe not the same-- but similarly to old age benefits, in that your survivor benefits are proportional to how much you made. So maybe, I think his dad was like a, I don't know, something fancy, so his was probably more. But anyway, yeah, so it used to go through college. And then Reagan changed it, and then it was only until 18.

So I think I saw a lot of government. My high school was the worst in Delaware, in a really poor area. 70% of the students were on free or reduced lunch. And I was just sitting in AP Gov, just listening to people be like, welfare is bad and things like that. And I'm like, we're a Title I school, guys. It was just an interesting cognitive dissonance of impoverished-- mostly white-- people talking about policies that were actually--

**CORDEL FAULK:** So this is how your mind is changing from--

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, yeah. From veterinarian

**CORDEL FAULK:** --from, I want to be a vet to wait a minute--

**MOLLY CAIN:** [? Yeah. ?] [? And then I took-- ?]

**CORDEL FAULK:** --this policy thing is cool.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, I took AP Government in 2007. So it was like--

**CORDEL FAULK:** You were not a senior in 2007.

**MOLLY CAIN:** No, I was a freshman.

**CORDEL FAULK:** You took AP Government as a--

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, and that was when freshmen took it. It was like, I don't know.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Really?

**MOLLY CAIN:** Our school was weird, I guess. I don't know.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Because we were senior year.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, that's what everyone says-- senior year.

**CORDEL FAULK:** We were sen--yeah.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Thank god. Because I think I would have been like-- if I had taken it that late-- I don't know. Whatever. Thanks, Seaford High School for doing in a weird way.

**CORDEL FAULK:** I know. Right. Exactly right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** You got something good out of it.

**MOLLY CAIN:** I know, right? And Obama was running, and we all found out together that Molly was a Democrat through this weird ideology sharing exercise, where we put our name on a Post-it note-- and then the teacher was like, if you believe in, like, welfare, put your name on the left. And I was, like, the only name on the--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Wait, in front of the entire class?

**MOLLY CAIN:** --whole front of the whole class. Yeah, like-- walk up to board, put your Post-it note with your name on it.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Wait, and you were the on-- were you--

**MOLLY CAIN:** I was mostly the only left Post-it note, and I was just looking at my class, being like, oh, interesting.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Right. Yeah, that's why I wouldn't do something like that. [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** No, it was wildly inappropriate.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Right, right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And Obama was running, and I was like, oh my god, he's amazing. Anyway, so I just got really into government and also just really saw how you needed-- I guess I mean, I didn't know what progressive was at the time-- but how you needed perspectives like mine fighting for policies that people around me might not support-- but would be good for them. So I think it just had me seeing how important government was and wanting to get people interested in that.

Yeah, so I was the only Obama sticker in the parking lot and things like that, so I got a lot of feedback.

[LAUGHTER]

[INAUDIBLE]

**CORDEL FAULK:** A lot of feedback.

**MOLLY CAIN:** A lot of feedback.

[LAUGHTER]

And so I worked at the diner as an ice cream girl. I got a lot of cornering of like, hey, I hear you're a Democrat-- you should take some econ, little lady, so you would go Republican.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Was that your classmates, or was it adults?

**MOLLY CAIN:** Like adult men.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Really?

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, it's a weird town.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Geez! [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** Small town America.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Geez.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And so then I was like--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Like people you-- I guess you knew everybody. Did you know everybody?

**MOLLY CAIN:** I knew most people.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Were these people you knew?

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, because I was on the field hockey team.

**CORDEL FAULK:** OK, OK. So you knew-- OK.

**MOLLY CAIN:** I was on three sports a year.

**CORDEL FAULK:** It wasn't like strangers coming up to you like, hey girl--

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, it was well known. You know, and--

[LAUGHTER]

I was loud, too.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS] Hey, you're not loud. You just share your opinions.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, I think that they would call me loud.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** I would call me opinionated.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, my mom's from Long Island. So we let you know what our opinions pretty quickly.

**CORDEL FAULK:** I think that's fair.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah. And so I think that really got me-- both the financial insecurity my family faced and wanting to understand that more and also just being like, challenge accepted to everyone being like, you should study economics--

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS] Oh, that's funny. Yeah.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah. [LAUGHS] So I studied economics in undergrad.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Wait, that's so funny.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** That's right. So you really took them at their word.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah I was like, fine, all right-- I'll test it, let's see.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Where did you study? [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** I went to undergrad at Stanford University in California.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Which has a pretty kind of right of center bent with its economics.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, I didn't know that--

[LAUGHTER]

--when I was-- I mean, so obviously extreme amounts of education privilege in my--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Wait, wait. I want to point out that they told you you needed to study economics, so you went to study economics at a place they would want to study economics, and it didn't change you.

**MOLLY CAIN:** No, but--

**CORDEL FAULK:** And it didn't change you. [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** They'd be like, oh, so you're going to go to the Left Coast--

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** --is what I got. And I was like, the Left Coast? And they're like, well, you know those elite institutions are all really liberal. Like, false. [LAUGHS] Yeah, so Stanford has the Hoover Institution, which is a more right of center think tank-- and more just thinking about economics in a classical model way and like, everyone's rational-- and like, invisible hand-- and all those things-- and doesn't blink in Econ-- well, we called it Econ 1A-- but Econ 1, where they're like, perfect competition means no economic profits. And no one else blinked, and I was like, but Comcast makes lots of profits.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** I'm confused.

[LAUGHTER]

And so I got into public policy there. Public policy was more my home. It was a smaller major, and econ was a lot more, like, banking dudes.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** I kid you not, in my senior fall banking class-- because I wanted to see what banking was like, more just for regulating-- but the professor, I kid you not, it was like an 80 person lecture hall, and he was he was just riffing. And he was just like, yeah, most of you are here to learn how to do calculations for banking. Molly's here to learn how to regulate you.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Oh! Oh! [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** And I was like, you are right. [LAUGHS]

**CORDEL FAULK:** He knew you that well. [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, we were buds. And I was like, I don't know. I don't remember what the context was then.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** But I kid you not, that happened in lecture. And I was like, [SNAPS] got me.

[LAUGHTER]

Yeah. And so yeah, I grew up thinking I wanted to go into government and do Hill work.

**CORDEL FAULK:** So at this point you're not mentally at law school yet-- you're on the Hill.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, I was thinking JD would probably happen for credential purposes.

**CORDEL FAULK:** For chief of staff purposes.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, chief of staff or those things.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [INAUDIBLE]

**MOLLY CAIN:** And then also, no one in my family did the government. And when you look at Wikipedia, my favorite senators all have JDs. So you're just thinking that, oh, in order to write laws, you

probably should know what law is, which I stand by. I think that that is actually--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Oh, I agree. I agree.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** It is good to know.

**MOLLY CAIN:** No, it's crazy important when you're reading statutes, and you're like, these are poorly written. [LAUGHS] To have somebody that can maybe not write with them as poorly?

**CORDEL FAULK:** Right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** You need to understand laws.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Because when courts are going through things, they'll go as deep as, why did they put a long hyphen there instead of a short hyphen. And that really means something.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Right. And so I think that just having a knowledge of the law is helpful for lawmakers. But yeah, I wasn't thinking I was going to do any sorts of litigation. I thought I was just going to get a JD after doing some government for a bit.

**CORDEL FAULK:** And then go to the Hill.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And then go the Hill and--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Or do policy.

**MOLLY CAIN:** --or do policy and something like that. Yeah, because I--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Which is a well-worn path.

**MOLLY CAIN:** A well-worn path-- a great path. But then, yeah, interned on the Hill. But then my fall of my senior year, we got-- my side lost a lot--

[LAUGHTER]

--on the Hill, and I am unhireable--

[LAUGHTER]

--on the other side, probably.

I mean, we all know-- if you interned on one side, you're not going to get hired on the other side, unless it was freshman year, and you can be like, youthful mistake. [LAUGHS]

**CORDEL FAULK:** Even then. Even then, it's hard.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, even then, it's hard-- so not even jokingly unhireable, but literally unhireable.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Once you choose teams, you chose a team.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, chose the team.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah. And so I did lots of panicking my senior year of college, knowing I wanted to do--

**CORDEL FAULK:** I wish you had called me. I would have told you, [? no, ?] [? Molly, ?] you don't need to panic.

**MOLLY CAIN:** It was like, where do I go?

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** Because our career fairs were like what you think St--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Oh it's like, ibankers--

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, ibankers, and--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Consultants.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Consultants and things like that. Or, are you computer science-- and if you're not, they aren't going to talk to you.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah. And so I wanted free sunglasses. So I don't know. I was just walking around the career fair being like, well I don't know what my career is going to be now that there's no jobs on the Hill. And I signed my name on an econ consulting thing. And then they were like, you want to come to DC and interview? And I was like, sure, might as well.

**CORDEL FAULK:** So private econ consulting.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, private econ consulting, which is like-- you mostly do numbers for litigation, actually, funnily enough.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah, OK. Yeah.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And I had no idea what that was. I didn't know enough about the law.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Or antitrust-- there's a lot of antitrust.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Right, antitrust, or if you get sued for-- I really was interested in-- when this firm was talking to me, I was like, oh, doped you do unemployment law. I didn't know enough about law to realize that you should ask them what side they did. [LAUGHS] I didn't know that. And I just didn't. And so I didn't think to ask, who do you do the math for? Turns out it's Walmart.

[LAUGHTER]

I didn't know enough about--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Which is-- that's not why Molly Cain gets up in the morning.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, that's not me.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Not why Molly Cain gets up in the morning.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah. So I did-- because I got the interview, and I asked all my Hill friends. And they were like, oh my god, take that job. And I was like, OK. Because everyone says if you want a job in DC, you need to get to DC--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Get to DC, right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** --which is a privileged statement to make, anyway. How are you supposed to pay rent? We're not going to--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Right. First of all, from Stanford, moving across the country-- then being in a very expensive city--

**MOLLY CAIN:** So expensive.

**CORDEL FAULK:** --trying to live and eat is, yeah.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah. You don't know when a job is going to happen.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** So I took the job, and then the first project I was put on was like, help us help this car company explain why cutting 1200 jobs in the middle of the Midwest is good for the economy. And I was like, naw. [LAUGHS]

**CORDEL FAULK:** And not why Molly Cain gets up in the morning.

**MOLLY CAIN:** No.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS] Not why Molly Cain gets up in the morning.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And I was interviewing on the side with public issues things. And the Center for American Progress called-- gave me a job offer that I interviewed for-- took a 50% pay cut and turned in my resignation three weeks in.

**CORDEL FAULK:** That's pretty brave-- a 50% pay cut-- that's pretty big in DC.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah. And no regrets, because I think it really crystallized in my mind-- I think jobs, in general, are very personal decisions. But I think you need to decide for yourself-- this is very true for the public interest firm track in law school-- but you need to decide for yourself if you are a type of person that can handle not doing what you love doing 9:00 to 5:00. And I am so extremely not that person that I get upset if I spend an hour doing something I don't want to do.

**CORDEL FAULK:** I mean, they say find a job you'll love, and you'll never work a day in your life. And that's why you need to love what you're doing. Otherwise, it's just not going to-- it's not going to work.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And some people can make maybe better economic choices for themselves and handle a job for a couple of years that doesn't feed their soul. But I think that I--

**CORDEL FAULK:** I think it's brave if you don't want to do that to not do it.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, I don't want to do that.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Because you could crush your soul like that.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah. No, I would die. So I think that was a really hard time in my life, mental health wise, to know that I hated everything I was doing 9:00 to 5:00.

**CORDEL FAULK:** And to make the healthy choice.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And to make a healthy choice.

**CORDEL FAULK:** A healthy choice for Molly.

**MOLLY CAIN:** A healthy choice for me, not for my bank account--

[LAUGHTER]

--and work in policy. So I worked at the Center for American Progress on the politics arm, basically-- so the 501(c)(4) side, which take down profits, and that'll explain the 501(c)(3)--

[LAUGHTER]

**CORDEL FAULK:** The difference between 3 and 4, yeah.

**MOLLY CAIN:** It's more just funding and what you're allowed to do. But yeah, my second day, I got into like a full blown numbers fight with my executive director. So that was fun. And then my third day--

[LAUGHTER]

--I was covering the first GOP debate. Because I was there from August 2015 through August 2017.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Aw, hell yeah-- just as things were picking up.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Just as things were picking up and getting sad.

[LAUGHTER]

Yeah, stayed two years on the dot for that--

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** --for that 401(k) vesting. Take more vacation, listeners.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** I couldn't, because I was an econ major.

**CORDEL FAULK:** That's right. Because you took like-- it was like a week.

**MOLLY CAIN:** I took one week. Yeah, yeah. I was moving the entire week. It was not ideal.

[LAUGHTER]

**CORDEL FAULK:** And it's not like you were coasting.

**MOLLY CAIN:** I was not coasting.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS] You ran CAP before you got here.

**MOLLY CAIN:** I was an hour late to my own goodbye party, because-- so I made this website called *Is Trump at Mar-a-Lago?*

**CORDEL FAULK:** I love that you were an hour late to your own goodbye party.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, I was an hour late to my own--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Because you were working.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Because I was working.

**CORDEL FAULK:** That's so Molly Caine. [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** Because the president changed his golfing schedule and made my numbers wrong. And I had to issue the first correction of my life on my last publication. And I was so mad. [LAUGHS] And everyone just had to mill around at my goodbye party. And then they had to put off-- then they gave weird, fun speeches-- and it was just like, yeah.

So yeah, because I mean this website called [istrumpatmaralago.org](http://istrumpatmaralago.org) It's dead now. I'm going to figure out who--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Oh, is it?

**MOLLY CAIN:** I don't know who owns it. If I own it, then I'm going to try to bring it back.

**CORDEL FAULK:** OK, OK.

**MOLLY CAIN:** I don't know. I don't want to have an IP Wall, but I might call the [? Cap GC ?] and be like, who owns it? Can I have the rights back? [LAUGHS]

Yeah, it was just basically like-- it answered yes or no. Because I don't really care about presidential sp-- I think that's a dumb hill to die on-- about, oh, he spent a million dollars to fly to wherever. Because that's what it is to keep a president safe, et cetera. But if you are going

to talk about government spending and put Meals on Wheels and Medicaid on the chopping block and then run up \$90 million in golf costs, then I'm probably going to make fun of you for it. [LAUGHS]

And it just answered yes or no, and then it had how much we've spent on golf trips and had a drop down of what you could buy instead. And it was like, Meals on Wheels or funding the Interagency on Homelessness and Medicaid and all that fun stuff. So it was a fun website, I think. [LAUGHS]

**CORDEL FAULK:** So you decided not to go straight through.

**MOLLY CAIN:** No, I didn't go straight through.

**CORDEL FAULK:** You did not do K through JD. Why did you decide to take some time off and do the gap before coming to law school?

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, I was pretty ardently, I wanted to do a gap year. My mom did vet school, so she went straight through and was very much like, well, you want to grad school, you should go straight through. And I think, for a lot of reasons, I saw the value in getting job experience. Because when I was going into college, I really didn't think I was going to be a litigator until my last year of CAP.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Oh, is that right?

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah. And so my view is that JD was the credential.

**CORDEL FAULK:** You had made the decision-- JD--

and that was why you went to DC and to CAP-- but not thinking, I want to be a litigator.

**MOLLY CAIN:** No, I was like--

**CORDEL FAULK:** When you left, you decided-- litigator.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Honestly, the crystallizing moment was post-2016 election, working on research for the Secretary nominees. One, in particular is a-- I mean, they're-- whatever-- thoughts.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** They're all not great, in my humble opinion. [LAUGHS] But one was particularly-- you know, he

made his fortune doing reverse mortgages on 90-year-olds and foreclosed on 90-year-olds for them owing \$0.30, because they couldn't read their checks correctly-- and other horrible stories. And I knew that there was no way-- it didn't matter-- just the way national mobilizing works is sometimes just-- these are not battles we can win. Just like the Senate--

**CORDEL FAULK:** You mean on the street?

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah. one, there are so many being nominating at one time. It's hard to figure out what hill to die on. And a lot of people were understandably putting it in other positions. And I was just sitting there like, he's going to get confirmed. I can't do anything about that. I'm going to put this info out, but I can't do anything about that. And I would really like to sue his ass.

In that case, to help the people that he hurt wouldn't be keeping him out of the Secretary's seat. Obviously, I wanted to keep him out for the health of the economy reasons. But that wouldn't put the older people back into their homes. But getting them a judgment in court might. And so was really just seeing there being like, you know organizing and Inside the Beltway policy work is definitely important parts of the toolbox, but it's not necessarily the proximate, working with people parts of the toolbox I actually enjoy the most.

**CORDEL FAULK:** So there are other tools that you thought needed to be used.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** And you thought your skills would be good at that. So you're coming to that realization during your gap years working at CAP.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Right, yeah. So I was just sitting there just being like-- number one, it's weird when you work at big think tanks in DC. When you talk about poverty and all these policies all day, and I don't have the money or the skill to do anything about the literal homeless people sitting in front of me. And that was really hard for me-- just being like, my job is so removed from people on the streets.

And I think my job is really important. And also just the finality of-- although now I'm finding out that the finality of court judgments is actually not a real statement-- but the idea that a court can be like, no you can't do that. [LAUGHS] It was an important tool in the toolbox for me to have.

I mean, because the problem with poverty is that it's systemic. And It's built into all of our

systems and the way we live. And it hurts marginalized people more than it hurts-- it hurts people at all the intersections in different ways, and we do need a wholesale toolbox to address it. And I learned a lot about mobilizing. The Hill didn't feel like it was great for me to get what I want accomplished. I mean, it's not a great time for the Hill, in general, of working towards anything. And I just really was like, naw, I want to go yell at some people in a court. I really think it's time for me to bring my policy background and to use that brain to bigger class actions and things like that.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Impact litigation.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Impact litigation-- I hate the term.

**CORDEL FAULK:** I know-- your favorite term. Your favorite term.

**MOLLY CAIN:** I hate that. I mean, I said it all the time. And then somebody was like, if you call some litigation impact litigation, by implication it means the other one d-- And I'm like, no, all litigation has impact. But I just know me-- I'm not a good finger in the dam person. I get really upset. [LAUGHS] And so I like taking the water out of the dams, rather than keeping my finger-- but we need people with the finger in the d--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Oh, yeah.

**MOLLY CAIN:** We like people like--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Like you said, there's a toolbox. And you use every tool in the box.

**MOLLY CAIN:** So we need the public defenders doing their best to give people their day in court. We need the legal aid and things like that. But I would like to address pleading standards and things like that with class actions. So we can make it easier for everyone going forward. So yeah.

So yeah, CAP-- I learned a lot about what I did and did not want to do with my time. And yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** I mean, it sounds like it was an excellent use of your gap in between college and law school.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** It was transformative.

**MOLLY CAIN:** It was transformative. And I'm really, really glad I did it. I mean, I think that all of these things are very personalized decisions. As you learn in law school, you really just have to do what's

good for you, and I thought a gap year was really good for me-- and also just figuring out who I was as a person. I was able to come into law school being like, this is who I am. And it was a lot easier to stay on a path when I knew what I wanted to do. So yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** So now we're at the point where you're deciding on a law school.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** So how did you decide to choose Virginia?

**MOLLY CAIN:** Great question. So I really didn't know what I was doing. [LAUGHS] I'm the first lawyer-- or even lawyer adjacent-- person in my family. And CAP had a bunch of people with JDs, but they weren't practicing. And so at that point, it wasn't exactly what I wanted to do. And then in DC, you just get six million tips about everything--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah, you do.

**MOLLY CAIN:** --you just do what I did, because it validates what I did.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah, exactly--it was so great.

**MOLLY CAIN:** It was so great. [LAUGHTER]

So I mean, I applied to most of the T14, with some exceptions, and then Virginia was my first acceptance. And I think that was excellent.

**CORDEL FAULK:** That's excellent. I did not know that.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, so I applied pretty--

**CORDEL FAULK:** We knew we wanted Molly Cain.

[LAUGHTER]

Yeah, Molly.

**MOLLY CAIN:** I applied pretty late. So I took LSAT June 2016. Three days later, my grandma got diagnosed with cancer-- the 2016 election happened-- so law school applications happened after all that fun stuff. And I think just-- number one, my interview with you-- or, what-- our chat-- what-- our chat about our application--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yes. No, I mean, we don't think of them as interviews. We think of them as conversations-- our conversation, that's right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Our conversation about my application was wonderful. Within 18 minutes, my entire life was changed. Not only was I into a top 10 law school, I got things that would enable me to-- so I got a Dillard. [LAUGHS]

**CORDEL FAULK:** You are now a public Karsh-Dillard, yes.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, the Karsh-Dillard. And I didn't even know that word meant.

[LAUGHTER]

And I pretty much blacked out the description of it. And then so I walked up to an alum who was at CAP. She's the head of the poverty team-- Rebecca [? Vallas. ?]

**CORDEL FAULK:** That's right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** She's [? a gem-- ?] what, Class of 2009, I think?

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yes, because that was Grace Cleveland's class.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yes.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And I was just like, you know--

**MOLLY CAIN:** And she's a superstar. She's great.

**MOLLY CAIN:** She's amazing. And I said that Cordel said this word. And she was like, oh my God.

[LAUGHTER]

And obviously, plenty of people take on all of the debt in the world and then do public interest. I am personally very debt averse, and I think that any decisions about these things are very personal. And I think you got to think long and hard about your balance between what do you want to do and what can you do with that financially.

**CORDEL FAULK:** That's absolutely right. That's absolutely right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And I mean, it all really worked for me. Because the place where I could balance what I wanted to do and finances the best was here-- and also the place I liked the best was here-- so it all worked out great.

[LAUGHTER]

But I mean, civil rights impact litigation.

**CORDEL FAULK:** "Impact litigation."

**MOLLY CAIN:** "Impact litigation," yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** We're doing the air quotes.

**MOLLY CAIN:** We're doing air quotes.

[LAUGHTER]

It can be kind of a highbrow, exclusive area. I mean, a lot of want those jobs, and so they are hard to get. And so a lot of people have a lot opinions about them.

[LAUGHTER]

And I didn't know anything. So I was just listening to the opinions, freaking out. And so, of course you hear, oh, you have to one of the top three to get into civil rights litigation and blah, blah blah, blah blah. And after all the reviews, I was like, I just really like Virginia-- I just want to go to Virginia-- why can't I go? [LAUGHS]

**CORDEL FAULK:** We have a lot of people on both sides of impact litigations. [LAUGHS]

People were saying like, oh, if you want to work at ACLU, you better go to school in New York. And I was just like, ugh.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** I liked Virginia.

[LAUGHTER]

And so I think number one, the ability for me to feel like I can follow the path I wanted to do-- you guys enabled me to do that.

**CORDEL FAULK:** No. Hey, hey, hey. That was not a gift.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Eh, OK. [LAUGHS]

**CORDEL FAULK:** No, seriously, Molly Cain is amazing.

**MOLLY CAIN:** OK, thank you.

**CORDEL FAULK:** And Molly earned that. There was nobody who was like, oh, let's just throw piles of money around--

**MOLLY CAIN:** Throw piles of money at Molly.

**CORDEL FAULK:** --and it just happened to land on Molly's chair. No, you're amazing. Your application was very strong.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Thank you. Yeah. I mean, lots of people are very strong, blah blah blah.

[LAUGHTER]

**CORDEL FAULK:** I mean, listen, we're Molly Caine stands around here.

**MOLLY CAIN:** I know, eh.

[LAUGHTER]

Yeah. But really what made it for me was the visiting here. I visited here one weekend with my mom before Open House, and--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Wait, I didn't know this. Is that right? Did we see--

**MOLLY CAIN:** Right? No, you sent out the [? guide. ?] I didn't see you.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Oh!

**MOLLY CAIN:** But you sent out--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Oh, right, right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** She went to Stanford.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yes, yes.

**MOLLY CAIN:** That was great and [INAUDIBLE].

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yes, yes.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And then my old bosses--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Oh, that's right. Because we were putting all kinds of Stanford people in front of you.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, you were.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yes. [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** Little did you know-- oh, no.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah, ha.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And then yeah, so I visited that weekend. I met with Scott [? Fallon, ?] who worked at Senator Coons' office when I was interning there. He graduated last year. And then Chris [INAUDIBLE]-  
-

**CORDEL FAULK:** That's right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** --went to undergrad with me. And [? we ?] [? actually-- ?]

**CORDEL FAULK:** I love your relationship with Chris, because you guys are on different sides of the ideological spectrum-- but you're still very close friends.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Very good friends, yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah, I think that's awesome.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, when I interned on the Hill, he interned for Ted Cruz-- I was interning for Senator Coons-- and so that was fun. But we would talk about our days, and they were very different days. And it was really interesting. Yeah, and I met with both them and a couple--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Well, that's really cool. We try really hard for ideological balance at UVA Law, because we want relationships like that to exist. We want there to be a conversation between the two sides, and you guys are a really great example of that.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah. I mean, I think it's--

**CORDEL FAULK:** You heard that before you got here, but--

**MOLLY CAIN:** Right, yeah. I think it's incredibly important in the law. I think in this career-- maybe more so than in other careers-- you're just going to be with ideologically diverse-- I mean, either you're co--

**CORDEL FAULK:** The profession's not that big.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, it's not that big.

**CORDEL FAULK:** It's just not that big. Right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And the law is inherently tied to ideology in a lot of areas. And how you feel about one impacts how you feel about the other. And I think that it's important to have friends on the sides. Obviously, call them out on things you disagree with, and they can call me out. We can have good chats. But I think that to be afraid of ideologically diverse-- I mean, I loved having an ideological diverse-- I loved fighting with my professors in undergrad, because it really made me sharpen my arguments and things like that.

And I think that in the law, more so-- number one, it helps my clients for me to understand the other side. Because we might go in front of a judge or have opposing counsel that think fundamentally differently than we do-- and knowing how to communicate with that. But also, it helps the profession.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Because both sides are going to be judges and senators and et cetera. And I think figuring out how to work together-- it clearly doesn't work out well if we don't work together on things.

**CORDEL FAULK:** If you don't talk, you know. Yeah.

**MOLLY CAIN:** If we don't talk, yeah. Because I think there's a lot more common understanding in some places. And then there's some things that I just will not hear or tolerate.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** So yeah. And so I talked to both of them. They loved Virginia. Chris was in his 1L, I think, when I saw him-- so just to see Chris just being so happy-- I mean, he was [INAUDIBLE]. I don't know. He was just happy, and I was like, oh, I thought law school was not supposed to be fun.

[LAUGHS] And Chris was just super pumped.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** He loved Virginia. And then I came to open houses, and I slept three hours before the first day.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah, you came straight from work.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Straight from work.

**CORDEL FAULK:** And not from a day where you were just like sitting around-- you were working [LAUGHS] and then got in the car and drove down.

**MOLLY CAIN:** No, I was took an Amtrak.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Oh, OK.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Because I was like, I'm going to fall asleep. I, literally, the lady sitting next to me-- I was like, can you wake me up when we get to Charlottesville.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** I was so tired. That whole span before law school had been pretty hard, and I think I was just in a rough place emotionally. And I went to the trivia night at Kardinal Hall.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Trivia night, yeah.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And I was at a fun table with friends, and I went up to talk to you. And then they were like, [CLAPS] trivia teams.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** And I was like, ah!

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** And so I just got thrown into this guy group. And our nametags-- they don't say these now, apparently-- they used to say your undergrads.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Right, now it says, hometown.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, I got grilled.

[LAUGHTER]

Because they saw mine, and they were like, you went to a fancy undergrad-- where'd you get into? What scholarships did you get? And I was like, whoa.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah, that's aggressive. That's really aggressive, yes.

**MOLLY CAIN:** This is very different than what I've heard about Virginia being collegial, et cetera. And I saw [INAUDIBLE], who had graduated. But she went to undergrad with me-- but like barely.

**CORDEL FAULK:** That's right-- putting all these Stanford people in front of you. [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** But I mean, she lived with my brother in undergrad. But I didn't really know her that well. And I was just like, [INAUDIBLE], oh my God. And she was like, number one, no, that's not what you-- if they come here, we're going to talk to them. And number two, I don't know. I was just sitting outside Kardinal Hall crying, because I was just tired.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And that was not--

**CORDEL FAULK:** And that's really stressful and an aggressive way to come at you.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah-- like, why haven't you heard from blah-blah-blah, if you went to a-- you must be fancy. I'm like, I don't know-- I don't know why I haven't heard from them yet. I don't know.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And I will never forget-- a 2L at the time-- Chris [? Byer-- ?]

**CORDEL FAULK:** Chris is great.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Love him.

**CORDEL FAULK:** No, no, Chris is great, yeah.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Just this big, great guy-- very tall guy-- walked out, looking for [INAUDIBLE] and saw me and was like, oh no, I'm so sorry-- I don't know why you're crying-- I'm sorry you're crying-- I hope it gets better. Just so you know, my name's Chris, and I'm the tallest person at UVA, or

something like that.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Chris is a really tall guy. He's a really tall guy.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And he was like, if you ever need somebody to talk to at a party-- or you're waiting for friends-- I will gladly talk with you.

**CORDEL FAULK:** He's such a good dude.

**MOLLY CAIN:** You can find me at anything, because I'm very tall. [LAUGHS]

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah, such a good guy.

**MOLLY CAIN:** I was just like, thanks, tall stranger.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And I think that that really just was-- like, that is not-- I mean Chris is a very special guy, but that's not a unique-- I've cried in lots of places.

[LAUGHTER]

**CORDEL FAULK:** No, stop.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And lots of people have offered that, and it's just the UVA way to offer help.

**CORDEL FAULK:** But that's great. So I didn't know that story before we did the podcast. And I love that, because it puts into context for me-- Molly, you've become that person since you've come here. And I now understand why Molly is doing the things that Molly has done.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** And I think it's really interesting.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Because I think that to pretend that law school isn't big and scary and hard--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah, and it is.

**MOLLY CAIN:** --is unhelpful.

**CORDEL FAULK:** And it can be stressful.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And it can be really stressful. And all you need is somebody just to be like, hey, I'm here for you. I don't know what's going on, but I'm here.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah. And then that was one major social-- oh, these are the people I'd want to be around. And then faculty wise, everyone was like, oh, you've got to meet faculty, blah-blah-blah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** And I was just like, I don't have time to figure out who I'd like.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** I just punted that to you. And I was like, who would I like here? And you gave me like nine names. And I was like, all right-- shoot my shot-- let's cold email everyone.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** Because I mean, one will get back to me.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And all of them--

**CORDEL FAULK:** All of them.

**MOLLY CAIN:** --all nine were like, yes.

**CORDEL FAULK:** That's awesome. That's such a great story.

**MOLLY CAIN:** One of them is the current Solicitor General of Virginia, Toby Heytens.

**CORDEL FAULK:** And one of the smartest people you will ever meet.

**MOLLY CAIN:** So smart and [INAUDIBLE].

**CORDEL FAULK:** You might meet people who tie Toby Heytens in intelligence. You will never meet anybody who surpasses Toby.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Oh, God, he's so smart. Yeah, and so I then had to schedule nine coffee meetings.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS] During the open house.

**MOLLY CAIN:** During open house, because they all said yes. And I was just like, oh no.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** And I was just that kid. [LAUGHS] And I was like, I didn't mean to be this kid.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** I just assumed no one would say yes.

**CORDEL FAULK:** That's awesome, though. That's a great example.

**MOLLY CAIN:** So I was just like, how does this top ten law school faculty is just like, sure, random stranger-- come hang out with me. And they all said yes, and it was great. And then we have the Program Law and Public Service, and we have summer funding through PILA for public interests work, in the summer. And there's a Legal Aid Justice Center here that we do a lot of cool clinics through.

And the thing I didn't know-- and I'm glad it worked out-- but the thing I didn't realize-- when you look at legal aid around your law school-- at least for me and my goals-- it's really important that the legal aid area doesn't take federal funds.

**CORDEL FAULK:** All right, what does that mean?

**MOLLY CAIN:** So there's things called Legal Services Corporation.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yes.

**MOLLY CAIN:** It's LLC-funded legal aids. You can't do class actions, and you can't do legislative advocacy.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Interesting, OK.

**MOLLY CAIN:** So that kind of hits pretty big holes in my toolbox thoughts about addressing problems, whereas the Legal Aid Justice Center here doesn't take federal funds. I've worked on several class actions with them and things like that. And I'm currently in a clinic with them, so.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Excellent.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah. And I just think it's important to do civil rights work. I mean, civil rights grievances

happen everywhere and are, I think, less addressed in the South and things like that. So I just have really enjoyed being part of civil rights work in the South.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah, so that kind of leads into an area that you can talk about uniquely. You're one of the first students to go through the Civil Rights Clinic here at UVA Law for credit.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Mm-hmm.

**CORDEL FAULK:** So could you talk to us some about this new clinic that we have here?

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, so I'm in the Civil Rights Clinic. We have, what, 18-- we have a lot of clinics.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah, we have a lot-- 18 or 19. Yeah.

**MOLLY CAIN:** We have a lot of them. Yeah. The Civil Rights Clinic-- it's basically you're doing work through the Legal Aid Justice Center's Civil Rights & Racial Justice team.

**CORDEL FAULK:** OK.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And so I'm on both a case and a policy advocacy campaign. The case I'm on is Scott v. Clarke-- it's about Fluvanna, which is a women's health prison. So Virginia has this prison called Fluvanna-- you can have people that are incarcerated there without health problems, but it's mostly people with-- women with health problems.

**CORDEL FAULK:** So it's about 30 minutes from here, right?

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, it's 30 minutes here. And so it's an interesting thing. Because if you have a major health problem, and you're incarcerated, but you have to go to this max security prison-- because it's a one size fits all prison for people. And so you could be a lower level incarcerated person, and you have to--

**CORDEL FAULK:** You're in a maximum security, yeah.

**MOLLY CAIN:** --lose a lot of your freedoms, because you have a health problem. And so it's an Eighth Amendment-- cruel and unusual punishment-- you have to treat people that are incarcerated-- institutions-- decently-- case. And it's post-trial-- and making sure that they follow a settlement agreement. So I went a couple weeks ago and interviewed clients at Fluvanna, and I'm going--

**CORDEL FAULK:** So at the prison.

**MOLLY CAIN:** At the prison, yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** OK.

**MOLLY CAIN:** It was my first time inside a prison. And so I was really grateful for that experience, because I got to be more of a human in that experience. Not to make the prison visit about me, but I think a really hard-- and at least--

**CORDEL FAULK:** But you as a lawyer--

**MOLLY CAIN:** Me as a lawyer, yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** --as part of your legal training.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, and it's really daunting, I think, to do public interest straight through, for lots of reasons. But one of them for me, at least, personally, is that-- oh my God-- I'm going to have people's literal constitutional rights in my untrained hands--

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yes, ma'am.

**MOLLY CAIN:** --really quickly.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah, once you graduate and you're barred, you will.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, it's me-- I'm your lawyer.

**CORDEL FAULK:** That is impact litigation right there.

**MOLLY CAIN:** [LAUGHS] I am your lawyer.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah, I'm very young. [LAUGHS] And I think that I take very seriously that responsibility and want to make sure I'm as competent as I can be, and the clinic helps me not only with literal filing motion skills-- but also just helps me be able to have the first couple of times where I'm just the note taker-- I'm not the attorney that has to keep a level head. But if you're an attorney helping clients in prison, you're probably their only legal help.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And so that 30 minutes you have to pay attention and make sure you ask all the correct

questions and not get thrown by the fact that they're crying or saying, I don't want to die in this prison-- I have kids.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Oh my gosh.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah.

So the other case the clinic's doing is the Stinnie v. Holcomb. In Virginia, if you don't pay your fines and fees when you go through court, you get your driver's license automatically suspended. And that, in our opinion, is unconstitutional through the due process clause. Because it's just automatic. There's no process for when you get your license suspended. And actually Vice Dean Kendrick is one of the litigators on that. So it's pretty cool.

**CORDEL FAULK:** She's amazing. Yeah,

**MOLLY CAIN:** She's great.

**CORDEL FAULK:** She's amazing.

**MOLLY CAIN:** So that's the other case that the other kids are doing-- other students. Yeah, so it's great.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Very good.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** So the other thing you participated in here at the Law School is you're a peer advisor.

**MOLLY CAIN:** I am.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Would you mind talking to us some about the Peer Advisor Program? And you're going to be leading it--

**MOLLY CAIN:** I am.

**CORDEL FAULK:** --next year. So could you talk to us some about the program and your vision for things moving forward?

**MOLLY CAIN:** I'll be co-leading it with Ben [? Elron. ?] He's one of my good buddies, and we'll hopefully be posting in your Facebook group, so come hang out with us.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [INAUDIBLE]

**MOLLY CAIN:** I made it. I got to make a post-- be like, hello, come talk to me.

[LAUGHTER]

Yeah, so the pure advisor program is-- so you're going to be put into sections-- one, all be put into sections of around 30-ish.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Right. So ideally--

**MOLLY CAIN:** It's ideally 30.

**CORDEL FAULK:** In the ideal world, the class is 300, and we divide it into 10 sections of 30.

**MOLLY CAIN:** But we're too popular.

[LAUGHTER]

I have 32.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah, 32.

**MOLLY CAIN:** But yeah, so you're in these small sections, and you get six peer advisors. So they're all 2Ls and 3Ls, and they're basically just your mentors-- your friends-- the 2Ls and 3Ls that know where the bathroom is. [LAUGHS] You know?

**CORDEL FAULK:** Where to get your hair cut, or yeah.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Where to get your hair cut.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Where to buy tires, or like-- [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** What does one wear to Dad Club in the February-- [LAUGHS] you know?

**CORDEL FAULK:** What's a tort?

**MOLLY CAIN:** What's a tort? I have texted some dumb questions to my--

[LAUGHTER]

There are no dumb questions, but there are sometimes dumb questions.

And we're here, because I think that UVA does a uniquely good job of the students admit that

1L-- I think it's the least bad here-- but it's still like a big new transition.

**CORDEL FAULK:** It's a big transition.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And it can be really hard for some people. It was really hard for me.

**CORDEL FAULK:** It's stressful. Right.

**MOLLY CAIN:** It was really hard for me, I think, having confidence.

**CORDEL FAULK:** And I think it's important that people know that. Everybody's going through a lot of stress during that first year, because it's a type of learning you've never done.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** But everybody feels like, it's only me.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** It's not only you.

**MOLLY CAIN:** It's literally not on--

**CORDEL FAULK:** It's literally everybody.

**MOLLY CAIN:** It's literally everyone. Yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Everybody.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And you get six 2Ls and 3Ls that are in your corner, and they will hold your hand and explain how you go to office hours and help you. I've read so many emails.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** I've read so many being like--

**CORDEL FAULK:** [? You mean the drafts? Yeah. ?]

**MOLLY CAIN:** --does this sound weird? And you're just like, no, that's not weird. That's great.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** But I made people read my emails. You just need people in your corner, and we're people in

your corner. And we're here for you. And I think it's a really nice program.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And it's this bond that transcends all other bonds-- me and Ben are not kidding when we're like, we would take a bullet for any of our 32 kids. We love them.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Yeah.

**MOLLY CAIN:** And so the Head PAs or co-directors-- it's co-director on my resume, but I like Head PA better.

**CORDEL FAULK:** [LAUGHS]

**MOLLY CAIN:** Because it makes me think, Head Girl, Head Boy-- which makes me laugh. We pick the peer advisors. So we just did literally 26 hours of interviews, and they're picked. And you'll meet them.

**CORDEL FAULK:** And you'll meet them. I mean, a few months.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah! I'm really pumped. They're really pumped to all meet you. And we're supposed to help PAs through the process, because there will be things that come up that PAs can't necessarily answer. And we will help them through all that. And I hope it will help you guys.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Excellent, excellent.

**MOLLY CAIN:** So Class of 2022, come say, hi to me.

**CORDEL FAULK:** That's right-- come one, 2022. We want you.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** We want you.

**MOLLY CAIN:** We're really pumped to meet you.

**CORDEL FAULK:** We're ready for you. We're ready for you.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Yeah. Yep. Well,

**CORDEL FAULK:** Molly Cain, thank you so much for joining us today.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Thank you for having me. Yeah.

**CORDEL FAULK:** Miss Head PA.

**MOLLY CAIN:** Miss Head PA. I want a Head Girl badge. [INAUDIBLE]

[LAUGHTER]

**CORDEL FAULK:** All right thank you, Molly. We appreciate it.

**MOLLY CAIN:** All right. Thanks, guys.

[MUSIC PLAYING]