

## **Salt of the Street Judicial Branch**

### **Court of Opinion**

#### **Concurring Opinion: The Podcast**

**L**ast Saturday Don and I recorded our 10<sup>th</sup> episode of the Salt of the Streets Podcast. This marked a milestone I didn't realized mattered to me. Given that we have just reached our first double-digit episode number I wanted to do something that Don did in his dissent last week; a quick bit of self-reflection on just what this podcast thing is to me. The who, what, where and why will all be there, but this time it won't be a factual article or an informed opinion piece, this time it'll just be me giving you my side of things.

To start let's look at the "Who" of the Salt of the Streets Podcast. We've talked about it on the show before but if you're one of the few people who have discovered this crazy thing we do called the "Dissent" and not actually listened to the podcast I'll explain here now. The short story is simple, Don and I used to work together. It was, and still is a family owned small business in the manufacturing industry. Much like many manufacturing jobs in America ours came with the hidden perk of being able to listen to something like music, audiobooks or podcasts during most of, if not the entire day as long as it was through your headphones. It is important to note here, that this is when I first came to discover the wonderful world of podcasts. After Don and I got paired up at the same table, which is the equivalent of a work

station, we began to talk, like co-workers do. Given that fact that we were working 9-10 hours a day, an ample supply of audio entertainment became somewhat hard to find. That's when Don and I started sharing podcasts.

From Sam Harris's Waking Up Podcast, to the powerful Joe Rogan Experience, we were able to suggest podcasts for the other to try out. Reflecting back today, I think this is when we realized that we both had a deep desire for honest conversation about things like politics and social issues on top of a bunch of other stuff of course. When there was a new big piece of news, we both listened to our various news/commentary podcasts and then we started to discuss said issue for ourselves, needless to say we had a lot of fun doing that even though to this day we don't agree on certain things. It was sometime later that we actually took the plunge into starting the show, but that's how we got the "Who" of Salt of the Streets Podcast.

What? The what is simple, yet, complicated. What is the Salt of the Streets Podcast? Simply put - it's a long form conversation. Within that conversation the topics can range between politics (because of course it is, we love politics) and social commentary to pop culture, sports and what ever else is on our minds that week. That's the simple part. The complicated end of that is in the deeper question of what the show means to me

specifically. For one it has single handedly become the one day I look forward to all week, and not just because it's the weekend. Sometimes I have a lot to talk about and sometimes I just like the chit chat of it all, but either way, it has made Saturday my favorite day of the week. Getting a little deeper, the podcast has become something I'm passionate about. It's hard to compare it to anything else in my life, because it's become something of a calling in a way. It sounds kind of narcissistic to describe it like that but that just speaks to the true complexity of what it really is to me. It feels like a long lost best friend that you didn't know you had until a few months ago, not that that makes any more sense.

The "Where" and "When" are both simple ones to hit. Where? Don's house, My house, where-ever really. At this point in it's evolutionary life cycle the Salt of the Streets Podcast is that - simply a podcast, so "where" doesn't really matter. As long as we have a decently audio-friendly space, we're good. If you've seen our YouTube channel (Salt of the Streets) you may have noticed we've been posting our famous, or better yet, infamous Pre-Show; this is something we'll probably be looking at expanding in the future, given the resources of course. I think we want to shoot for a full-on video podcast in the future possibly even a full on live recording of the show. This would eventually require a full set and that will require a more permanent space, but we'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

The When again is super simple. We record on Saturdays for now. Given the fact that we both have full time jobs, families and friends

Saturdays work great. The show can run anywhere between 2-3+ hours, that along with the meetings before or after, the pre-show set up and subsequent live-stream set ups, a recording day can take up most of the afternoon. Usually my Saturday starts with an early rising followed by immediate show-prep and usually a French-press full of piping hot black, liquid gold. I prep until it's time to get showered up and head out or prep the set if we were recoding at my place. Then we all sit down and chit chat for a little, then it's business meeting time. If we have a guest on, we use that typical meeting time for an ice-breaking session where we "warm-up" our guest which helps relieve any anxiety guests may have about talking on the show. Then we press record. I edit it throughout the remainder of the weekend and then we post it Monday after we both get home from work. Not such a short answer to "when" I guess, but hey that's what this whole thing is about.

In closing I'll touch on the "why" of it all. Why would we want to do this? For us it's probably the simplest to answer. We do it because we want to. We do it to further something we both hold dear and cherish as Americans. We do it to further our freedom of speech in an honest and responsible way. We do it because we feel like good, honest conversation about real topics are hard to come by. We do it because we know how hard it is to stay informed. We do it because we're friends and hell, it's the reason we've become such good friends. For that fact alone, I'll keep doing it.