

9TH UNPLUGGED

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore

MS. D'AURIA: Hi, Mary Beth D'Auria.

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

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: So welcome and before we get unplugged, would you please tell us your name and the department you work in for the 9th Circuit.

MS. D'AURIA: Sure. My name is Mary Beth D'Auria and I work for Human Resources.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And how long have you been working in human resources for the 9th?

MS. D'AURIA: 19 years.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wow. That's a long time.

MS. D'AURIA: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, is that something you thought that you would be doing when you were planning your career?

MS. D'AURIA: Absolutely.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wonderful. That is great. So tell me, where were you born and raised and where did you grow up?

MS. D'AURIA: I was born and raised in Miami and I spent most of my I guess teenage years in Hialeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. And before you got into human resources, what are some interesting jobs you may have had before that.

MS. D'AURIA: So I worked in retail for many, many years. And then after retail I worked in hospitality, the hotel industry, timeshare industry.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And I understand at one point you were a lifeguard?

MS. D'AURIA: Yeah, I was.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How did you enjoy that?

MS. D'AURIA: I loved it. Yeah, I had a great tan all the time.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, that is a benefit, right.

MS. D'AURIA: Yeah, great tan. Nobody had to say like, wow, always had a great tan.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, was that pool or ocean?

MS. D'AURIA: Pool.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right.

MS. D'AURIA: It was actually a water park, so like a theme park, water theme park.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah. Oh, wonderful. That's interesting. So tell me, I understand also something very unique – you have some really great skills, right?

MS. D'AURIA: I hope so.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You can drive a forklift.

MS. D'AURIA: Yes, I can.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, tell me how in the world did you get to driving forklifts?

MS. D'AURIA: So when I was working in the retail industry, they needed someone to unload trucks for the garden shop that had you know tons of plants on them. And they usually had one or two individuals who could do that who worked in the stock room. And at the time I worked in the stock room so I just said, hey, that looks like fun. I'll go ahead and I'll do it so I had to take a quick test, a little video. I got a license and a certification and there I was unloading pallets of plants and it was so much fun.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You really enjoyed it.

MS. D'AURIA: Yeah, I was – yeah. Yeah, I was the only girl in the whole department store who could do it so it was great. It was a lot of fun.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You're a go-getter, aren't you? So let me ask you, what is it that makes you feel inspired and makes you feel like your best self?

MS. D'AURIA: It makes me feel like –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Your best self.

MS. D'AURIA: My best self. You know what makes me feel inspired is if I can do something with a passion and a purpose. And if that is truly what my goal is, then that makes me happy. That satisfies me. And that's what I try to do in anything that I do in life. I do it with a passion and I do it with a purpose.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And what is one of your greatest passions outside of work, what are one of your greatest passions?

MS. D'AURIA: I think my greatest passion would be being a mom.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. D'AURIA: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. That sounds great. And so can you tell me about being a mom?

MS. D'AURIA: Yeah, I can. So my husband and I, we waited later in life to start a family and we did it through adoption.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. D'AURIA: And it was truly, truly amazing, like, you know, I thought you know before that I had, you know I never had time to do stuff, but then when I – when we adopted you know we were in our middle ages. We weren't very young parents. I really realized that you really have no time to do anything at all then. And you know just being that person for that little person and doing everything that you can for them is just so rewarding and it never stops. You know it never stops. Our children are in their teenage years now and we're still that person you know who does for them and wants the best for them and it's very – it's an unselfish thing that you do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, because they stay around and they keep coming back, don't they?

MS. D'AURIA: Yeah, they do. Yeah, yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: But that's a beautiful thing. That is a wonderful thing. Let me ask you, if you had to pick, would you pick a zoo or aquarium?

MS. D'AURIA: Well, that's – I would pick an aquarium.

JUDGE LATIMORE: A jeep or a jet ski?

MS. D'AURIA: Jet ski.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Meat or vegetables?

MS. D'AURIA: Meat.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Steak or seafood?

MS. D'AURIA: Oh, seafood.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So the meat gives into the seafood.

MS. D'AURIA: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah. I'm with you on that. I agree with you wholeheartedly. Tell me some of the challenges that you've had in life that you've been able to overcome?

MS. D'AURIA: Well, a major challenge that I had of course was about four – it's five years, August this year will be five years, I had a traumatic accident on vacation. We were vacationing in the Keys and it was like two days before we were ready to head back and my daughter and I were on a scooter. And we had an accident and I ended up, I think it was 48 hours later in the trauma unit at ORMC. And it was – it was very, very challenging for my husband to take care of our kids all of a sudden. I went through six months physical therapy, ended up with some major equipment in my leg. Ended up with five – well, five things that had happened to me between broken bones, broken ribs, everything, and I'm able to walk.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

MS. D'AURIA: Yeah, there was a good chance that I wouldn't have been able to walk without a cane or a walker, but it was just being persistent and persistent and finishing every single last day that I could at physical therapy.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What do you think brought you through that? If you had to put your finger on something, what actually got you through that challenge in life?

MS. D'AURIA: So there were a few things. One thing was the physical therapist was completely amazing. When I first went to physical therapy, there was this gentleman who was – I saw him walking around and he was you know like a fairly small individual but he looked like bulldog. And I kept saying to myself, oh, God, please don't let that be my physical therapist because he just looked like he was going to be so rough. I was like, please, don't let that be my physical therapist and here he comes out –

JUDGE LATIMORE: And sure enough.

MS. D'AURIA: -- and says, Mary, I'm like, oh, hi. So just you know his encouragement to keep me going and then everything that my husband and my children had to do. You know my husband had to put some parts of his life on hold just to be able you know to take care of a family because I was – I couldn't walk for three months.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So if you had to write a book, what would be the title of your autobiography?

MS. D'AURIA: I think my title would be –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Anything pop up off the top of your head?

MS. D'AURIA: Yes. Being resilient.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. D'AURIA: Being resilient in times of trauma.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That makes a big difference.

MS. D'AURIA: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah. Tell me, what food do you have in your frigerator right now? And I said that the old style way. That's it, frigerator when it should be refrigerator. But I'll be correct in that.

MS. D'AURIA: So what do we have in our frig. My husband would say in the frig. So what do we have? We have hardboiled eggs. We have fruit. We have a lot of unsweet tea. Vegetables.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And if you could pick what you would love to eat tonight, no matter what it is, what would it be?

MS. D'AURIA: Chick-fil-A.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Chick-fil-A.

MS. D'AURIA: Chick-fil-A, yeah. There is nothing else in the world. It's Chick-fil-A.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nothing else. What happened to their chicken salad sandwich? That's what I want to know.

MS. D'AURIA: I know. They stopped making them. I know. I'm like, what did you do. Yeah, uh-huh, and I heard the secret recipe in those are potato chips.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, wow, didn't know.

MS. D'AURIA: It's the secret recipe in the Chick-fil-A sandwiches. A really good friend of mine is a marketing director, so –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, secret's out.

MS. D'AURIA: I don't know if we're allowed to copy write that or something, I don't know.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, it's just what we heard on the street.

MS. D'AURIA: Okay.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Thank you so much for being unplugged with me.

MS. D'AURIA: You're welcome. It was my pleasure.

(Music)