

9<sup>TH</sup> UNPLUGGED

DENICE DUNN

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

MS. DUNN: Hi, I'm Denice Dunn.

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

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: So before we get unplugged, tell us your job title and the department you work for and your job duties.

MS. DUNN: I am an administrative secretary under the Director of Family Services, under Kelly Gallman in Osceola County. And some of my duties are general administrative duties as far as assisting the attorneys and any guests that come into the courthouse on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor if they're needing assistance with – speaking with a judge, filing paper work for judges or if they're needing assistance with appearing for initial appearance. Those are some of the things that I would assist with.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. So how long have you been working in the courts?

MS. DUNN: It has been a little bit more than two-and-a-half years.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So what is it that you spend your time doing when you leave work?

MS. DUNN: When I leave work, mostly I deal with family, my mom who is in a nursing home and my kids, and I'm actually looking forward to spending a lot of time with a future grandbaby that's coming in May.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, wow. Congratulations. Is this your first?

MS. DUNN: First grandbaby will be spoiled.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Absolutely. And do you know if it's a boy or a girl?

MS. DUNN: Not yet. They are moving so slow in doing a gender reveal, but a gender reveal is coming soon.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Grandma's like, let's come on, come on, I got to go shopping.

MS. DUNN: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I got to start my shopping.

MS. DUNN: Yes, my Amazon cart is full.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Already. That sounds good. And so tell me, what is the most memorable thing about your mom? That's a special – that's a special person in your life and what's most memorable about mom?

MS. DUNN: Most memorable is sitting around the kitchen table gossiping and getting really good advice. My mom is from Jamaica so the advice usually has a story attached to it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And a lot of good food too I'm sure around the kitchen table.

MS. DUNN: Oh, my goodness, let's not talk about the food.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So have you been to Jamaica?

MS. DUNN: The last time I went to Jamaica was in 2019 and I cried on the flight home.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. Oh, okay, because you did not want to leave. It's such a wonderful place.

MS. DUNN: Oh, it was just amazing. The food, the people, the beach, the water, it was just awesome.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. So you speak Patois.

MS. DUNN: Sort of, kind of, yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Sort of, kind of.

MS. DUNN: Yeah, I got to be like really upset.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Uh-huh.

MS. DUNN: And then it just flows.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Just naturally comes out. Come on, speak a little bit of Patois for the listeners.

MS. DUNN: Oh, Judge.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I know you are not upset, hopefully, but is there a little bit of Patois you can throw at us.

MS. DUNN: I don't know in Patois what you want me to tell you. I mean, I could come up with a couple of things, then I could come up with a few more things and then on top of that, I don't even know what further to say to you, but you know, Judge, we can just go on with the interview.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There we go. Thank you so very much. Thank you so much. You say that you're an introvert.

MS. DUNN: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I find that hard to believe. But that's just my opinion.

MS. DUNN: Outside of work and customer service, I can be an introvert. I like to be at home. I'm a real homebody.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. DUNN: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And what do you when you're at home?

MS. DUNN: Well, these days mostly it's homework because I'm currently enrolled in Rasmussen University.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, okay. And what are you studying?

MS. DUNN: Legal studies, paralegal services.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. And is that something you've been interested in for a while?

MS. DUNN: Yes, because actually I started this journey when my children were young and then I had to stop, but I was attending FMU and I actually was in a commercial for FMU.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, nice. So did you think about going into acting and you know Hollywood?

MS. DUNN: No, because I'm such an introvert, Judge.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, that's right, back at the introvert. Okay. All right. So let me ask you this question. If you won the lotto, and it was the big lotto, you know, it's not like the

\$100 scratch off card, but you won the like big – real big lotto. Other than paying your bills, and buying your mama a house, what would you do with your money?

MS. DUNN: Well, I worked before with Orange County Clerk of Court in Probate so I probably would set up a lot of different trusts. I know that might sound really odd, but I would like to preserve a lot of that for future, for generational wealth at least. But one thing I know I would do for sure is build a couple of schools in Jamaica.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, wonderful. Okay, that sounds good. So what's your favorite food?

MS. DUNN: Oh, wow.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I'm back at food. I talk about food a lot in case you didn't know.

MS. DUNN: I love Jamaican food. I love Chinese food and tacos.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And if you had to pick one meal that you could just eat at all times, what would that be?

MS. DUNN: Oxtails and rice and peas.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, see, you hit one of my favorites as well. Okay. What's the worst gift you've ever received?

MS. DUNN: The worst gift that I ever received.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Can you think of anything?

MS. DUNN: That's a tough one. No, not off the top of my head.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, that's fine.

MS. DUNN: People have been pretty okay with the gift giving.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's nice. That is nice. Do you like pets?

MS. DUNN: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: If you could have an exotic pet, what would it be?

MS. DUNN: Well, it's not really exotic but I would love to have a manatee, a baby manatee.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's a pretty – that's kind of – well –

MS. DUNN: Is that exotic?

JUDGE LATIMORE: I don't think many have them in the backyard. I don't think I've met anybody walking a manatee –

MS. DUNN: Well, in Florida –

JUDGE LATIMORE: -- or anything so yes.

MS. DUNN: -- you can and see them and pet them. And they have some places where you can actually feed a manatee, and I just think that they're just – they're just pretty amazing.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So do you frequent like SeaWorld or aquariums to see them?

MS. DUNN: I used to for SeaWorld. Aquariums, I'm planning to go to an aquarium over in Tampa because I'm trying to see that one. There's one in Atlanta that I want to see and there's one in Dallas that I want to see.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So you like – you like aquariums and you like sea creatures.

MS. DUNN: I like anything that's associated with the ocean.

JUDGE LATIMORE: With the water.

MS. DUNN: Um-hum.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's right. And that's the Jamaica in you, right?

MS. DUNN: I guess so.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So what would you like to accomplish within the next life – did you hear me say next life?

MS. DUNN: Um... Well, I mean every year is a new year, is a new life.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

MS. DUNN: More like in the next five years, or ten years.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Whatever you like to accomplish.

MS. DUNN: Well, right now the accomplishing thing that I need to have under my belt is to finish school. And then once I do that, I'm sure doors of opportunity will start to open in regards to that. But in the next five to ten years, I just plan to travel a little bit more, spend a little bit more time with the family. And –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Spoil your grandbaby.

MS. DUNN: Spoil my grandbaby. And any future grandbabies that might be coming along, please children do not have any more grandchildren right now. I'm still a little young. But no, just to live life to the fullest.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you have a pet peeve?



MS. DUNN: No, not really.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. No bad gifts, no pet peeves, you really are having a wonderful experience.

MS. DUNN: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That is good. And so if there was someone who you could talk to, who would it be? If you could name someone that you really would love an opportunity to sit down and have a conversation with. Anyone in the world.

MS. DUNN: Anyone in the world.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Who would you pick?

MS. DUNN: Bernie Sanders.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Really.

MS. DUNN: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And why is it that you're interested in speaking with Bernie Sanders?

MS. DUNN: Well, I know a lot of people have been passing around the means, but he worked very closely with civil rights and I would love to just sit and hear some of the stories of the things that he has gone through. I think that would be just very inspirational.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You know, I'm – are you one that is comfortable with speaking to others about different topics?

MS. DUNN: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Are there any topics that you would not speak to someone about?

MS. DUNN: No. I wouldn't limit anyone in regards to what they would like to discuss or what they have an opinion of, you know. I just believe that you know everyone is entitled to their own opinion. And to learn from someone else, it gives you a broader sense of who that person is as well. And it gives them a sense of respect too, both ways because if you're willing to listen to someone as they explain to you how they feel or what they think, or even what they've gone through, you get a better sense. And if you can be able to share that same and explain yourself to them or your opinion and they give you the same respect, it's a growth process. You're learning from them and your gaining something else in return. It makes you a better person. It makes you more broader and more open to what's happening to other people and what's happening in the world.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Thank you so much. It was wonderful being unplugged with you.

MS. DUNN: Thank you.

(Music)