

## **WILLIAM & LONSDALE – Lives in the Law**

### **E04: Daniel Ajak**

**Voiceover** [00:00:05] This is William and Lonsdale, a podcast about the legal ecosystem in Victoria and the fascinating people and stories that make it tick. Our guest this week is Daniel Ajak, who works as a lawyer in the Youth Crime Division of Victorian Legal Aid. Daniel grew up in a Kenyan refugee camp after his family fled the war in South Sudan. His parents are remarkable and resilient people, and they were determined that Daniel would build a life beyond the camps and fulfil his early academic promise. So at 13, Daniel left his parents and came to Adelaide with his older sister, Rebecca, a grade four education and very little English. Daniel's clan, values, work ethic and vision have always guided him, and in 2017, those values led him to Melbourne, where he saw a huge need for African representation in our criminal justice system.

**Daniel Ajak** [00:00:51] If I'm a court, people from my community are also represented across the legal fraternity and obviously we've got a long way to go, but to be able to see people like, gives them some confidence and hope in the system, that the system works for everyone and it doesn't favor any particular group.

**Michael Green** [00:01:26] Daniel, good afternoon and welcome to Lives in the Law.

**Daniel Ajak** [00:01:30] Good afternoon Michael.

**Michael Green** [00:01:31] You've got a fascinating story to tell, not just about your life in the law, but about your life in general, your whole life. So let's dive into this fascinating story by painting a little bit of the background and then you can tell us. You are South Sudanese, your parents were born in South Sudan, but they fled during the civil war and ultimately finished in Kenya in a camp. And you were born maybe not in Kenya. You came to Kenya when you were a baby.

**Daniel Ajak** [00:02:04] So after my parents had fled South Sudan, so they settled in Ethiopia. And then in Ethiopia, that's where I was born in a place called Pinyudo. And then my parents, shortly after I was born, fled again fled another war in Ethiopia and fled into Kenya. And that's where I grew up until arriving in Australia.

**Michael Green** [00:02:27] So your parents went from South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya. Tell us about growing up in a camp. I mean, can you describe the camp to us? How many people in this camp?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:02:39] I think, I think that the figures appear to be in the hundreds of thousands. So a fairly large number. And certainly my recollection of it is that within the zone, there are large numbers of people, and that is sort of even as a kid is sort of travelled through the camp, if you want to go watch say if your zone or your group, which is so you could equivalent of a suburb or that you're in, or if that suburb was playing or region was playing another region within the camp, you know, you sort of got to see how big the camp was and how many people there. Growing up there was sort of there as a kid, the routine was sort of, I would go to kindergarten in the morning and then normally we'd finish school around midday, you come home and then you sort of because dad would be out of home, mum was home a lot of the time, you drop your books and then you go play with other kids and that continued on even when I left kindergarten and went into primary school,.

**Michael Green** [00:03:48] You say go to school. Who are the teachers at this school. Other South Sudanese people or aid workers or who are the teachers?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:03:58] I think the majority of the Kenyan background so actually Kenyan citizens who had been trained and were qualified to teach and know those within the camp who had migrated from Sudan with some sort of formal qualification to teach. So there was a mixture of South Sudanese, Kenyans and I'm not sure I can remember any Anglo, but I'm pretty sure there have been some capacity for those who travelled from the West to work at these camps to teach.

**Michael Green** [00:04:29] Now, with your education at all, you've got off to a flying start with your education in the camp, but you hit a bit of a hurdle there at some stage. Can you tell us a bit about what the education was and this hurdle that you hit.

**Daniel Ajak** [00:04:43] From the early start in kindergarten, you know, we were taught the alphabetical letters and numbers, just sort of the basics and I think the first the first time I sort of got a sense that I was capable, you know, was on I top my kindergarten class and the headmaster or the principal in charge of the kindergarten in the camp attended my parents house you know, with presents and give that was sort of the first sign of me knowing that I can do stuff. But shortly after that, I went into prime school and life in the camp, after school, you get together with mates and cousin and go play and there were no formal, there weren't books at home, as soon it got dark, it got dark, there were lights. So it wasn't and there is no libraries within the groups. So after you left school, there was nothing there to reinforced you to do your homework. I sort of dropped off from year one all the way through the year four. And in fact, I ended up repeating year four.

**Michael Green** [00:05:41] So you had to repeat year four. In what language were they teaching you?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:05:46] So we were taught in English. So they would teach us stuff like maths, science, religion, geography and Swahili which is the Kenyan local language. But within groups and within the camp you're still living among your tribes, so I'll be speaking to my friends and relatives in Dinka and necessary carry on after we left class.

**Michael Green** [00:06:11] So did you learn English? I mean, if they're teaching most of the curriculum in English, be a help if you spoke English. Did you speak English?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:06:18] No. No.

**Michael Green** [00:06:23] So you're in the camp. You live here until you're 13, and at that age, you and your sister Rebecca come to Australia. You know, obviously, children of that age don't come to Australia, there's got to be someone masterminding the situation to get you to Australia. Yes. How did that happen?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:06:45] So my uncle Abraham is academically, when he's going through the school system, in the camp he did well in the primary school certificate and he got a scholarship to go complete high school in a boarding school in Kenya, which he did. So he would have that it would have been like the equivalent of the top one percent in the state and Victoria. And he was sponsored by the government to come to Australia for universal studies. And when he left in 2002, to come to Australia that's when dad asked him, Daniel and Rebecca, Daniel is my only son it would be great if you could, once you're there if you

could sponsor him so he can go overseas and have access to the opportunities to go to university. And that's what Abraham did.

**Michael Green** [00:07:31] Obviously, so dad played a big part in it. And from what you have said, your dad was a leader within the community in the camp.

**Daniel Ajak** [00:07:41] Correct.

**Michael Green** [00:07:41] And even now, I guess, back in South Sudan. So can you tell us a bit about your dad and the role that he played within the camp when you were a child?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:07:49] Say, is it is a tribal elder and when there's any issues within the family or within the tribe or dispute between our clan sand another clan, he's called upon to either resolve the dispute, or if it's our clan against clan and then he's called upon to advocate and so if there's a conflict and people are hurt or to prevent conflict, people like Dad and other elders from that other tribe sort of convene, call an emergency meeting and try to put it to an end.

**Michael Green** [00:08:27] And so your dad sounds like in our society here in Victoria, a combination of a judge, a senior barrister, a mediator, all of those sorts of roles elders in tribes play and your dad is an elder of the clan that you're a part of. And so you're following your dad's footsteps, being a lawyer yourself.

**Daniel Ajak** [00:08:55] Yes. Yes. It's funny because there's some members of my community still question, as to whether I've reached his heights yet.

**Michael Green** [00:09:09] So, Daniel, you're 13, you leave Kenya and come to Australia with your sister, Rebecca, who is 23. You live with your uncle Abraham in Adelaide and he's been given instructions and full authority by your parents to look after you and to be responsible for you. He clearly is a remarkable person and it's a remarkable system that enables this to work and works so well. Can you tell us about life as a teenager living in Abraham's household and the routines and the expectations that were upon you?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:09:54] So I arrived in Adelaide, it took a while to settle. But from I think only a couple days after that, two or three days after that, we sort of got into the routine of things. And, you know, Abraham sort of took the lead so from taking me and my sister to our first appointment to meet service providers like Centrelink, also going to Medicare and then going to school to the Secondary School of English to enroll, which is a language school for newly arrived migrants. And also we had, because the community at that time they were starting the influx of South Sudanese migrants and so we had a lot of visitors during that time. But once I settled and all started school.

**Michael Green** [00:10:43] When you say school, you spent the first year in an English language school, to learn English.

**Daniel Ajak** [00:10:49] Yes so I went to Adelaide Secondary School of English in Torrensville and I was living in Greenacres so I had a catch two buses to get to the school so I catch a bus into the city and then from the city into the school and then back home. I would get home I'll get something to eat, do homework watch The Simpsons, have dinner, then do homework then at 9 o'clock I was in bed. Then Abraham would also sit, at that time is doing is engineering degree at University South Australia, so he'd sit down with me,

he's doing his work and I'm doing more maths and all the homework and if I had a question he'd guide me through it. And then on a Saturday morning as well, again, will we get up there will be duties to clean the house, I'd be allocated to clean the toilet and then after that again at again, Abraham would ask me to do my homework over the weekend and he would supervise while he was studying for his degree.

**Michael Green** [00:11:50] Am I right in assuming that it was early and strongly impressed upon you by your parents and by Abraham, how privileged you were to get the opportunity to come and get an education, and therefore you're expected to make the most of it and work hard to get the best education you could?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:12:09] Well I think initially from when Dad asked Abram to sponsor us when he came here, because there's, I'm the only, so I had five siblings, six including me, my sister Rebecca, she's the oldest and four for my siblings passed away. So, there's me and my sister. And technically, in our Dinka culture when my sister gets married, she moves on to her husband's tribe, she moves on to that family. So in that sense I'm the only son and dad really you could foresee that if I came, you know, and I made the most of the opportunities available and went to university, how an education could be the missing family members I have because I would be able to provide for myself and also for the rest of the extended family. And when we left the camp there were tapes made so we had a whole of going away ceremony and during that ceremony not only dad spoke but elders of our community, including relatives and family members spoke and there was an emphasis that we're going there to go to university, it's going to be foreign, there's going to be you know, there's going to be good and bad bits but take a good bid.

**Michael Green** [00:13:41] Now, you do a year at the English language school and then you start in year 9 at the Ross Smith High School. Now, if I've got my chronology correct, when you left the camp in Kenya, you were a great four level. Having failed once already. Yeah. You come to Australia. You do twelve months of language school to pick up on English and then you go into year nine at Ross Smith. That's remarkable. How did you bridge that gap?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:14:19] I think the schooling in the camps sort of set them groundwork, although I was pretty poor from year one to year four. I never finished in the top 10 or top 20. But I think having arrived here and having someone like Abraham, you know, who's very excellent at what he does and who has come, here on that basis, because of the score he achieved in the Kenyan secondary school examination sort of made it easy to you know, he puts in a lot of time to helping me with chemistry, maths and English. And my school teaches where willing to back me and say, you know Daniel's one of our best students, so you know, I should be fine. And surely at first it was a bit difficult, but, you know, I didn't start off to the bad and straight after that, you know, often I find myself getting straight A's.

**Michael Green** [00:15:16] Now, you didn't stay very long at the Ross Smith High School for about one year. And then you completed your secondary education at one of the most prestigious private boy's schools in Adelaide, Prince Alfred College. How did how did a Dinka boy coming from a camp in Kenya who failed grade four and went into year nine, get himself into Prince Alfred College to finish his secondary schooling?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:15:45] Well, I think it was a bit of fortune. So, I was at Ross Smith secondary college from halfway through year nine and all of year ten. There's another kid, a Chinese background his name is Tony Wang. He now works in the CSIRO and he's a

he's a chemical engineer and currently completing his PhD at the University of Adelaide. So Eunsi or Tony, had started at Ross Smith and English was his second language but he was good, he is smart academically and he was also good is a good footballer and play basketball. And there's a couple of occasions when he was he'd been picked on and I stepped in and or got into a fight as a result of him being being bullied. And from then on, we sort of became mates.

**Michael Green** [00:16:32] Did you learn to fight in the camps in Kenya?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:16:34] Yah, if someone started on you, like no adults would get involved, you sort of left to your own devices to sort of settle your own problems.

**Michael Green** [00:16:44] So you had to learn to stand up for yourself.

**Daniel Ajak** [00:16:46] Yeah but having said that, you know, Abraham and my parents, you know, on a couple of occasions when I did get into a fight and I was suspended, there were consequences and you know, they weren't impressed and it was something that they condemned. But out of that came relationship with Tony and Tony was bright, he was a straight A student obviously he sort of knew what opportunities were available out there and he himself was applying for scholarship to school at Prince Alfred and all the private schools in Adelaide and he asked me he said, Daniel, I'm doing this and I think you should do it. So I jumped on board and I applied for the school. And when I was growing up in Adelaide, I used to go to the local Greenacres Uniting Church every morning. And John & Lis Pryzibilla, who family became sort of my friend friends and sort of became my Australian parents, what I didn't know about John is that he went to Princes and when I applied for the scholarship, the criteria was that you were a straight-A student and you came from disadvantaged background as well and that you could also get some sort of support letters from people who knew you. So, I got a support letter from the Uniting Church, and I think that also in itself sort of helped and the fact that John, and Lis had played a role my life in the early stages.

**Michael Green** [00:18:15] You said, I think I read somewhere that they were like foster parents for you here in Australia.

**Daniel Ajak** [00:18:20] Well, they were the only people who sort of, who appreciate it you know what it means to have a birthday. You know, it's not really a thing in our family home with Abraham and Rebecca. Birthday wasn't a thing or Christmas wasn't a thing. But on my birthday periods, at church my birthday would be celebrated I'll get a present from people like Lis and also over Christmas, I'd be invited to their Christmas parties, and that's sort of helped me integrate into the Australian society.

**Michael Green** [00:18:52] How did it come about that you studied law? You finish a year 12 at Prince Alfred College. I haven't seen your results, but I must have been excellent for you to be admitted into law school. Why Law?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:19:07] Well Michael I didn't start at law school straight away so I went and did engineering, and the reason I'd done that is because I'd been living with Abraham and he was doing engineering and a lot of his peers spoke very highly of him and I, looking back, I sort of took the view that I could get the respect that he gets so I went and did engineering. But at that time, I was 18 and I sort of started to appreciate, started speaking to dad regularly and I started to hear some of the stories of some of the work that did, which we touched on earlier. And from there, I said, well, if I've got any of the dads trade or

some of his integrity, a Western legal education would really go a massive way to following in his footsteps. And taking further what he did. And then came law school.

**Voiceover** [00:20:05] William and Lonsdale is brought to you by Greens List, one of the leading multi-disciplinary barrister's lists in Australia. Greens List believe in promoting conversation around the ideas and issues that shape not only our legal system, but our wider community.

**Michael Green** [00:20:27] So, Daniel, you give up engineering and you go to law school at Flinders University in Adelaide. You obviously graduate and you ultimately wind up working for Victoria Legal Aid here in Melbourne. But in the meantime, you worked in commercial law for Thomson Geer, a large commercial national firm. How did you move from that into doing legal aid, criminal work and how did you move from Adelaide to Melbourne? What drove these major changes in your career path?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:21:10] Having gone to Prince Alfred College and then sort of used those networks, I've ended up at Thomson Geer. I was there for a few months, like I said, I wanted to be like dad. At a place like Thomson Geer, the opportunities to be in court, and one of the strengths I heard about dad a lot of time was his ability to speak and to persuade. So I left Thompson Geer looking for opportunities to advocate and to be on my feet and criminal law sort of offered that. I starting seeing the constant media coverage of African youth crime and saw the need of Sudanese lawyers, or African lawyers in Melbourne and I sort of made the call this is an opportunity for me to not only be on my feet and sort of do what dad does, but give back to the community. Whether they're young people I've grown up with or people who were born here or came here a bit younger than me, also the older members of our community who might not be all speak English, but would really be assisted by more service. And just having the opportunity to explain to them the court processes in Dinka. And through my network I knew that that weren't any other Sudanese criminal defence lawyers around the traps in the Melbourne Magistrates Court or the suburban court, or the children's court. So, I got in touch with Cotton Manah, who at the time was the chairman of the South Sudanese Community Association in Victoria. And through that, you know, I landed a gig on Queen Street and I packed up and came to Melbourne.

**Michael Green** [00:22:49] Working for Papa Hughes?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:22:52] Yeah, it's I did 14 months working for Andrew before I before jumped ship to Legal Aid. I could see the numbers of Sudanese and African people coming through the courts. And I said to myself, you know, I need to be a place like Legal Aid. They're the biggest criminal operator in the state, your largest criminal defence firm if you want to put it that way. Although they do other areas of law and I said if I'm at Legal Aid, I'm able to not only being caught on my feet, you know, doing the work for my client, but to be able to advocate for the people from my community.

**Michael Green** [00:23:32] And people who would have little or no knowledge of the system, our legal our legal system, and therefore need someone who both understands our legal system and understands them and where they are coming from.

**Daniel Ajak** [00:23:45] Yes, so Legal Aid as an organisation comes to the party when The State and people like Victoria Police talk about how to address issues affecting the communities and how to address this sort of offending, they able to have an input where if I was at Papa Hughes, that doesn't really happen. So if I'm a Legal Aid and I'm concerned

as to why there are so many African kids coming through the system, I can advocate to my manager, my program manager.

**Michael Green** [00:24:17] And Legal Aid can raise the issue with the Victorian Police or the Attorney-General's Department or people in positions of power and authority who can in fact affect policy.

**Michael Green** [00:24:31] You've got a 9 to 5 job, which obviously wouldn't be 9 to 5 might be 8 think 6 or who knows when, at Legal Aid. But on top of that, you've taken on voluntary positions with community legal education. And also, I think you've co-founded the African Australian Legal Network. How do you think maybe the African Australian legal way particularly is interesting. How does it work? Is it purely a support group for African Australian lawyers or is it going to a larger objective than that? Why did you do this?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:25:07] So me and a couple of practitioners co-founded the network and it came out, just to take you back a step, so in 2015 I came to Melbourne and one of the regular things I'd do every time I go interstate or make time to go into the courtroom. And I walked into the Supreme Court room and Rotendo was an associate at the time. And there's a commercial matter, then when the matter stood down or I approached her and I spoke to her and I said, I'm Daniel. I'm a lawyer at Thompson Gear but I've got intentions to move to Melbourne in the future at some stage. So we exchanged contact and kept that that network and that relationship going and also sort of through social media also connected with Niadool. And then once I moved to Melbourne, I put the two together and I said, you know, this is what I was thinking and both of them were like, that's what we'd be thinking as well. Cause we all had work, but we had friends and colleagues who found it difficult to get into this space, because normally if you haven't got a family member in the profession or family friends in the profession, or you don't sort of have like an old boy network, even with the best of grades, it can be really difficult to get that foot in the door. We wanted to make it easy for our fellow practitioners of African background and those who were coming through the ranks, as we started seeing last numbers coming through law school to be able to give them an opportunity.

**Michael Green** [00:26:55] A pathway for African law students in African law graduates, so there's a pathway in front of them to obtain employment, to obtain opportunities and therefore go on to affect things.

**Daniel Ajak** [00:27:10] Yes. And the network has grown since we started it. And we've had we had our massive launch last year at Casey Chambers just here off Lonsdale Street, where members of the judiciary attended, members of the profession attended. About 150 guests, Justice Siffrance from the Supreme Court is our patron. We've also had a place like the Department of Premier and Cabinet, DPC, offering our membership group paid clerkship. Legal Aid recently jumped on board and as we currently speak, we've got four clerks doing the clerkship.

**Michael Green** [00:27:46] So these are law students doing clerkships in their holidays.

**Daniel Ajak** [00:27:52] Yes. So, for law students and those also doing their Leo Cousin, so doing their paid clerkships at Legal Aid. And Legal Aid were so impressed, initially with the three roles advertised and they're so impressed with the six candidates that they shortlisted that they've created opportunities for all six of them.

**Michael Green** [00:28:15] Daniel, you volunteer in community legal education, which supports youth in detention. And you also speak to high school students. Could you tell us a bit about that and why you do it?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:28:30] In my current team, that I was seconded to - youth crime, as part of our duties, you know, we were rostered to do remand duty at Parkfield, which is due to where a lawyer goes out to the juvenile prison and then will check on the kids who've been recently remanded. And then we'll sort of we'll do a welfare check. One of the most inspiring moment I've had, you know, on one of those duties, was a few weeks ago when I walked there was a group of Sudanese kids and they were very surprised to see a black lawyer. So, I think that's important and very encouraging and some of these young kids, they're very bright, obviously they're made a mistake and find themselves on the wrong side of the law. But I think to see one of their community members or someone they can relate to on the other side, I think, it is encouraging. And that was part of the package of me moving to Melbourne. If I'm in court, not only acting for Mrs. Smith as well as a Mr. Ajak, that people from my community are also represented across the legal fraternity. And obviously we've got a long way to go but I think for young people and also members of our community who are then going through the system, you know, to be able to see people you like me and others who are starting to enter this space I hope it will give some confidence and hope in the system, that the system works for everyone and it doesn't favor any particular group.

**Michael Green** [00:30:15] It's a remarkable story that you have and a remarkable journey that you've taken. Has this been a course that you've plotted, and have you had a plan in your head, your work, maybe a plan initially started by your father and Abraham helping you as well? Have you worked strategically to a plan or have you just taken opportunities as they've come, such as your friend who suggested you go apply for the scholarship at Prince Alfred College?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:30:40] Well, look, I think the scholarship Princes that definitely wasn't part of the plan but once I was at Prince Alfred College it was sort of drilled down that as a Princes man, you had an obligation to go out into the world and to the community and give back and go beyond the education you achieved at the school and that Princes men are leaders, and I think I've grasped that since leaving the school. So, moving to Melbourne was always strategic for me because I knew that Melbourne was a bigger city, that the Sudanese and African population here was much larger compared to the million population of Adelaide. So there's definitely more work here and opportunities here were much more wider. So, so and having gone in Legal Aid, that was also strategic as well because they've got the resources.

**Michael Green** [00:31:34] And is this strategy is it ultimately going to lead you to the bar? To become an advocate? Is that your long-term goal?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:31:44] That's what I see myself down the track and I've still got to work on that craft. And I'm really fortunate to be at organisation like Legal Aid which allows you to prosper.

**Michael Green** [00:31:54] In talking about your plan and talking about your future, in my mind, to take me back to your parents, because the plan all started with your dad, he laid it out and your dad sounds a remarkable man, who is a man of great stature within your community. Bring us up to date with your mum and dad. When did you last see them? What is happening with them now in South Sudan?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:32:16] Mum recently graduated last year from American University, that base in Bor with a Bachelor of Theology and Community Development. Dad's also busy as well but I think Dad's starting to have to have like an eye problem. Myslef and my sister and family members have put in money to get that treatment sorted. But he's, I think they're getting, their starting to age.

**Michael Green** [00:32:44] Your dad's occupation officially was as a diesel mechanic, he trained and qualified in that then he worked in the camp, he worked as a sanitation worker engineer. Is he working at his chosen trade of diesel engineer or diesel mechanic now back in South Sudan?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:33:04] I'm told he works for the Department of Transport within Bor. But he is much more busy running around court back home. Even went back home on my first day, when I arrived in Bor and I arrive at the family home Dad wasn't home he had been at since 5.30am.

**Michael Green** [00:33:24] And I hadn't I hadn't seen you in 12 years.

**Daniel Ajak** [00:33:26] Yes, he gets caught up in his work so much. I wasn't sure whether I'd take offence at that or not but he did eventually come around.

**Michael Green** [00:33:39] To finish up, we'll come to a topic that is due to the heart of all Australians and of course, that sport. Now, what you're really famous for, Daniel, is that your cousin, Thomas Deng, is a professional soccer player with the Melbourne Victory.

**Daniel Ajak** [00:33:56] Yes, he is.

**Michael Green** [00:33:58] Thomas was born in a camp as well?

**Daniel Ajak** [00:34:02] No, no. His family was obviously affected by the war. But Thomas lived in Kenya. So he lived in Nairobi. That's where he's born.

**Michael Green** [00:34:10] He was in the city of Nairobi, not in a camp.

**Daniel Ajak** [00:34:13] His dad was a pharmacist. So, he's had, let's say he had a better upbringing than I did.

**Michael Green** [00:34:21] More poor privilege maybe, I'm not sure it would be better, your parents sound pretty special to me. So maybe I had more privilege than you.

**Daniel Ajak** [00:34:28] So he grew up in Nairobi but he him and his family migrated to Australia earlier than we did and settled in Adelaide with his mum. His dad remain behind in in Nairobi and his dad has passed since, but the relationship between be and Thomas goes back until I was six. Because we family from the same tribe. Thomas and a couple of other cousins, Emmanuel and Peter, his older brother they used to come to our house in Greenacres and then we'll go to park and play soccer. And I often say to my Australian friends, had my parents and Abraham relaxed the rules a bit, I would've been playing for Socceroos.

**Michael Green** [00:35:16] Daniel, it's an amazing story that you have told and an amazing life you have lived, and it's early days of that life. Thank you very much for your generosity

in coming and telling us your story today. And we wish you the very, very best going forward with your role in the African community, the Sudanese community and the Australian community. Thank you.

**Daniel Ajak** [00:35:39] Thanks, Michael.

**Voiceover** [00:35:43] Show notes from today's episode can be found at [greenslist.com.au/podcast](https://greenslist.com.au/podcast). There you'll find useful links, a transcript of the show and some wonderful shots of our guests. We're keen to know what you think, so please reach out by all the usual channels. Let us know the questions you'd like us to ask, topics you'd like explored or ideas for future guests. If you're enjoying Lives in the Law, please tell your networks and subscribe rate and review the show. It really helps others find out about us. Our show is produced by me Catherine Green, recorded and mixed by Alex McFarlane, who also wrote and performed all the music for the series. We are coming to you this week and every week from the iconic County Court of Victoria on the corner of William and Lonsdale Streets in our beautiful city of Melbourne. We acknowledge the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation, as the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. There is no doubt that conversations about justice have been taking place on this land for thousands of years, and we are privileged to continue this discussion here today.