

9<sup>TH</sup> UNPLUGGED

HONORABLE ERIC DUBOIS

ORANGE COUNTY JUDGE

OCTOBER 21, 2022

HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

JUDGE DUBOIS: And I'm Judge Eric DuBois.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And you're listening to 9<sup>th</sup> Unplugged.

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: So welcome, Judge DuBois to 9<sup>th</sup> Unplugged. Thank you for coming.

JUDGE DUBOIS: Thanks for inviting me. It's great to be here with you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Great to have you. Please tell our audience where you are assigned and how long you've been a judge.

JUDGE DUBOIS: So I'm currently assigned to county civil. New chambers up on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor, have been a judge since January of 2017 so just finishing out my 6<sup>th</sup> year.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, congratulations on that.

JUDGE DUBOIS: Thank you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And so how exciting has it been to be a judge?

JUDGE DUBOIS: It's been great. I mean, I started in civil, went to criminal, obviously, you know we had that two-year blip of COVID. But it's been great. It's been a lot different than I ever expected, but it's been very rewarding and a lot of fun.

JUDGE LATIMORE: We're happy to have you at the 9<sup>th</sup>. So let's go ahead and get unplugged.

JUDGE DUBOIS: All right.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So what is it that you do when you're not at work, when you are absolutely in your mode of being unplugged?

JUDGE DUBOIS: With or without the child in tow. Usually I'm chasing him from baseball practice to baseball practice or a lesson –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now you're a coach, right?

JUDGE DUBOIS: I was coaching. He's gotten to the age where I'm beyond you know, he's 15 so he's in high school so it's time to turn him over to the experts and let them do their thing.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

JUDGE DUBOIS: So it's usually chasing him around from baseball practice to a hitting lesson or pitching lesson or whatever. But if I'm totally at home and at ease, it's cooking on the – on my big green egg and doing some barbeque and having fun with that, experimenting.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I'm so glad you mentioned the big green egg because I was absolutely going to speak to you about that. I've seen you post on Facebook your big green egg. You absolutely love that thing.

JUDGE DUBOIS: So I – I do. I bought myself one in November of 2016 after I was elected and then in April of the COVID pandemic, I decided the one wasn't enough and I needed a bigger one. So I went from a large, now I have two so it depends on what I'm cooking and have fun. And I used to – back when I was in civil and everyone was you know free to hang out with everyone, we would interact, and usually do lunches once a month and all that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What are you usually cooking?

JUDGE DUBOIS: Pulled pork, smoked brisket, goat cheese, stuff dates wrapped in bacon. I started making my own bacon –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Really.

JUDGE DUBOIS: - which is very ironic considering I'm Jewish, making bacon isn't really exactly something I grew up doing. But it's a lot of fun and I'll bring you some.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Please. Please. I'm going to hold you to that because I like to eat. All right. So with that, how did you learn how to cook?

JUDGE DUBOIS: My mom is a great baker. She loved to bake and always cooked meals and stuff. And then honestly with the big green egg, it was a lot of YouTube watching other people on YouTube cook and do things and experiment. Tweak the recipes here and there and you know, I know Judge Whitehead and I have joked around about having like a barbeque cook-off and now Judge Bain I know does a lot of barbequing so –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes. Yes, he does.

JUDGE DUBOIS: - you know maybe one day we can do like a little barbeque off or something for the Orange County Bar.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I'm all about planning that. Count me in. I will have you all ready to barbeque –

JUDGE DUBOIS: Okay, I need people to eat, not just plan it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I will do that too. Okay, no worries about that. All right, so with that, I understand that you're a native Floridian.

JUDGE DUBOIS: I am. I was born and raised in Fort Lauderdale. Went to the University of South Florida in Tampa and then moved to Orlando in '96 to pursue my law degree at Barry University and have now made this home and don't consider ever moving out of Central Florida.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You don't.

JUDGE DUBOIS: No, I mean maybe for retirement somewhere, you know, a little closer to the water but –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you travel much?

JUDGE DUBOIS: I do. We actually just got back from a seven-day cruise. We went to Puerto Rico, Bahamas, Virgin Islands and Dominican Republic with my mom, my two sisters, their families. It was a lot of fun. It was great –

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's your favorite place to travel to?

JUDGE DUBOIS: The Caribbean. I mean, growing up in South Florida you kind of love the water.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Absolutely.

JUDGE DUBOIS: And you got to be close to water. I do – we have gone out to Park City and gone skiing once. It's fun but it's –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Not the water.

JUDGE DUBOIS: A Florida boy and snow, just – sometimes those things just don't mix.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I'm with you. I am completely with you. Tell me something you have done that you would never do again.

JUDGE DUBOIS: Sky dive.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, you didn't.

JUDGE DUBOIS: I didn't have to think about it, right. I mean, so my current fiancé and I were dating for a year and her one-year anniversary gift to me when we were dating was a surprise trip down to Lake Wales. My then paralegal had prepared and cleared my calendar so we could go sky diving. I got there and I'm like you really want me to jump out of a plane.

JUDGE LATIMORE: A very good working and operating plane.

JUDGE DUBOIS: A working plane, you know we were going to go up to 14,000 feet. This guy supposedly has a parachute that works. I'm harnessed to him, and we jump out, and she's like, yes. I'm profusely sweating. Well, the next day we were getting on a plane, a perfectly good operating plane and flying to Hawaii for ten days for vacation. I'm like, okay, I should have known that. I mean, she had the much better end of the deal.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right. Right. Absolutely.

JUDGE DUBOIS: Going to Hawaii. She's throwing me out of a plane.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I like this lady.

JUDGE DUBOIS: Right. I'm taking her to Hawaii to Waikiki and Honolulu and all that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: If you make it from the jump – from jumping out of the plane, right.

JUDGE DUBOIS: The good news was if, God forbid the plane went down, I knew how to sky dive. But I don't know how many parachutes there were on the Delta flight to Honolulu.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So what did that feel like? Just explain you know the feeling.

JUDGE DUBOIS: From what I can remember, so first of all, I hate heights.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. There's a start.

JUDGE DUBOIS: I'm that guy who's on the cruise ship like holding on, white knuckling the railing. So getting in a plane with the door open at 14,000 feet was freaky. It was – it was really exhilarating having the wind smack you in the face, feeling how cold it was up there, and then as soon as you feel the parachute pop and you go like, okay, we're going to land.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE DUBOIS: You know then we're good.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Then you're okay.

JUDGE DUBOIS: And then you take it in and the crazy thing was you could see the east coast and the west coast of Florida.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, wow, that's awesome.

JUDGE DUBOIS: So it was really cool. And you could just see how much greenery there is really left in Florida.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There actually is –

JUDGE DUBOIS: There's still you know, granted it was down Lake Wales area but it was really cool seeing both coasts at the same time and seeing how far you could see. But I'm good.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You're good.

JUDGE DUBOIS: One and done.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right.

JUDGE DUBOIS: I would not – yeah, I mean –

JUDGE LATIMORE: I'm none and done, okay, how about that.

JUDGE DUBOIS: You got to try it once.

JUDGE LATIMORE: No thank you, I appreciate you. All right.

JUDGE DUBOIS: I mean, I love you, I'm not trying to force you to jump out of a plane.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Don't worry, you would have to push me, okay. Name someone you would love to meet and get to know.

JUDGE DUBOIS: So for fear of being political, probably former President Barack Obama.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. Why is that?

JUDGE DUBOIS: I think the way he held himself, the way he you know brought people together, the way he ran the country, the way he was respected globally I – I'm kind of envious of that and I would love to just – he's a guy you want to go have a beer with.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right.

JUDGE DUBOIS: You know, and I think – yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. Is there anything that you fear?

JUDGE DUBOIS: Jumping out of planes. Anything I fear –



JUDGE LATIMORE: You got me on that one.

JUDGE DUBOIS: I mean, honestly, as crazy as it sounds, I hate frogs.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you.

JUDGE DUBOIS: Yeah, to the point where –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Even the cute little ones?

JUDGE DUBOIS: There's no such thing. At my old house I had – the front door, there was a frog on the front door and I literally went around to the back patio, opened the door, set off the alarm to avoid walking in and having to get close to the frog. I will avoid a frog – I think that comes from my mom because she hated frogs.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, so you grew up hating frogs as well.

JUDGE DUBOIS: Well, where we lived in South Florida, it was very close to the Everglades so you had all sorts of critters. Now they have iguanas everywhere but yeah, frogs just, I don't know, there's something about frogs that just –

JUDGE LATIMORE: How do you feel about iguanas?

JUDGE DUBOIS: I mean, they're good as long as they're not frozen and you put them in your car like they do in South Florida. They're cool. I mean, when we were in Puerto Rico we saw a bunch of them. I mean, they're huge, but they're obviously creeping into Florida and moving up here. But yeah –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, see if you had to, and I'm not suggesting that this is going to happen any time soon, but if you had to pick your last meal, what would it be?

JUDGE DUBOIS: Cowboy ribeye. The big –

JUDGE LATIMORE: The big eon with the big bone.

JUDGE DUBOIS: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That one?

JUDGE DUBOIS: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And of course, you would grill it --

JUDGE DUBOIS: Of course.

JUDGE LATIMORE: - in your egg –

JUDGE DUBOIS: Well, if it's my last one, I'm hoping someone is cooking it for me. But yes, yeah, on the big green egg. How I like to do it is you cook it slow and then you turn up the egg real hot and then you just lift the grill and throw the steak right onto the charcoal because it's pure wood. So you get some of that woody flavor.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And sides?

JUDGE DUBOIS: Probably a loaded baked potato, maybe asparagus or creamed spinach.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right.

JUDGE DUBOIS: Not that I've thought about it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: No, I wouldn't – we would never think about it. We would never want to lose you, Judge DuBois.

JUDGE DUBOIS: I appreciate it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Thank you so much for coming on Unplugged.

JUDGE DUBOIS: Thank you. Glad to come back whenever.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Absolutely.

(Music)