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SPEAKERS

Bruce Reeves



00:02

or as an alternative to all of that. You can take pictures of your bruises and copies of your doctor's appearance in hospital examination, and bring them to a Justice of the Peace court and file. Small Claims up to \$5,000 suit against the officer, when you can get like the big bucks that you could buy the court. But you certainly can get a fair hearing. And the evidence will be heard. And if your case is justifiable for you get damages from your expenses and discomfort, then the court can award \$5,000 against the officer individually. Well, on the officer side, that means no new bass boat this year, are getting behind on the pickup payments, or whatever it is they do with the money when they have money to do with. And looking at it that way, is an expansion of the use of the Justice Courts. Now there are several legal points that I need to check out before I can say with certainty that can be done in Texas, it is being done in Southern California by our good friend. Tom Coleman, formerly of Houston, who has nested out in Los Angeles is in a plaintiff's practice on discrimination in employment. And so he has found that shortcut to quick justice, five grand will reimburse you for anything to beat the hell out of getting nothing doesn't Yeah, really. And so they're creating creative things that can be done with the court. Another thing is, is that it doesn't just affect of course, a lot of things are going to have this qualifier. So let's just go ahead and adjust to the piece, a gay or lesbian justice piece is really duty bound to be justice to the piece. There are some things that affect gay and lesbian people. But not many that affect gay and lesbian people in a way that is different from the effects on other people. Truancy, for instance, a young man being ridiculed, going to Bellaire High School, which is not in my district, but just take it for example, go I wish it was going to Reagan High School, a young man who's reluctant to go to school because he's being ridiculed there. And so he winds up before the truancy court rather, more specifically, his parents wind up before the truancy court. And here's sets an openly gay Judge, I think he would be more free and willing to talk about the problems he has about school attendance. And I think the court would be more sensitive to finding an alternative, he may not be an hspva student, but that might be a temporary place to store him until he can find a place where he was cool without being ridiculed, or the same thing for a young woman. But generally speaking, the court doesn't I mean, one doesn't have the opportunity to say, well, the truancy laws don't exist, they do exist. And they do exist as criminal laws. I think this legislature was grossly mistaken whenever they decided that the problem with truancy was to make the parents take a day off work and pay a heavy fine, because the general problem is the poverty, right, and then

that affects other things, including truancy. And so I may handle those things in a way that is a little more sensitive and creative to that sort of thing than some of the other judges. But I'm anxious to do that. I want to talk to that. That teenager who's having trouble staying in school, I want to talk to that woman whose life is falling apart in his started shoplifting is both a defense mechanism and out of necessity, I want to prevent her from going on into other areas of crime. I want to talk to that young man who thinks that poverty is so embarrassing that he's got to write all these hot checks, to impress his friends in the short term, he's going to wind up the joint in the long term and getting into a revolving door cycle that there may be no way out. Those are the people I want to do I want to do this job so bad, and just and I can actually do that.

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Bruce Reeves 04:40

Well, great. I know a lot of several I will say several of your opponents have their their main, you know, they seem to have two major gripes against you. One is that, you know, you were convicted many years ago, whatever it was, and then, of course, most of them were the big. The biggest issue is they say, Well, you're not a lawyer, you know, and it's like, you know, I know you said 80% of JPS. In Texas aren't. But that obviously is, is an argument for whatever reason. Well,

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05:13

let's let's just take that logger thing because that was an opportunity to talk with logger Dixie early today, Chris Dixie. Let's see who is regular anyway, I mean, Ray Hill has fostered four major constitutional cases against the city of Houston and various ordinances. He'll vs. Houston number one dealt with, show me your papers. The police officer demanded to see my driver's license in the basement of the courthouse. And it occurred to me that I didn't need a driver's license to be in the basement of a courthouse. So we carried that case up on the principal, can the police demand you to document your identity? And the answer to that question in heel versus Houston is no. They have no right to do they have the right if they feel that you have seen something that might prove to be important to a court, they have the right to ask you who you are, and you should answer that truthfully, in all circumstances. But they don't have the right to demand for you to document your identity. I mean, if you're gonna drive a car, obviously, you need a permit. To do that. If you're gonna do heart surgery, obviously, you need a certificate to do that. But if you are a pedestrian or a passenger in a car, no one has the right to demand proof of your identity. That's just not the way that works. He'll versus Houston, a subsequent to that was impeding passage. The city argued in federal court that they needed the impeding passage law, because the women that they usually arrested under it, were actually prostitutes, and the burden of proof of prostitution case was greater than the burden of proof in impeding passage case. And the court and I suggested the court that they had just said that all women on sidewalks and presumably me, were presumptively prostitutes, and they should arrest us without having any burden of proof of that. And they had to eat that one too. Of course, the most famous Hill versus Houston Supreme Court decision where justice Rubin fifth circuit level said Raymond waco is pesky, contentious troublemaker, who is however, correct reading Constitution of the United States is applied to 3411. They got to where they knew me. And the the issue was, can a citizen ask a police officer stopped beating in someone or can a citizen indeed say anything they want to with a to a police officer without fear of being arrested? And the answer to that question in deal versus used in full Supreme Court case is

yes, the citizen can indeed, confront and be argumentative with as long as this is a battle of words. They can have no laws under which to arrest you. And so actually, I have changed more law, through litigation than all of my lawyer opponents over the last dozen years, have been able to do in their great legal practice. And these things didn't happen in my life like bartending. I knew these ordinances were unconstitutional before I got arrested for them. I had identified several others, but I'd like to be able to take care of these constitutional issues from my office on the telephone this business of going to jail and sleeping on those hard concrete floors and steel benches is getting a little wear and tear 51 year old man, the other aspect of my my legal understanding is my years as a lobbyist, I've lobbied in Texas Legislature opposed to censorship for gay and lesbian issues and for AIDS related funding issues. And for other things that come up prison reform I'm a general issue lobbyists when I get that I don't get paid for all of that, but that that I do get paid for I do especially well, to make sure the paychecks come in. And the rest of it I do pro bono. But I've actually written and changed more legislation than all of my lawyer opponents, including those that have been in the legislature which none of them this race, hammer and previous race the hand. So I'm familiar with the whole process from identifying the needs of the law and coming through. So the law your issue is not a great big deal. As a matter of fact, I think if you any legitimate comparison me and my opponents would find that I'm probably head and shoulders above them experience with the law. Even those that have been practicing for many years. I have a good understanding Law, there's a little court case called take versus short, which says that you can't lock someone up who cannot afford to pay court costs and fines. But every Jaypee court in every other court in Harris County does it every day. They just completely choose to ignore it. And their excuse for doing that as I don't want to make the district attorney angry. I don't want to upset the police officers going to the trouble of bringing this person in, by cutting this person loose, simply because they can't afford to pay the fine. Well, all of the excuses you can give do not outweigh the decision of the Supreme Court by William O Douglas, many years ago, and it still good law, that you cannot incarcerate a person for the simple reason that they cannot afford to pay their fine if they can afford it and refuse to do so that's a whole different matter. Yeah. But if they literally cannot afford it. As a matter of convenience, every court in this city and county violate that on a daily basis. I will not of course, because I believe that lower courts are duty bound to abide with one Supreme Court whether they like it or not. If the decision has been decided by the Supreme Court of the United States, we don't have much choice but to follow that decision.

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Bruce Reeves 11:16

That's true. We're gonna take a short musical break. We're gonna listen to Romanowski and Philip singing their new title song to their new CD be political, not polite. Well,

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11:26

when we come back, let's don't forget to talk about the prison. Okay, let's do this from people's Craw, great.

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Bruce Reeves 11:36

Weighing Kolento from A Chorus Line, and I can do that. And of course we all know Ray Hill is singing that as his theme song right now because he knows he can do this. Yeah, I



11:46

know I can do I got an invitation today. There's so many people in my race that Judge Cassetti send us all an invitation to will come by and look at the court and that was the Xerox letter would have tied up the typing automatic typing device. Two or three hours or more people in my race than there were in the tenneco marathon



B Bruce Reeves 12:08

people are there in that time.



12:11

It's very it's very crowded race. That happens when a judge retires and announces well in advance Judge buzzetti announced in I believe the Paul Harrison column that he was retiring and some time ago.



B Bruce Reeves 12:28

Well, I know when you ran for place to that was like a year or two ago, that was a special election when



12:33

no one special. That's just regular Democrats. There had been a change of the judge there. But okay, I had started out running against the incumbent judge Larry Wayne, and he quit and took another job somewhere else. And his position was filled by appointment with Judge Cassetti. Okay. And when that happened, I just kind of went limp. I didn't put together a campaign, my friends criticizing forbid the nuisance and squandering your friends money on a campaign that you can't win. That's true. And come to find it out. And I spent just \$20,000 Well, he spent \$80,000, I spent \$400 of basically my own money. I think I had a couple of contributions. But most of that was my money. Just to stay on the ballot, see what was out there, I got 34% of the vote carried virtually everything south of the bayou. And that's what makes me a legitimate. I'd like to talk about the politics, I want to get back to that prison thing was that there's a lot of conversation about that. And though my opponents have generally not made a big deal of it, it causes them grave concern. Back in the late 60s, I went through a weird period of my life when I thought it was Robin Hood, you know, steal from the rich and give to yourself. And I did that. It was great work. You work only two or three days a month, that money is terrific, you know, work late hours after dark a lot. And I since I specialized in antiques and electronic equipment, someone was heavy. And so you had to have some kind of shift. And it was muscles sore muscles was a major occupational hazard.



B Bruce Reeves 14:21

So we're better back then a lot better.



14:25

And the the retirement system, however, genuinely is awful. And I took full retirement, I was sentenced to 160 years 28 year sentences and I managed to get all those run together. So that after four years and four months, I discharged in actual prison time. I spent five years and four months in Texas prison. And when I got out, I had discharged my citizen, my obligation my Senate, but I was not a citizen tomorrow. And that was a long process. It took me 10 years. was to get a bill through the legislature that a governor would not veto that restored the citizenship rights of not just myself. But every former inmate who keeps their nose clean. Two years after the end of their sentence, they become citizens again, we will forgive society and we will forgive. And that affords one an opportunity to register to vote serve on juries and run for public office. Well, I became a citizen in 1985. And lo and behold, 1987 I was running against Jim Westmoreland. So. So while I am not proud of my sordid criminal past and not proud of having been to prison, I am extremely proud of the fact that it was through the efforts of Ray hill that everyone has a hope of restoration of citizenship, all they gotta do is keep the nose clean. And that that restoration is genuine. I am extremely proud of the work that I have done, proud of my rehabilitation, proud of restoration, my citizenship, and I want to talk about those things on the campaign trail. Because it shows I think, that what this society really ought to be, is if we want people to turn from a life of lawlessness, and become good citizens, we should afford them the opportunity to do that. We did not always afford them the opportunity, but now we do. And I think I'm very honored that that bill was called The Ray Hill bill in the Texas Senate, it became law. Now the race, actually, if no one voted farming, but gay and lesbian people. And every gay and lesbian voter in the district went to the Democratic primary and voted for me, I would win this election without a runoff. But that's an ideal world. That is not that's true. We have that kind of power in the first Jaypee precinct. The first Jaypee precinct is the most liberal political construction in the state. No question about four years ago, when people were falling all over themselves, to elect to George Bush in Houston. The first JP precinct went 53 54% For Micrococcus. The no one actually has to vote for the Jaypee in the November election for the Democratic candidate to win. There are enough straight Democratic Party voters to carry the JPS race at the bottom of the ballot against any Republican opponents. So that's why there are no Republican opponents in this. I just wished that I could win this election without a runoff. If I could win this election without a runoff, that would save another \$20,000 another month and a half of very hard work. People know me know that I'm not really a bar person. See me in all the bars all the time. I'm campaigning very hard. I love campaigning. Where else do you have an absolutely flawless excuse to walk up to a rank stranger, handsome man and start talking about yourself? That's true. It can't beat that sort of thing. But I do not rely wholly on gay and lesbian votes. I have a lot of non gay support. Craig Washington supporting me, I'm endorsed by the Association of Women attorneys. I'm endorsed by Mexican American Democrats de Houston, I'm endorsed by Women's Political Caucus, I shared that endorsing with another of my opponents, but a dual endorsement beats a blank. That's true. I'm endorsed by the brotherhood of Vietnam veterans, which is strange for an old peacenik like me, however, I've stood with those people. Sometimes people don't get a glimpse of, of the overall of Ray Hill, they see me out here on gay and lesbian issues, they see me home these things with a police kind of thing. Well, one of my other issues that I did excellent work was there are a lot of veterans in prison. I mean, it's kind of the nature of a misunderstood war to return a lot of frustrated people who wind up getting in trouble with the law right now. I'm sensitive to that. I mean, you you they may just be extraneous law breakers, but to me, there's there's a rationale there and, and I have a feeling for those folks. Well, after getting gassed on

Agent Orange in Vietnam, they came back to Texas prisons. And what was Texas prisons defoliating with Agent Orange, and so their nervous system are already seriously injured, their overall health is endangered. They will have a disproportionate number of strange cancers for the rest of their lives. And here, the state of Texas was doing the same thing. The military was doing to them 10 years before and I stopped that Good. I got up on a soapbox using prison program as a form and I stopped Texas prison system from using Agent Orange sprayed from trees over inmates working in the field. And so we are light years apart on our view of Vietnam. But they're willing to support me because I'm still their friend. And I stand with him in spite of our differences. Those kinds of other things that Raphael does, I mean, I got an encounter in the last confrontation with the police was not a gay lesbian issue was not even a constitutional issue. It was an issue of the amount of respect I was over on telephone road. And I saw the police shoving around a bunch of old Hispanic men who just wanted to play demos and checkers in their ice house, right, turning over the tables, throwing up against the wall, calling a bunch of wet bags. And it was it was horrible. They don't treat people like that in Montrose. And the reason they don't treat people like that, right, right Hills out there cruising around and going to get up in the race. And so I got up in their face there and got arrested for it. It was in all the newspapers, it was on television. But the next night, there was a captain in every other car. And when they went back for that intensive operation, they treated people with the dignity that they deserve that all right, deserve to be treated. That's who I am. And that's why it's not just the gay and lesbian vote. But if we could turn out better than we have in the past, and the only problem that prevented us is that old thing. While I was watching eye on the prize tonight, and here was Harold Washington, saying we can do it, we can do it the other night isn't listening Sylvester Turner talking to his community saying we can do it, we can do it. And it reminded me a lot of my own community. They've told us that were worthless pieces of caca for so many years, and dirty little boys and nasty old men and women that do unmentionable things. They have forced guilt down their throat, shame, embarrassment. And we deserve better than that. But the effect of all of that has made us have less than full confidence in what we can accomplish. Raziel is who he is not, in spite of the fact that he's getting



22:38

I am who I am, because of the fact that I am gay, right? If I hadn't been gay, I would just be another East Harris County when redneck that graduated from Galena Park High School, and would probably be a lush drunk with a string of unsuccessful marriages, as all my peers would have been to spend a lot more time in prison than than I did. I am who I am. Because that I'm gay. And to the young people out there listening or the old people, don't make me any difference. You are the quality of person that you are, because of who you are. Right. And together, there are no limits. There literally are no limits. Today in San Francisco because of Harvey Milk. A gay man or a lesbian, lesbian can run in any political district in that city. And stand as good a chance of getting elected as anybody else. I'm not talking about where gay people, right, I'm talking about where anybody lives. Because that city has learned that gay and lesbian public servants serve as well as do other purple public servants, and are as electable. I really need your help. I need for you to go to the polls on the 10th day of March, and the need for you to vote not just for Ray Hill on page six, but I need for you to vote for every name on the gRPC ballot. And we'll read that in just a minute because we will our success will be measured especially in my race to this time. How strong as the gay and lesbian community well how did their own candidate do just like right now? Well, a nice day didn't a nice did very well in our precincts two years ago. I mean, last year last year. The strength of

our community, we will measure my race but it will the real political people will look at every name on that slate card and make a determination of how strength how much strength again lesbian community and how committed and how disciplined are As a political group,

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Bruce Reeves 25:02

I've got one more question for you, I'm sure which I think you've been asked before, because if you haven't, it's probably going to be a stumper. Although I've never known you do not have something to say. When you're elected, because none of these days you're gonna get elected to something, hopefully, it'll be this time. How is that gonna? How is being a judge going to affect the way you interact with our community? I mean, right now, it's like, you're in the middle of everything all the time, assuming no one else is there to carry the ball. It's like gray always steps and I'm curious the ball is being just as a piece gonna make that harder to do.

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25:40

I've got a wonderful role model, fellow by the name of Judge Al Green, who's also the president of the NAACP is judge and community organizer, activist. Great. So I've been watching out pretty close. He's both a good friend, confidant, an old political ally, and a lot of ways. And once in a while, he gets some criticism. I mean, you hear the folks on the John Matthews, so call in and say, I will agree not to give up the judgeship or give up the presidency of the NAACP. And my response to that is Whoa.

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Bruce Reeves 26:19

So the moral of that story is, after Ray hill gets elected, if you're holding a microphone and you don't want it taken away from you, don't let Ray see it or find somebody stronger than you are to hold on to it. No, I don't.

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26:33

I don't know if I'm going to be quite so as as assertive as I am. I'm damn sure not gonna go to jail anymore. I hate going. I'm going to be able to take care of on the telephone what I used to have to get on the streets and struggle for I really want this job it pays well. It's indoor work, no heavy lifting. It's about time for this whole activist to play a new role. And and I promise you that I will be scrupulously fair on airing Lee caring, and I won't embarrass you.

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Bruce Reeves 27:09

Okay, great. I want to just read the HDL PC endorsement card real quickly. It's a long list. If you've got something thing write down in the Democratic primary, it's all in the Democratic primary. If you've got something to write down with, you might want to try to follow me. Well, hopefully we'll be reading this again next week. If you need a card and don't get one call the HT LPC at five to one 1000 and ask them to mail you one or you can write them a note at Post Office Box 66664 Houston 77266 I'm sure there will probably also be some available to be

picked up here at the station probably sometime in the next week. The list is for US House of Representatives district 22 Richard Conrad for US representatives district 29 which is a new district Ben Ray is Texas Supreme Court place three Paul banner. The Court of Criminal Appeals place one Charlie Baird Court of Criminal Appeals place to Morris Overstreet State Board of Education number four Alma Allen. Judge 14th Court of Appeals place to buddy Hanby Judge 1/51 District Court Carolyn Garcia Judge 1/64 District Court Katie Kennedy, Judge 1/78 District Court Poppy Northcutt Judge 190 at District Court. Eileen O'Neil Judge 208th District Court John Kyle's state senate district 13 Rodney Ellis state senate district 15 which is a new seat Rama Roman Martinez, State Representative district 132 Scott Hartsburg State Representative district 137 Deborah Dannenberg State Representative district 141 Sinfonia Thompson, State Representative district 145 Diana Davila, State Representative district 147 Garnet Coleman Harris County Sheriff Paul de Harris County Commissioner place precinct one L Franco Lee, Justice of the Peace precinct. One place one ray Hill justice of the police precinct six Richard Vera Harris County constable precinct one Jakob brucea Harris County constable precinct to Michael Harris Harris County constable precinct seven Avi chambers and Harris County Democratic Party chair Ken Benson. Again, that's the HTML PC the Houston gay and lesbian political caucuses endorsements for the primary election which is coming up on March the 10th. If you're registered, be sure and get out and vote that day. If you're not registered, call the voters registration office reboot between eight and five or nine and five Monday morning and tell them to suit you with



29:49

99 Excuse me 755 They changed the name to change the first three numbers Okay,



B Bruce Reeves 29:56

so but column get about registration Cardin get registered. Undoubtedly Mr. Hill will be in a runoff as well as some of these other people. But get registered to vote if you're not registered because you don't want to serve on the jury anymore. Well, I don't cut it anymore because they're looking at driver's licenses to and I'm sure all of you drive, so be sure and get out the vote. Ray, we'd really like to thank you for being here this evening.



30:22

Thank you very much for my access to your audience. After hours is an important program to me. I'm not always up at this hour to listen to it. But since I've been campaigning, it's been wonderful.



B Bruce Reeves 30:30

Okay. And this songs for you. That was Michael Callen from his Purple Heart album, living in more time to me, that's for you for the loss of your friend. Before that, we heard seals and Croft from the motion picture soundtrack one on one. Singing This day belongs to me and we give our best wishes to Mr. Hill as he pursues Justice of the Peace police one precinct one on March 10 long road. It's almost three o'clock we're almost done for the day. We have changed our

hours run from midnight until three now at our work request. So we just like to make sure that everyone realizes that and starting next week you'll be hearing this way out at 120 instead of 130. Next week, Kay Harper will be here as anchor and her show will be revolving around a panel of international women who are less passionate Women's Day and the following week, which is March the 14th. I'll be back and hopefully my guests that evening will be Miss camp America talking about their up and coming. Come on, you can do it. First Annual cotillion and almost debutante ball first spring annual something like again it's too late. My brains gone I'm fogged in mush and whatnot. Just a couple of quickie notes because we did get a lot of mail and I hate to not announce anything at all. Lillian Fetterman fader Minh will be speaking at Fannin 5210 Feynan First Unitarian Church at 10am. Today, it's free and open to all women shall also will you be speaking at Rice University on Monday at 4pm. There's gay rollerskating on March the third with Metropolitan Community Church of the resurrection from 730 to 1030 at the carousel skating rink and anyone any old Katy road and there's all kinds of stuff going on this week Wildenstein has a full calendar for you at nine o'clock Monday night. Thanks for being here with us today. Thanks for your help. Jimbo. And thanks for engineering for me earlier quick words. Two quick words. I want to thank the hatch kids for the wonderful coffee and I want to wish July Happy Birthday and the number for which is 9427002. The number for the game lesbian switchboard is five to 930 to 11 Have a good day. You've been listening to after hours on KPFT 90.1 FM Houston, a continuing tradition for the gay and lesbian community. After hours as heard every Saturday night from midnight to 4am. Also tune into Wildenstein Monday evenings from nine until 10am. Break through Friday morning from nine until noon. All of us on the after our staff Thank you for listening. We are what we