

9<sup>TH</sup> UNPLUGGED

HONORABLE ANDREW BAIN

COUNTY COURT JUDGE

FEBRUARY 2, 2022

HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

JUDGE BAIN: I'm Judge Bain.

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

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: So before we get unplugged, could you please tell me your position, how long you've been in the position and what you did before you became a judge.

JUDGE BAIN: I am an Orange County Judge. I'm assigned to the specialized division at the Booking and Release Center. I do initial first appearances and a plethora of other things that we do at the jail. And I was a prosecutor for almost seven years prior to becoming a judge back when the Governor appointed me in June of 2020.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. Well, welcome to the Ninth Judicial Circuit. It's been a minute since you've been here and we are glad to have you here with us. And so now that we've done all of that, let's get unplugged, okay.

JUDGE BAIN: Let's do it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. So tell me, what's your favorite way to get unplugged?

JUDGE BAIN: My favorite way to get unplugged is to usually cook.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Cook. I like that.

JUDGE BAIN: Yeah, cooking is usually my unplug thing. I get to focus on you know my ingredients, my meats, my vegetables, you know what method I'm using to cook. Whether I'm grilling, smoking –

JUDGE LATIMORE: You're a real cook.

JUDGE BAIN: Baking. Yeah. Salting, you know, suvee, doing – it depends on whatever, kind of what's going on.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How long have you been cooking?

JUDGE BAIN: Probably, officially, probably around ten.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE BAIN: When I was allowed to kind of cook by myself. My mom kind of supervising me while I was able to kind go on the stove and make breakfast or make a grilled cheese sandwich by myself or something like that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, what drew your interest into cooking?

JUDGE BAIN: It was kind of situation where I was at – I had a special relationship with – I have an uncle that lives in Georgia. His name is Cecil Blanchard and he was always cooking for his family. So when I spent summers in Columbus, Georgia, I would kind of hang around him cooking and then it kind of started happening, started doing it when I was at home. But I really started to get into cooking when I was in middle school because my mom took a job, she worked for OSHA, she's actually retired from OSHA, for 40 years. It was a good job where she was traveling more so it would just be me and my dad at home. So otherwise, we're just going to look at each other and be hungry or somebody is going to have to cook.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Somebody's got to do the cooking.

JUDGE BAIN: Somebody is going to have to cook so – and then I just kept going, kept doing it from there, all the way through high school, through college and did all the team barbecues and things like that while I was at the University of Miami.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And so that is your real skill, right, barbecuing?

JUDGE BAIN: It is, yeah, one of my – probably one of my heightened cooking skills, yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wonderful. And I am very glad that you are my guest. I was blessed with a plate of barbecue so we're going to make sure this ends in nine minutes, okay.

JUDGE BAIN: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So tell me something, what motivates you to really work hard?

JUDGE BAIN: I'm always, you know, everything in my life is usually faith-based so anything I put my hands to, you know, I want it to glorify God. So I always want to work in that method. So I always want to maximize the greatness in wherever God put me. So God put me here being a county court judge so I want to maximize the greatness in that area and work as hard as I can to you know be great at it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Did you spend a lot of time in Church growing up?

JUDGE BAIN: Yeah, my father is a pastor.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. And were you – what's the denomination, if you don't mind me asking.

JUDGE BAIN: Non-denominational Christian Church.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. And so were you a part of any organizations or any of the youth groups or all of that when you were in –

JUDGE BAIN: Well, we had like a youth group when we were kids so I did a lot of car washes, and things to raise money to go to camps and to do those kinds of things when I was a kid. So that -- part of some of the larger organizations, we weren't affiliated with some of the -- you know, like Southern Baptist, and those kind of larger, big organizations. We were a really small Church so we never got in connection with those kinds of things. But definitely participated in a lot of -- a lot of Sundays, some Mondays, Wednesdays –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Sing in the choir.

JUDGE BAIN: Sing in the choir, did those kinds of things.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, you got to sing. Oh, nice. Solo?

JUDGE BAIN: Solo, did all those things when I was growing up.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wonderful. That sounds good. Now, you are a native Floridian, correct.

JUDGE BAIN: Yes, ma'am.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Where were you born and raised?

JUDGE BAIN: Ft. Lauderdale.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. And tell us, I know you're a football star so you – University of Miami, I won't get that wrong. Go Gators, okay. And you also played for the NFL, didn't you?

JUDGE BAIN: Yes, ma'am.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Who did you play for?

JUDGE BAIN: I played for the New York Giants.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, and what was your position?

JUDGE BAIN: I played offensive line, pretty much half way through high school, all the way through college at the University of Miami, and then had a little splash with the New York Giants and you know kept offensive line.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What did you like most about that experience, playing for a pro team?

JUDGE BAIN: It was different. It was you know definitely more business oriented than I was expecting. You know, when you're playing college, it's more brotherhood, more team, camaraderie and things like that. So when you get to the NFL, there's also a large age gap between things. Like Jeff Feagles was our punter. He played in like in the mid-80s for the University of Miami and we're on the same team together so that gives you the disparity in time between those guys. So some of those guys have families. Some of the guys were veterans for 10, 12, sometimes 15 years and you know they have like all this large life outside of football and they really approach it as a business and its professional organization. So that was a big that I noticed immediately when I arrived in New York.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How did you like living in New York? Cold.

JUDGE BAIN: It was cold – I didn't get a chance to experience too much cold because my career kind of ended before it got too cold. But it was definitely different from being a

southern boy to going to the big city and a lot of people in one little place and me trying to understand why so many people live in such a small little area. And they seem to enjoy it. Walking through Times Square was always interesting. There's always – because New Yorkers usually – everybody's walking like with their head kind of slightly down and walking forward. And people used to run into me and running into me was like –

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's that wall there? I didn't see that wall.

JUDGE BAIN: Yeah, they didn't see this big thing moving through Times Square but it didn't seem to phase them so I guess it didn't phase me so they'd just bounce off and they'd keep walking. I just keep walking down the street so it was interesting. It was definitely different.

JUDGE LATIMORE: If you had a choice to pick where you would like to live, you know, other than Orlando, where would be a favorite spot you'd like to live and raise your family.

JUDGE BAIN: I'm still a South Florida guy, you know, I grew up – growing up in Lauderdale Lakes, Florida, going to school at the University of Miami, until I moved to Central Florida and while I was in New York, was the first time I experienced not having like the salt air. So I grew up with that my entire life. You know smelling the ocean, smelling the salt in the air. When I woke up in the morning, I was outside, that was a you know a big change when I got to Central Florida but I've learned to enjoy both. So I do a lot of things that I didn't do down at home. I do a lot of fresh water fishing here and those kind of activities where I'd be more at the beach and doing those kind of activities when I was back home.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, you hunt as well, right?

JUDGE BAIN: Yes, ma'am.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And what do you hunt?

JUDGE BAIN: We were hunting deer last year. Deer season just opened. Definitely try to get a hog every time you get a chance to because they're an invasive species. I got a chance to shoot a coyote about a year-and-a-half ago.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How did you learn how to hunt in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida?

JUDGE BAIN: Well, because Ft. Lauderdale is an interesting place.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, it is.

JUDGE BAIN: It's a very interesting place. So a lot of people think about in Miami, they think about the beach, South Beach and things like that. But where my father is from it's actually Florida City and Homestead and those kind of areas. So that's a completely different beat. That's you know really country living. That's you know a lot of groves and fields and people picking and those kind of things like that. So I'm really more familiar with that than I am with you know the South Beach hustle and bustle.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You have a nickname that you go by with your family and friends.

JUDGE BAIN: I just – they just call me Bain.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Bain.

JUDGE BAIN: Big Bain.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Big Bain. All right, well thank you so much Big Bain for being unplugged with me today.

JUDGE BAIN: All right. Thank you. Have a good day.



(Music)