

Ninety Degrees South

EPISODE SIXTEEN: Franklin vs. Dept of Justice

INTRO MUSIC

ARCHES HUM IN THE BACKGROUND. ALL FRANKLIN LINES BELOW SHOULD BE MUFFLED AND METALLIC ECHO FROM BEING INSIDE CAGE

BASS:

Come on David, time to let me bring you in.

FRANKLIN:

I'm sorry Deputy Marshal, but Mr. Brewster has engaged my services as his lawyer. If you wish to question him, you'll do so here, in my presence, or you could release me and the interview can take place anywhere.

ZEKE:

(Mad)

Oh this is so much worse than releasing him.

FRANKLIN:

(Questioning)

Has my client been charged, or are there charges pending?

BASS:

I'm placing Mr. Brewster under arrest for suspicion of murdering Doctor Mark Rodney.

FRANKLIN:

Well then....until I have more time to discuss with my client, he will not provide you any statements or interviews.

BASS:

(Amused)

Reno picked you to be his lawyer?

FRANKLIN:

Practiced Law for thirty years inside the guy I possessed. I know everything he did.

BASS:

No court on this planet would go for this.

FRANKLIN:

Deputy Marshal, This station is under the Marshal's jurisdiction of Hawaii District, is it not?

BASS:

Yes

FRANKLIN:

And I assume the same district is still a part of a more extensive section of the US Federal district, namely Federal district nine. Is that also true?

BASS:

(Confused)

Yes.

FRANKLIN:

Good... As Washington state resides within that district, and as defined by the Washington State Court of Law, rule of general application number 24 section B-3, Mr. Brewster is guaranteed the right to lay representation.

BASS:

By an alleged demon?

FRANKLIN:

I legally fulfill the requirements set by the American Bar Association: Competence; title 1.1 in providing competent representation where competence is defined by legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness, and preparation for reasonable representation.

2SP

FRANKLIN:

Then again if you wish to deny him my representation, there has been one thousand nine hundred and seventeen district 9 court precedents in which the defendant's right to lay representation was denied or obstructed. Every one of those resulted in appellate overturns; you can look it up on your world wide web if you doubt me, but do it someplace

else, because I'm talking to my client and this is privileged.
Shoo shooo!

BASS

(Resigned)

Fine, Mr. Brewster...

REHOLSTER

BASS

However, for the record. For the body cam and to ensure documented evidence that I provided proper Miranda warning; and so your....lawyer doesn't use it against me as justification for case dismissal later...(Ahem)David Brewster. I am placing you under arrest as a Deputy US Marshal for suspicion of the murder of Doctor Mark Rodney. *You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided for you. Mr. Brewster, Do you understand the rights I have just read to you?*

FRANKLIN

My client understands his rights. (Sniff sniff)

BASS

With these rights in mind, Mr. Brewster, do you wish to speak to me?

FRANKLIN

My client does not wish to provide any formal or informal statement at this time and until we are more familiar with the evidence and information you have used to charge my client.
(Sniff)

BASS

I'll have the formal charging documents and description of evidence cataloged, the report drafted and provided in the next few hours. Mr. Brewster, until we can construct a cell, I'm cuffing you to that metal grate in the floor.

FRANKLIN

Deputy Marshal, I protest...

BASS

(Angry)

Protest all you want. Absent a proper cage or a way to restrict his access to others where a murder suspect could present a danger...he's being cuffed. Give me your wrist, now!

SOUND OF HANDCUFF CLOSING. SECOND HANDCUFF AROUND METAL BAR.

BASS

Until the Chief rigs up a proper way to restrain you; the cuffs stay on. Now, I have paperwork to do.

FRANKLIN

I think...yes, I believe we'll be ready for your interview questions around 10 AM tomorrow. Now, if you'll leave me with my client.

BASS

Paperwork will be done in a few hours. I'll make sure you get copies.

FRANKLIN

Deputy Marshal, why do you smell (*Demon voice*) ...different? The guilt is still there, but the lust...oh. (*Human voice*) I'm sorry the two of you didn't...

FOOTSTEPS ON METAL GRATE AND DOOR OPENS AND THEN SLAMS CLOSE

ZEKE

Hey lawman, hold up a sec.

BASS

(Pissed off)

What?

ZEKE

Whoa! Whatever you got gonna on, don't take it out on me!

BASS

Sorry, sorry. What's up?

ZEKE

Look, I know you got stuff, especially now you need to get done. Paperwork, whatever lawman stuff. I just want to say...well

GARAGE NOISES

ZEKE

I know it looks bad, real bad right now...but remember what I said a bit ago about not feeling Reno as a killer? I still don't have that feeling. It...none of this adds up.

BASS

I've been around and seen plenty of people who put on a face and have a completely different one when nobody is around. Mr. Brewster wouldn't be the first. I get he's one of your crew and your loyalty is commendable, but things aren't going his way right now.

ZEKE

(Struggling)

If he's the guy, I'll be the first to admit I'm wrong. All I'm saying is...aw man, I don't know for sure what I'm saying. Just, this feels wrong.

2SP

BASS

Okay. Anything else?

ZEKE

(tiptoeing)

It's ...it's been two weeks since; you and Kendra went different ways. Now, I can't say we're super tight, but I consider you a friend. I'd like it if we can talk this through. You're hurting and not seeing clearly.

BASS

(curtly)

Nothing to discuss. Dr. Jennings reminded me that my stay here was only ever temporary. That getting into an emotional relationship was a bad idea. To be honest, Chief, may have taken a day or two for me to see it rationally; but she was right. It's a mistake.

ZEKE

(Insistent)

No, stop! Right there. Used to call me Zeke. Why do you call everybody else Mister, doctor, or Mrs...but me Zeke? I know it's not cause you see me as inferior, you don't have that kinda hate in you, lawman. It's cause you considered me a friend too. Looks to me like you lost that. Other thing is, emotions aren't ever wrong. You feel what you feel. It's not right or wrong. Not feeling; that's the dangerous thing.

BASS

(Sincere)

I still have a lot of respect for you. That hasn't changed. Given this arrest, I may be heading back to the world much sooner. It's just easier if I...

ZEKE

Shut down? Become as empty inside as a robot? I'm glad you still respect me and my opinion. Cause as somebody who'd down in that heart of yours; you still consider a friend, I want to talk this out with you.

BASS

(Annoyed)

Look, I appreciate what you're saying. Now, I have a lot of paperwork that will keep me up for a while.

ZEKE

(Resigned, lays it out)

I didn't want to go this route. But if I gotta...I saved your life lawman. You owe me! I didn't want to call the marker in on this, but if using a marker to help the person who gave it to you in the first place counts...fine, I'll call it in for this.

2SP

BASS

(Sighs)

You know I can't say no. What do you have in mind?

ZEKE

(surprised)

(pause) I didn't honestly think that would work! Um. Well...I know one of the thing that makes me feel super good is sitting in the Sauna for like, 25-30 minutes. Let' do that, and we can talk, get relaxed. Tomorrow night at Eight..um, 20:00 hrs? We chat, openly. Oprah-like honest emotion junk and

feelings...stuff. Not macho, just bros being bros. After that , you still think; all this...is better than getting involved with people; then I'll back off for good. Let you do you.

BASS

Done. Sauna tomorrow night, Eight. Now...seriously paperwork.

ZEKE

I feel ya, lawman, you go.

2SP, FOOTSTEPS START AND THEN STOP

BASS

Hey.....ZEKE?

ZEKE

What up?

BASS

....Thank you.

FADE OUT ARCHES, FADE IN OUTSIDE, SLIGHTLY STRONGER BREEZE THAN LAST TIME, SATELITE CALL ALREADY IN PROGRESS

CHUCK

(VO)

He's being represented by a what?

BASS

(dismissing)

Hard to explain; I'll fill you in when I'm back in Honolulu

2SP

CHUCK

(VO)

But you're confident that he's our guy, a case can be built and get through a jury?

WIND GUST

BASS

Pretty confident, yeah Charlie. I have a motive; Brewster wanted to stay on station, Rodney was threatening to expose his past and remove him. Have opportunity. The Man has no alibi during the time of the murder. Have a murder weapon that tested positive for blood that matched our dead scientist's blood type. We also found the murder weapon in a food crate, and Brewster was the last to access it; we can prove that. Finally, the man is a left-hander.

CHUCK

(VO, Impressed)

I'd say that was fairly solid. You said the interview is in an hour?

BASS

Thereabouts, yeah.

CHUCK

(VO)

Verbal and written confession would put a nice pretty bow on this for us boy!

BASS

Already have the confession written out and dated. Just need the man to sign it with witnesses.

CHUCK

(VO)

This lawyer of his...Frank Damon...sounds like a shrewd cookie. Think he'll let him sign it?

3SP

BASS

(Concealing)

Probably not, but he's seen by now the evidence we have, witness accounts of the verbal arguments between the two. The weapon, which I'm sure after it gets to Honolulu, may have additional DNA or evidence tied to it. Lack of Alibi and Brewster's own motive he gave me...If the DOJ is willing to push the Death Penalty, we get him to confess for life in prison. By his own admission, he doesn't have much time left.

CHUCK

(Happy)

We'll wait until after the interview, but I'll give the news to Washington, Beauregard-Lowing, and the NSF if things go well. Hey, that reminds me... There is nothing official yet, but there is a darn good chance that NSF; well...the part that champions what we're doing...they may officially petition the US Marshals for a full-time posting in Antarctica.

BASS

I don't want it.

CHUCK

They haven't officially offered it, but I thought this would come as good news. You have the killer in custody, about to get a confession, that pretty little Doctor isn't a suspect any longer..

BASS

(Insistent)

Don't. Want. It. I'm going to finish up here, Charlie, hop a flight back to the world and make this place a distant memory.

CHUCK

(Confused)

I'm sorry to hear that boy. I thought....well, never mind that, I guess. If the NSF does come back and make the offer, what do you want me to tell them?

BASS

You're the Marshal Charlie; you want a person down here full-time, that's your call to make. Just don't make it me. Don't want the job. This place has been...a never-ending nightmare.

FIERCE GUST OF WIND

CHUCK

Alright, Bass. If that's what you want. I'll let you know when they make the offer. You watch yourself down there boy.

LINE END BEEP BEEP BEEP.

FADE OUT OF EXTERIOR.

INTERVIEW IN PROCESS ((STANDARD FRANKLIN MUFFLED))

BASS

(Accusatory)

So nobody can verify you were even in your Berth at that time?

FRANKLIN

(Pushes back)

Again, you've already asked that question, and we have answered. Refer to our original answer, next question...

BASS

You admit to your previous record.

FRANKLIN

Immaterial to this current investigation.

BASS

Disagree. Did you not say that Doctor Rodney discovered it and was using it against you?

RENO

(Clarifying)

No. I said he was contemplating using it. He said he wasn't sure what he was going to do. I would have no idea if he was using it against me.

BASS

But you didn't want to give him that chance!

FRANKLIN

(Jumps in)

Don't answer that.

BASS

Fine. Let's talk about the murder weapon.

FRANKLIN

The knife you listed in your report. What about it.

BASS

(stating obvious)

It was found in a crate you inspected.

FRANKLIN

We don't acknowledge that.

BASS

Your client's signature was on the inspection seal.

FRANKLIN

It's a forgery, and we are planning to introduce handwriting forensics to show as much.

SOUND OF FOLDER BEING SLAPPED ON TABLE

BASS

(Sarcastic)

Well, isn't that convenient?

FRANKLIN

No, Deputy Marshal, it's sad. Sadder than this pathetic vendetta you have against my client, so you can expedite your getting off-station.

BASS

(Amused)

Mr. Brewster, you're getting your money's worth out of this one!

FRANKLIN

Reno, when you'd drop out of school?

RENO

10th grade.

FRANKLIN

A micro-particle of a Proton or a neutron is called a...

2SP

RENO

I...don't know what you said.

FRANKLIN

You said your killer took a drive containing brilliant theoretical astrophysics theorems. How would my client have recognized what they even were or their financial or scientific value? He doesn't have the proper academic background to identify it.

BASS

(Counters)

He found an external drive with data, it doesn't matter if he knew what it was; he just thought it might be valuable.

FRANKLIN

Or how about the murder weapon, the knife. Why would my client put it in a box he not only was assigned to inspect but then seal it up and sign it? Why not toss it in recycling, chuck it in a drift? Hell, why not walk five minutes in any direction, drop it blade down into the ground, and step on it? Probably wouldn't be found for 400...500 thousand years?

BASS

(guessing)

Maybe he needed it in case somebody else got in the way?

FRANKLIN

You mean you? Then why not use it on you? Your own report said the attempt on your life was due to a chemical contaminate. Attempted chemical affixation. If he was the killer and had the knife, why not use it? Isn't it law enforcement who often point out a killer rarely changes up their method of murder?

BASS

Killers change up their murder methods all the time.

FRANKLIN

And what violent acts has my client been convicted of since you seem so eager to bring up his record?

3SP

FRANKLIN

What violent acts has he even been accused of? NONE!
Chemical affixation indeed...How high are the ceilings in the sleep quarters Deputy Marshal?

BASS

(Inpatient)

I'm the one leading the investigation here, asking the questions.

FRANKLIN

Eight feet. Eight feet from deck to ceiling grid. My client is five-Six. Even with his reach, he'd need a ladder to reach that high. My client's been framed, Deputy Marshal. For a federal officer who's been on the job...twenty years, it says here, to not see it? I guess that means you aren't as smart as I took you for or you're being distracted by something else.

2SP

BASS

(Sarcastic)

You done?

FRANKLIN

We've been at this for four hours. Unless you intend to deprive my client of lunch as well as his freedom, we insist on 90 minutes break. Afterward, we'll be happy to show you how you're entirely mistaken and also continue to assert my clients rights.

BASS

(Formal)

US Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow, interview suspended for 90 minute meal break.

DIGITAL RECORDER ELECTRIC BOOP

2SP

FADE IN SAUNA; CONVERSATION IN PROCESS. SAUNA BACKGROUND NOISE

ZEKE

Naw man. What I'm saying is that it was real. Ain't nobody around here didn't see it different. (pause) We may not have fully understood it, but we all sure damn well saw it.

BASS

Maybe true, but there is somebody who doesn't see it any longer, and she is the one who ended it. I was mad at first, but when I calmed down...I have to admit she was right.

2SP

ZEKE

(Debating)

Look...would it be safe to say; she made you happy?

BASS

(pause) Yeah.

ZEKE

Happier than when you first got here?

BASS

Pretty much, yeah.

ZEKE

Cause, I don't know that much about her, but I could damn well see you weren't the same lawman when you were around her.

BASS

I wasn't that different!

ZEKE

(Seriously??)

Uhhh, yeah you was. Come walking down the halls with that cowboy; down south swagger. All business with a 6 foot stick up your ass. More comfortable filling out paperwork than being around people. Sound familiar?

BASS

(Stubborn)

I still don't see the difference.

ZEKE

Look. There's lawman. The Deputy Marshal whose here to solve the crime. New sheriff in town. Marlow, Texas Ranger style! Then there's Bass, my boy, Kendra's guy. Played poker with us...**BADLY!** The guy who I let into Waynewright's office so he could steal the W-key from his keyboard.

BOTH CHUCKLE

ZEKE

(sad)

That's the cat I miss. Hell, we all miss.

BASS

I get what you're saying. I honestly do, Zeke. But now that we have Reno, now that the evidence is mounting and is implicating him, I'll be leaving in a week.

2SP

ZEKE

Maybe true. You want to spend that week moping and keeping all to your lonesome, or you want to hang out and laugh more? Cause between boredom and fall-over laughing, I know how I'd choose.

BASS

(Deep sigh)

It still doesn't solve things between Kendra.

ZEKE

Like I said, I don't know her all that well. What little I do know, I only know cause you got her to come out of her shell. She doesn't...'emotion' like the rest of us, and that's cool...but you helped her, helped her to reach out.

2SP

ZEKE

(thinking)

A week probably isn't enough time to fix things and even come out friends...

BASS

(off-handed)

Only if I took the offer

ZEKE

I mean...I could try and chat with her, maybe....what offer?

BASS

(off the cuff)
NSF are going to request a full-time Marshal work in Antarctica. Oversee McMurdo, Palmer & Amundsen Scott.

2SP

ZEKE
(Angry)
What's wrong with your fool ass! I'm just hearing this now?

BASS
I'm not going to take it.

ZEKE
(Angrier)
WHY THE HELL NOT?

BASS
Why take it? What's for me down here?

ZEKE
(Let's loose)
OK; number 1...I'll beat your ass later for that cause you're only like my best fucking friend down here. Number 2, have you SEEN the weird shit that happens around this joint? Having a cop around sure would help me sleep better. Number 3... A woman you have some feelings about is down here. She said she didn't want to continue cause you were leaving, you can fix that...BY NOT TAKING YO FOOL ASS OUTTA THE DAMN STATION-EQUATION!

BASS
(considering)
It's not that simple.

3SP

ZEKE

It is until you make it not simple. Look...you want simple, fine, I'm going layout simple...simple. You look me in the eye right now. You tell me, honestly... swearing in court, under penalty of perjury, BIG MAN AS YOUR WITNESS... would your life be better with her in it, or out?

ZEKE

You say 'out,' I'll drop this here and now. Won't say another word on the topic. We'll just hit golf balls off the observation deck till you head back to the world.Well, in your life or out; which is better?

BASS

(Begrudgingly)

.....In

ZEKE

(Claps his hands once, celebrate)

BOOM! RIGHT THERE BABY! THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT! IF YOU CAN'T BRING THE MORON TO THE MOUNTAIN, YOU BRING THE MOUNTAIN TO THE MORON! DAMN I'M AWESOME!

BASS

(Frustrated)

You going to end zone dance now?

ZEKE

(Mocking him)

Oh you want an end zone dance? You check this out baby....
(Clap) (starts humming the Monday night football theme song)

BASS

(Laughing)

DUDE, YOUR TOWEL....IT FELL, PUT IT BACK ON!!

ZEKE STOPS, SITS BACK DOWN, STEAM FROM THE HEATER HISSES

ZEKE

WHEW! I do so love being right! So you gonna stay, gonna take the offer?

BASS

They haven't officially offered it yet; it's all still talk for now, but it's coming.

ZEKE

My man! (pause) Still gonna beat your ass for that 'nothing to stay for' crack. (sigh). Damn, I love me the Sauna. Glad I got her back up and running this week. Damn thing went down again. Happy we ordered those extra parts before winterover started. Imagine the whole winter with no Sauna. Would be a damn never-ending nightmare.

LARGE GAS HISS

2SP

BASS

Holy shit! Oh...oh man...Reno **didn't** do it. He really was framed. Zeke...I KNOW, I KNOW WHO KILLED DOCTOR RODNEY!

Outro & credits