

Justice Sandy R. Kriegler, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District

- Thomas Wilhoit: Off camera this is Justice Thomas Wilhoit of the Second Appellate District and I'm here interviewing Justice Sandy R. Kriegler, who has recently retired, and it's a pleasure to see you again, sir.
- Sandy R. Kriegler: It's nice to be back.
- Thomas Wilhoit: I thought we'd begin with talking a little bit about your personal background, where you grew up and where you went to school, that kind of thing.
- Sandy R. Kriegler: I was actually born just a few blocks from here at the California Hospital in downtown Los Angeles, and we moved to the San Fernando Valley out of Van Nuys. In 1953 we had a little house there and a couple of years later, we moved to a different location in Van Nuys, and I grew up over there. My folks stayed in that house for about 50 years. This is kind of typical for that era. There were tracks of houses going up all over the Valley. And so we moved into our house in 55. And about the same time, everyone else moved into their houses on the street and it was a lot of fun because there were two or more kids in every house and most of the families were pretty much the same. The dads had served in the army or one of the armed forces, either in World War II or Korea or like my dad, and both. And it was just a great place to grow up. We got a lot of freedom, could ride our bikes all over the place.
- Thomas Wilhoit: Different place than it is now.
- Sandy R. Kriegler: Completely different. We made our own fun. We didn't have video games. We didn't have cell phones, nothing to track us. We just got up in the morning, got on our bikes and took off and came back at dinnertime and folks didn't worry about us as long as we didn't get into trouble.
- Thomas Wilhoit: So you go through public schools, I assume?
- Sandy R. Kriegler: I did. All the public schools in Van Nuys, including Van Nuys High School.
- Thomas Wilhoit: Okay.
- Sandy R. Kriegler: Where I graduated in 1968 and met my wife there. And we went to the prom together and ended up getting married.
- Thomas Wilhoit: How many years?
- Sandy R. Kriegler: It will be 50 years in August, 49 and plus going right now.
- Thomas Wilhoit: Fantastic. So you graduate high school then what?
- Sandy R. Kriegler: Well, that was an interesting story because no one in my family had gone to college.
- Thomas Wilhoit: Uh-hm.

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Sandy R. Kriegler: And I did pretty well in high school, but I wasn't really paying attention to the fact you were supposed to apply to college. And so I'm talking to some of my buddies one day, and one of them says, I'm going to UC Santa Barbara and other one says, I'm going somewhere else. And I said, that's really cool, when do you apply? They said, well, you're supposed to apply six months ago. So I kind of wandered over to the counselor's office and talked to the head counselor and gave me a copy of my grades and I had taken the SAT and he called over to what was in San Fernando Valley State College and talked to somebody and he said just go over there and show up and I went in. It was way past the admissions time and the woman took my grades and stamped admitted on it and that was it. That was fine. We didn't have money for me to go away to school anyway, I needed to work a couple of days a week.

Thomas Wilhoit: Uh-hm.

Sandy R. Kriegler: And in Northridge I could attend classes Monday, Wednesday and Friday, work the other days and so it was actually a perfect fit for me.

Thomas Wilhoit: So what was your major?

Sandy R. Kriegler: I started off as journalism. I did that for a couple of years and kind of lost interest for a variety of reasons and then I transitioned over to political science so I ended up getting a degree in political science.

Thomas Wilhoit: And after college law school how did that come about?

Sandy R. Kriegler: I certainly wasn't looking for a career as a political scientist and a couple of my college buddies had taken the LSAT and were starting law school so I figured I'd give that a try so I did okay on the LSAT and got into a couple of schools and ended up going to Loyola.

Thomas Wilhoit: Okay and you finished law school. Well, let me ask this, during law school did you do any clerkships work? What did you do?

Sandy R. Kriegler: I did. At first I worked for a private lawyer who did a lot of indigent felony appeals.

Thomas Wilhoit: Uh-hm.

Sandy R. Kriegler: And so I did research on appeals for these indigent felons and did about maybe a dozen briefs or so and got lucky on two or three of them and we actually got some reversals and in that process I met a few people from the Attorney General's office who were on the other side. I also met Paul Turner.

Thomas Wilhoit: Uh-hm.

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Sandy R. Kriegler: Paul Turner was a lawyer in that building and had actually worked for the same lawyer who was employing me, so we became friends. I think it was in 1974.

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- Thomas Wilhoit: For people who may not know, Paul Turner was a justice on this court and Presiding Justice of Division Five, where Justice Kriegler served.
- Sandy R. Kriegler: He was. And after I worked there my second year law school, then during my third year, the Attorney General's office hired 10 law clerks from Loyola, and we made \$3.17 an hour as law clerks, if you can believe that. And the job market was real tough when I got out of law school, the economy was bad, and there weren't a lot of job openings but fortunately, the AG's office hired two of us out of that 10 myself and Mark Hart. And Mark and I had actually been in the same section of law school at Loyola, and we had graduated, it was in Cal State Northridge in the same class.
- Thomas Wilhoit: Uh-hm.
- Sandy R. Kriegler: So we had a couple of things in common, and then we had one more thing that became a common experience for us once we were in the AG's office.
- Thomas Wilhoit: And that experience was?
- Sandy R. Kriegler: The experience was we both had arguments in the U.S. Supreme Court by the time we were 30 years old.
- Thomas Wilhoit: Uh-hm.
- Sandy R. Kriegler: Mark was one year ahead of me. He had argued a Miranda case, and I got to argue a case involving the constitutionality of California statutory rape law.
- Thomas Wilhoit: And just to clarify, Mark Hart is a very well respected criminal defense attorney in the appellate sector. Interesting. So tell us a little bit about your Supreme Court experience?
- Sandy R. Kriegler: The entire situation was very bizarre. I had this case in LA involving the statutory rape law, and I won in the Court of Appeal, and the issue was whether the law was unconstitutional because it protected only females and only males could violate it. And the Supreme Court took the case up. And there was another case percolating up in Northern California area out of Sonoma County, which involved a juvenile charged with statutory rape. And the Supreme Court took that case up as well and we all thought that was going to just be a trailer case. My case would be the lead case, so the deputy AG up in San Francisco on the Northern California case called me and said, you know, you've done all the briefing on your case, mine's just a trailer. Do you mind filing the brief in my case? So I did. And then the Supreme Court turned around and made his case the lead case. So I ended up arguing it in the California Supreme Court and won four to three. Very surprising result because the fourth vote in my favor came from Chief Justice Byrd and to my knowledge, that was the only board of three case she was ever on where she voted in favor of the prosecution.

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Thomas Wilhoit: Uh-hm.

Sandy R. Kriegler: So we got her vote, and I thought we were home free. I thought that was the end of it. And one day I was in trial up in Ventura and driving up to Ventura and I have the radio on and the news station says, and today the United States Supreme Court decided to grant Sir Ferrari and review the California Supreme court's decision Upholding California Statutory Rape Law so now I'm not even 30 years old and I've got this case and I was on a team that was supervised by Bill Pounders. A lot of people know Bill, he was a superior court judge for many-many years.

Thomas Wilhoit: Uh-hm.

Sandy R. Kriegler: And Bill had always said if the team got a Supreme Court case, he was going to argue it. And so I wrote a memo up, a dummy memo from him to the Attorney General recommending that he let me argue the case and I took it to him and he kind of looked at me and he said, you know what? I'm going to let you argue this case. I don't even understand the argument and I'm not sure you're going to win. So you go ahead and take it and Attorney General Deukmejian and Chief Assistant Phil Bozian signed off on that.

Thomas Wilhoit: Uh-hm.

Sandy R. Kriegler: And went back and argued November 2, 1980 and very tough argument. Again, it was very clear it was going to be a five to four decision one way or another. And times were different then with no internet and no text messages and anything, you never knew when an opinion was going to come out.

Thomas Wilhoit: Uh-hm.

Sandy R. Kriegler: And so a few months after the argument, I was sitting in my office little after seven o'clock, I was got in early. And a woman walks by a lawyer and she says, oh, I heard the news. It's really great. And I said, what are you talking about? She says, I heard on the radio that you won your Supreme Court case five to four, which was the way I found out about it. So I got on the phone then and called back to the solicitor general's office that had helped on the case.

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They said, "Oh, yeah, it was five to four, there were five different opinions written in the case and you won." So crazy experience.

Thomas Willhite: If I recall correctly, you had good confirmation that at least one of the justices had kind of creeped one of your briefs in terms of the way they decided the case, is that true?

Sandy Kriegler: There was a very nice comment in there that said, as the state persuasively points out followed with something out of my brief. It's always nice to see that in appellate decision from any court.

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Thomas Willhite: Yeah. Well you had quite a bit of an appellate experience in the Attorney General's office, but you also did a lot of trial work, did you not?

Sandy Kriegler: I did. I tried to do as much trial work as I could while I was in the criminal law division, which was my first six years, and I did a trial here and there. And in 1981, the Attorney General's office took over the Hillside Strangler case from the District Attorney's office and Roger Boren and Mike Nash became the prosecutors on that case. Roger had been in charge of a trial unit in LA called the Special Prosecution's Unit that did organized crime trials and investigations. Roger called me in and said, "Would you mind filling in for me while I do this Hillside Strangler case? It probably be six months or a year and I'll be back." I said sure, they were great cases and he never came back. The trial lasted two years I think and there was a year of preparation in there and it became the balance of my career in the Special Prosecution's Unit.

We tried cases all over the place. Tried one in San Diego, a couple in Orange County, tried a big murder-for-hire involving the Mexican mafia in LA. I was really glad when I got appointed to Municipal Court because I was just about to start a very, very lengthy death penalty case at Humboldt County involving the Aryan Brotherhood and it would have been highly inconvenient to be traveling up to Humboldt and back every week. Fortunately, I got the call from the governor's office in 1985 right before that trial was going to start.

Thomas Willhite: And what age were you then?

Sandy Kriegler: I was 35. I just turned 35.

Thomas Willhite: One of the youngest judges in the county.

Sandy Kriegler: I think so. I think I was right close to the top of being the youngest there. There might have been one or two others.

Thomas Willhite: So you're appointed to Municipal Court, the former LA Municipal Court, right?

Sandy Kriegler: Right and back then it was still fairly early and Governor Deukmejian's term and I actually got a call from him personally with the appointment which was very nice touch since I got to know him a little bit in the Attorney General's office. I started like most new judges in LA in the Traffic Courts Building doing a bottomless pit of drunk driving trials and then it bounced over to the Criminal Courts Building, I did some prelims for a while and then in 86, the Municipal Court, LA Municipal Court opened a new courthouse in Hollywood with three judges. I was assigned over there with Harry Crowder and Mike Nash. So the three of us were the original Hollywood Court judges.

Thomas Willhite: And once you mentioned who Harry Crowder was or what his prior association was?

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Sandy Kriegler: Harry Crowder really interesting guy. Harry was a boy from Oklahoma who fought in World War II and came out and joined LAPD and eventually became part of the robbery squad, LAPD's Robbery Squad and they were four guys on the squad, all 6'5" and taller together. Together they weighed over 1,000 pounds and they all wear this fancy suits and hats. They were called the Hat Squad and they're part of LAPD lore. They would meet the bad guys from out of town at the train station or the police station, give them an unwelcome "How do you do" and send them back and they were notorious.

They were so famous when people would send teletypes from other law enforcement agencies to the robbery department. It would just be a memo to the Hats and everybody knew who they were. So Harry went to law school at night as did one of the other Hats, Clarence Stromwall and they both practice law and Stromwall went on to be a Superior Court judge. Crowder was on Municipal Court for his career.

Thomas Willhite: So you were in Hollywood, then where? Van Nuys?

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Sandy Kriegler: Went from Hollywood to Van Nuys for just a few months and I was only there a couple months when I got the call that I was being elevated. So I went to Superior Court started in Pasadena Juvenile which is really a nice assignment. There's some interesting cases. The case load wasn't too heavy. I had enough free time where I had to deal with the supervising judge out there that any of the judges with a criminal calendar were on vacation or sick, I'd go in and fill in and I did some overflow rulings on demurrer, summary judgments, things like that. I really enjoyed it, but after about a year and a half, the presiding judge called me up and said he had a different assignment for me. So that ended my stint in Juvenile Court.

Thomas Willhite: And where was the different assignment?

Sandy Kriegler: The different assignment was back to Van Nuys, but they had opened up four new courtrooms that we're going to be Long Cause Courts, with no calendars. You could be assigned out of downtown even though we were in Van Nuys and this was the height of the rock cocaine problem and the murder rate was terribly high at that point. I think it was 1,000 or more a year in LA City and there's a huge backlog of homicide trials.

So they sent four of us out there. It was me and Stanley Weisberg, Mycoff and Burt Phelps, and we did one trial after another, and I remember my first year out there, I think I did 20 cases and 3 death penalty cases, 8 homicides. It's a great assignment. I really loved it. Really interesting cases and did that for a couple years and then the new supervising judge of the Northwest District in Van Nuys decided to make me the supervising judge of the Felony Courts even though I youngest of the felony judges, the youngest person out there. So I supervised the 8 or 10, whatever we had Felony Courts for a couple years.

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Thomas Willhite: What were the duties of this supervising judge, what did you have to do?

Sandy Kriegler: Mainly you had to make sure every case had a home within the speedy trial period. We're supposed to do all of our own cases, but sometimes you'd be in trial, somebody be in trial and they'd need a home for a case. They're administrative things. So that would come up, some policy matters. The courts pretty much ran themselves, Felony Courts did at that time.

Thomas Willhite: At a certain point you ended up on the -- what was then called the Appellate Division of the LA Superior Court, did you not?

Sandy Kriegler: I did. So, I did felony trials in Van Nuys basically from 1991 to 1999 or 2000, something like that. I've done everything I set out to do, the cases were becoming routine and I was looking for something different and I heard there was an opening on the Appellate Division of Superior Court downtown and since I had a background in appellate from my days in the AG's office, I applied for that. They took me in. I did that for a couple years as well, really enjoyed that. It wasn't high-stakes appeals, but they're important to the people that were doing them. I really enjoyed the people I worked with, Bill Beverly, Patti Jo McKay Charlie Lee, Kathy Doi Todd was there for a while and it was a real good operation. I think we did good work and the people are wonderful to work with.

Thomas Willhite: And after the Appellate Division, what?

Sandy Kriegler: So I was happily ensconced in the Appellate Division one day and I saw the presiding judge of the Superior Court down in the parking lot and he gave me the finger wag to come over. He wanted to talk and the point was they were having some difficulty back in the Superior Court in Van Nuys, and they wanted to make a change in the supervising judge out there and wanted to know, since I had roots out there if I would go back and I said, sure. What I didn't know and he didn't tell me was that part of going back meant we had to close six courtrooms out there.

They had been doing a study countywide of which courts were overstaffed and they didn't tell me that I was going have to go out and at my first meeting say, "Six of you people are no longer going to be working here because we're overstaffed." So that was a bit of a surprise and it required some preparation work on my part. I kind of worked the judges out there to garner some support for what my plan was and I didn't necessarily go to the most popular judges or the judges that I thought would support me, but I wanted to get some outlying judges who would stand up at this meeting when I announced what was going on and get them to say, "We have to do this as a team."

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And it was kind of funny watching how the meeting went down, because these judges who normally didn't speak at meetings were suddenly raising their hand and saying, "We can work this out," and it end up

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working out very smoothly. So, a bunch of judges volunteered to leave and there's very little acrimoy about it.

Thomas Willhite: Sounds like your political science major bore fruit.

Sandy Kriegler: It was a very uneasy time, because they really did drop this on me at the last minute. I'm sure they got some laughs out of my reaction and they told me before I went out there. But it ended up working out great and things ran very smoothly. There were some problems that needed to be resolved out there staffing wise. The building had been damaged in the 94 earthquake, and this is now six years later and it still hadn't been completely repaired. So, I started holding weekly meetings with the construction people and everybody that had an interest in what was going on. And within a year, we got the building up to earthquake standards and cleaned up and running at full speed again. So, it was important.

Thomas Willhite: How long was this second tenure as a supervising judge out there?

Sandy Kriegler: So, I was there from the middle of 2002 through the end of 2004. And I had no interest in doing it again after that. Supervising is fine, but I preferred to be running a court. And at that point, Justice Turner who was the presiding judge of Division 5 here said, "We've got a backlog. Can you come and sit as a pro tem?" and I said, "Sure. I got the permission the PJ and the Superior Court," and they said, "Yeah, you can go." So, I went. And in the meantime, I applied as you did for an appointment to the Court of Appeal with Governor Schwarzenegger who had just taken over. And so, I was going through that process and I was working here at Division 5 as a pro tem, and they just happen to have an opening in Division 5. And so, when I interviewed with the governor's office and I was asked, "Where would you like to work if we appoint you?" I said Division 5. And because I had a staff there already, I had been using the staff that had been with my predecessor Margaret Goonyung(ph) and I really like them, and so sure enough on I think it was February 4th or something like that when we both got the call from the governor's office that we were elevated at the Court of Appeal. I didn't have to move offices or anything. I was already here.

Thomas Willhite: Let's talk a little bit about your time on the Court of Appeal. What did you most enjoy about it?

Sandy Kriegler: It's very academic. And you don't have a lot of the pressures that you have in the Trial Court. I was somebody who always liked to get my cases out in a prompt fashion, but when you're a trial judge, there's a lot of moving parts. And if even one of those moving parts is out of whack, everything grinds to a halt. So, if you have a juror who's late or sick or a defendant who misses the custody bus, nothing happens. And you have these time pressures, because there's a limited number of hours in the day when you could hold a Trial. And you'd need to get breaks for your staff and your court reporter, and you don't have any of those factors really at the Court of Appeal. The other difference is you can work 24 hours a day, and I actually ended up working many more hours I think but under a different pressure when I was on the Court of

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Appeal. And the law is faceting, to see how it develops and when you get a case where there's nothing quite on point and you get to be the one to decide what a statute means or what procedure should be followed. It's very intellectually stimulating and I really enjoyed it. I had the benefit of like I said inheriting a great staff. I had a little bit of turnover over the years, but we had a lot of fun in my chambers. We're well known for probably being the most ruckus and the most laughter and a lot of practical jokes, but it was very enjoyable. I had the same experience on the Trial Court as well and the staff I had on Superior Court, which is wonderful. And our court was always a popular one to work in.

Thomas Willhite: Any cases that come to mind that were particularly interesting or difficult?

Sandy Kriegler: There were a few. The ones that stand out the most I think are the ones where I saw a case from another division of the Court of Appeal that I didn't think was quite right. And I would usually write those myself.

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I wouldn't have staff work on those. And so, I had two or three of those, maybe four that I disagreed with the decision of another division of the Court of Appeal. And I was hoping to create a conflict, which the Supreme Court would take up, and I did. And fortunately, those were all cited the way I thought they should be decided. I enjoyed that not because I was taking on another division but simply because of the challenge of saying, "This is how I see this issue," as oppose to how somebody else look at it. And those were good, those were good cases.

Thomas Willhite: Did you do a lot of your own writing?

Sandy Kriegler: I did. I enjoyed writing cases and I would cherry pick the ones I liked, anything that involved any sort of issue involving sports or something like that, I do. And I enjoyed doing criminal cases because of my knowledge, I could get through those pretty quickly. And also at some point, I became a member of the CALCRIM committee, the judicial counsel's advisory committee on criminal jury instructions, and ultimately became chair of that for the last five or six years. And so, I had a particular interest in any case that involved a question about the validity of our CALCRIM instructions, and I would usually write those myself as well.

Thomas Willhite: I think the listeners might be interested to hear a little bit about your well known card file that pre-computer kept somewhat up to date but then probably not. But tell us a little bit about that.

Sandy Kriegler: Yeah. Right now, it seems like I'm talking about the stone ages.

Thomas Willhite: Yeah.

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- Sandy Kriegler: When the advance sheets would come out with the newest cases, from the time I started as the young lawyer, I would read every criminal case and I had my little 3 x 5 index cards. And on every legal issue, I would write a little note on my index card about what the court had held and the case citation. And I kept doing that all the way until 2000s. So, I did it from 1975 until 2000. Must have ended up with six or seven boxes full of these little cards, writing on both sides. I wish I could say they were valuable, but nobody else can read what I wrote. I had my own.
- Thomas Willhite: But you had a background in research long before you came to the Court of Appeal.
- Sandy Kriegler: I did. It was my version of the west law, a little more primitive. But the thing is with my own categories, when I was looking for something, I could find it very quickly. And when I was a trial judge and I needed authority, I could take a break. I didn't keep them on the bench with me like a couple other judges did, and I could find the authority. And I want to say in fairness, I wasn't the only one doing that. There were others in the AJ's office, Bob Anderson and Gary Han and Bill Pounders and others, Ron Cohen in the DA's office. They all kept court files as well.
- Thomas Willhite: Right. So, you also enjoyed judicial education.
- Sandy Kriegler: I did. I did some speaking to the judicial college for I don't know, five or six years at a course on courtroom control, and that you and I taught a course on making an appellate record as well. And I enjoyed that quite a bit. All the new judges go there. And my courtroom control class was pretty funny. I had a bunch of video clips and anecdotes and clippings out of newspapers and things that judge had done to get in trouble. And those were always pretty well received.
- Thomas Willhite: You need to tell them about the practical joke you played on me in one of our sessions.
- Sandy Kriegler: Well, it was part practical joke but real. I created the PowerPoint for one of ours. And one of my pitches to these new judges was "Everybody gets reversed on appeal," and I had the ability to edit some faces, so they would talk, kind of animate them. And I had people like the chief justice saying, "So, Justice Willhite, have you ever been reversed?" and you would say in response, just say, "I have many times," and the chief justice would say, "Oh, in which cases?" and then we started flashing up the different cases that had your name on it. And the point was to the new judges, if you're ever going to teach, be sure to control the PowerPoint.
- Thomas Willhite: Yeah. That was very well received. So, how many years total did you serve in the Court of Appeal?
- Sandy Kriegler: 13.
- Thomas Willhite: And all of that in Division 5?

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Sandy Kriegler: All in Division 5, yeah.

Thomas Willhite: So, at a certain point, you made the decision to call it quits. What led to that?

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Sandy Kriegler: You know, a couple of things that I do. First of all, I had been on the bench for 33 years, and believe me, having grown up where I grew up, in a family where no one else had attended college, I had never envisioned myself ending up on the Court of Appeal or any court. So, I was satisfied I had done everything I could have possibly hoped to do. And some of my colleagues that I had started with had gotten ill on the bench and passed away and didn't really get a chance to enjoy a retirement.

And I had things I wanted to do, travel and maybe some coaching with baseball, things that I had enjoyed with my own sons. And now that I had grandchildren, I wanted to do some of that. We wanted to do some travel. I wanted to teach and I had some connections at Cal State Northridge to go back and teach and I wanted to maybe take a shot at doing some writing as well. So, all of that just kind of hit me at once and I decided the time was right and pulled the plug and moved on in 2018, 2018.

Thomas Willhite: And so now, in retirement, what are you doing?

Sandy Kriegler: Well, unfortunately, the pandemic has put a chill on some of my plans, but I have taught at Cal State Northridge. There's an upper division course in the Criminology Department called Introduction to Criminal Law. I have really enjoyed that. Students have been great and I've been doing that since 2019. We did some traveling before the pandemic and hopefully with things slowing down, we'll be able to travel a little bit more now. And spent some time with the grandkids more previously before the pandemic hit. It's a little bit harder now.

And just last year, I was able to help my son coach our grandson's little league team, which was really nice. He's a 10-year-old and we ended up winning the league championship out of nine teams, and then we won the district championship as well. And it was wonderful having three generations on the little league field. The field happened to be a field I played a little league all-star game on in 1962.

Thomas Willhite: Wow.

Sandy Kriegler: Both my boys played little league at that league in the 90s and then my grandson's playing there now. So, there was a lot of nostalgia involved and it was just great being out there with the grandson and my son.

Thomas Willhite: You know, you're a very modest guy, but I was thinking before this interview of something or a few things maybe that a lot of people don't know about you. And I'm going to just spring this on you because I

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think it's important. You've done a lot of charity work. You've helped a lot of people. Can you just talk a little bit about that? I don't think people know this about you.

Sandy Kriegler: Yeah, I have. You know, I've been lucky between my wife and I to end up in a really nice place. So, we've tried to help people out as much as we can. Some little girls with some tuition at a private school, and every Christmas the family puts on a big party for either foster kids or other disadvantaged kids, maybe helping a couple of hundred kids over the holidays, things like that, and a lot of hands-on stuff. Like you, I mean, the stuff that you and Celeste have done for the Regional Food Bank is along the kind of lines of things that appeal to us. Hands-on stuff that we kind of do privately and not get a lot of public accolades for it but feel good about it.

Thomas Willhite: Well, I know you've changed the course of a lot of people's lives, and you and Shelly should be very proud of that. We've covered most of your career. Is there anything else you'd like to share with the listeners?

Sandy Kriegler: Really, I think we've covered all the bases. You know, this has been fantastic. I've met so many great people. You know, for example, all the people we worked with in the AG's office. That was really a golden era in the office. The office was fairly small, the Court of Appeal was smaller. There was just five divisions. Because there was no computers or text messaging or anything, we knew the people in the clerk's office. If we needed a file, we went down and just went to the desk.

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We knew the people who were there. We had these personal relationships. A lot of the justices on the Court of Appeal knew us by name because we argued so regularly.

Thomas Willhite: In fact, we grew up with Joe Lane being in the clerk's office and Danny Potter.

Sandy Kriegler: Absolutely, absolutely. You know, it's ironic to end up here with them back as being the clerk administrator of the division, of the district and those are good relationships to have. You know, there's something to be said for institutional knowledge and carrying it over within a court, and I think we really had that. You know, and just watching the other people out of our generation in the AG's office who went to the bench. There was Gary Han, Bill Pounders, Roger Boren, Mike Nash, you, Bill Wiseman, some of the civil people too, Patti Kitching who went to the Court of Appeal, Judy Ashmann-Gerst.

Thomas Willhite: Justice Bigelow.

Sandy Kriegler: Bigelow. That was after I was gone.

Thomas Willhite: Right, I was there.

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Sandy Kriegler: Sanjay Kumar was a little bit after me as well. You know, it was quite a group and I always thought back to the people we looked up to when we were at the AG's office that have come out of the office. Ron George and Gordon Ringer, and Jack Goertzen, people like that who were kind of legendary in the office. We got to follow in their footsteps which again, wasn't something I envisioned happening but it did.

Thomas Willhite: Yeah. Well, it's been an honor to know you, honor to serve with you, honor to interview you for this important project. And if there's nothing else, I think we'll call it a day. Thank you.

Sandy Kriegler: Thank you.

Thomas Willhite: Thank you very much.

Sandy Kriegler: My pleasure.

00:36:56