

9TH UNPLUGGED

CHINYERE OKORIE

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Alicia Latimore.

MS. OKORIE: And I'm Chinyere Okorie.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And you're listening to 9th Unplugged.

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: So welcome and thank you for joining me on 9th Unplugged.

Would you tell our audience what your job duty is in the court system and how long you've been working with us?

MS. OKORIE: I work with the Dispute Resolutions Services office. I work as an administrative assistant II and I've been with the court since 2014 so 8 years.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, explain to everyone if you could briefly, what does the dispute resolution office do?

MS. OKORIE: That's the mediation department so we help out with county cases, family cases. We mediate to try and make sure that we assist the parties to resolve whatever issues they may have and that way we try to make work a little easier for the judges.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, thank you. We appreciate that. Well, let's go ahead and talk about what you do when you become unplugged, okay.

MS. OKORIE: Okay.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, so tell us, where were you born and raised?

MS. OKORIE: I was born and raised in Nigeria, West Africa.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, wonderful. And what is it that you miss the most about that lovely hometown.

MS. OKORIE: Family. I have a lot of family back home.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You do.

MS. OKORIE: And food.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, food. Food. All right and can you tell us what it's like growing up there?

MS. OKORIE: It was beautiful growing up. I'm from a family of all girls, so you know the girls and the ta-ta tat talking, playing, quarrels. But it was nice. We grew up in a Christian home and raised to be hard working and to appreciate you know every opportunity that you get and appreciate every other person around you. And we learned to savor this, so...

JUDGE LATIMORE: How did you end up in the states?

MS. OKORIE: I got married.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Congratulations to that.

MS. OKORIE: Thank you. I met my husband in college so more like my college sweetheart and then he was here before me, but then we got married and I came over.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And did you come immediately to Orlando?

MS. OKORIE: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. So how long have you been here in Orlando with us?

MS. OKORIE: Between Orlando and New Jersey because at the time we had to go to New Jersey, all together it will be 18 years.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right. So you mentioned kids, right.

MS. OKORIE: Um-hum.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So you have children and what is it that you and your family do to have fun, just to go out and have a great time?

MS. OKORIE: I have four kids.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Four kids. Oh, yes.

MS. OKORIE: Three teenagers so you know how that goes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

MS. OKORIE: They're amazing though. I wouldn't have it any other way. My youngest is seven, 13 – my daughter is 13, my other son is 15, and my older son is almost 17.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. OKORIE: We travel. We like to travel. We actually saved to travel outside the country so that way they learn to appreciate other people's culture, and they don't have a myopic view and just family time is very important.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now where is one of your favorite destinations?

MS. OKORIE: Barcelona was so good and when we went to Dubai.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. OKORIE: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nice. Nice. So you speak several languages, correct.

MS. OKORIE: I speak English and I speak Igbo.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, Igbo.

MS. OKORIE: Igbo, that's from – in Nigeria, we have three main languages. You have the Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa. So our languages are so different but I'm from the – I'm Igbo so that's from the West.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. OKORIE: And like if we say come, in Igbo, Wazobia. In Yoruba you say Wa, in Hausa you say Zo or Zo Mana come here. So you see they're so different.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, are you fluent in all three languages there?

MS. OKORIE: More fluent in Igbo and Yoruba because I was born in the West but I'm from the East.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Any other languages you speak.

MS. OKORIE: I learned a little bit of French while I was in school, in secondary school and then I learned a little bit of Japanese. Like I can count one to ten or twenty in Japanese.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How did you learn Japanese?

MS. OKORIE: We traveled with my parents. My dad was on sabbatical leave so we went as a family and we spent some time so I learned the language.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. You have lots of history and culture going on. All right. Tell me, what is it that you would like to do you know, what is one of the greatest achievements or big achievements that you'd like to accomplish in your lifetime?

MS. OKORIE: I love to help people. I had always said that I wanted to have like an orphanage where you can help out, sorry, I get emotional, because you find that there's so many people who are struggling.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

MS. OKORIE: So being able to help others and –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Where does that passion come from? Where does that come from, that passion that you have?

MS. OKORIE: From the way I grew up.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. OKORIE: And from my faith as a Christian. I listened to one of your talks, I think it was 9th Unplugged where you talked about you being passionate about children and your charity work you do and, for me that was amazing because it's such a blessing to be able to reach out and help others.

JUDGE LATIMORE: It is.

MS. OKORIE: And that was how I grew up too, so that -- we never had and you give to others.

JUDGE LATIMORE: It is. It is absolutely a blessing to be able to give to others. It is so rewarding to your own spirit and soul so I can see the passion that you have for that and I hope you accomplish that goal as well. Do you take your children with you when you serve?

MS. OKORIE: Yeah, sometimes we, like we do something on Christmas, during Christmastime where we go or during Thanksgiving. A few times we've taken them to the homeless shelter just so that they can see what it is and what other people deal with and learn to appreciate. And we buy stuff for them and we've taken toys maybe to the parks to see the children, little children, and we give them out. Then we go to like – I've gone to Arnold Palmer Hospital with the children and we made donations for the kids.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, that's wonderful.

MS. OKORIE: So just things like that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. Is there anything that you regret not doing or starting when you were younger?

MS. OKORIE: No. I'll say no, because I believe that we make our plans as human beings but God directs our path so for every phase and every season of your life, there's no mistake. God has you there for a reason and for a purpose so...

JUDGE LATIMORE: Absolutely. And can you tell me what was the best thing that happened to you this past week?

MS. OKORIE: This past week.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes. Can you identify something that was really special that occurred to you this past week?

MS. OKORIE: I'm trying to think. I know I shared something –

JUDGE LATIMORE: I had a party with lots of food, so that's all it takes for me to have a good time.

MS. OKORIE: Maybe this week, I'll say I got like a surprise food order.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, what was that?

MS. OKORIE: No, I cook so somebody called me to order food.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, they ordered from you. Okay, so that was the surprise. That would be a surprise.

MS. OKORIE: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes. What do you cook?

MS. OKORIE: Oh, actually I'm a chef.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh really. Oh, just a minor detail. Okay, wow, so --

MS. OKORIE: I cook all kinds of – I cook African food though.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. OKORIE: But I'm open to new – trying new things.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Did you train to go to school to become a chef?

MS. OKORIE: No, I learned cooking growing up watching my mom and helping out in the kitchen. Mommy couldn't be cooking and you're sitting outside. You had to be there so we have like new family businesses that we started that we do on the side besides work.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

MS. OKORIE: So I cook different things.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, what is your like main dish?

MS. OKORIE: Jollof rice.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Who rice?

MS. OKORIE: Jollof rice.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What is that?

MS. OKORIE: It's rice that is made from tomato sauce and onions, and then you make the rice. It turns like an orange kind of colored rice and then you put like peppers, bell peppers, if you want. And then fried plantains and chicken. It's amazing.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Sounds delicious. Absolutely sounds delicious. So when we're done, we're going to have to talk about that, okay. But thank you so much for coming on the show. We appreciate you being here.

MS. OKORIE: Oh, thank you so much, Judge Latimore. Thank you, I appreciate it.

(Music)