

9TH UNPLUGGED

RYAN DESMOND

SYSTEMS ANALYST

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, hello, I'm Judge Latimore.

MR. DESMOND: And I'm Ryan Desmond.

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

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: So before we unplug from work, and dive right into this conversation about life outside the courts, tell us your title and which department you work in.

MR. DESMOND: All right. So I work in technology services and I am an IT systems analyst.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And how is it that you became interested or got into that field?

MR. DESMOND: Interestingly as a kid, I just always knew I wanted to do something with computers.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right.

MR. DESMOND: And that just, one thing led to another. I've always gone down that technical path.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Did you take things apart and put them back together like my brother used to do? He's in IT.

MR. DESMOND: My parents were not happy with me.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, mine – yeah, my parents probably felt the same as your parents. So when you're away from IT, what are you doing to have fun?

MR. DESMOND: Well, these days, not as much as I would like.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right.

MR. DESMOND: The whole quarantine thing and all.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Say that COVID wasn't here.

MR. DESMOND: Typically, you know, outdoors, camping, spending time you know with my family.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And who are the people that you like to spend the most time with?

MR. DESMOND: My family. Family and friends.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Tell me about that. Can I have a little bit about your family? Do you have kids?

MR. DESMOND: Yeah, sure. So my wife and three kids, and we've been married wait, about 12 years.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, get it right. You know your wife is going to be listening.

MR. DESMOND: Oh, yes, absolutely. And then we have 3 boys, 11, 8 and 6.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And what are some of the things that you all do as a family just to you know get out and have some fun?

MR. DESMOND: So these days it's something as simple as just getting out and walking the neighborhood.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah.

MR. DESMOND: But typically, we would go camping and go hiking. My kids are very much into soccer, which of course we're also not doing right now. But yeah, a lot of you know sports and activities outdoors really.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Did you do sports when you were growing up?

MR. DESMOND: I always had a lot of friends that were on the teams and I never was but I always played sports with them so I guess, yes, I did, but I had never really been on the teams and into it as much as some people.

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

MR. DESMOND: So I was actually born in Minneapolis, Minnesota. And when I was about five years old, moved to St. Petersburg, Florida. And I grew up there primarily and found myself in Orlando when it was time to go to college. I went to UCF.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. And if you had a place that you'd like to choose to live outside of Orlando, where would that be?

MR. DESMOND: Well, my wife and I, we actually visited Washington, D.C., I guess that was a few years ago now. And I don't know that I would like to live there in a long-term capacity, but I very much enjoyed the city, lots of great restaurants, Smithsonian and the different museums and things. Very much would like to spend some more time there. I could see living there for a few years anyway.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Tell me, what's the best thing I should know about you?

MR. DESMOND: The best thing to know about me.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

MR. DESMOND: I think I'm generally approachable. I enjoy working with people and having relationships and communicating with people.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What makes you nervous?

MR. DESMOND: This interview. No. I'm kidding. No.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You said you weren't nervous. That's why I was curious as to what makes you nervous.

MR. DESMOND: Good question. I don't know. I tend to kind of take things as they come. I can't really think of anything offhand that really truly makes me nervous.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. Do you have a tip that you can give us that you think might make the world a better place?

MR. DESMOND: I think generally speaking if people would think more about others first instead of themselves, I think that would probably make this world a better place in general.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Is there another skill that you'd like to master?

MR. DESMOND: As a hobby, I very much like photography and have quite a lot of equipment.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. DESMOND: And you know in another lifetime where that actually would provide for a family, I may have done that but you know, I'll stick with IT.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. You're right. And so how long have you been doing photography?

MR. DESMOND: Oh, remember when the digital cameras came out and you could put the floppy in it?

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

MR. DESMOND: Yeah. That was my first one. Those were really great. But yeah, definitely moved up in the world since those days with the SLRs and you know the larger lenses and things.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And what do you like to take pictures of? What's your favorite shots, like nature or buildings or people?

MR. DESMOND: I like cityscapes, you know, time lapse, nighttime photography, but you know more recently, I probably have more pictures of my kids you know playing soccer.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Is there anything you take for granted?

MR. DESMOND: Sure, I think we probably all take things for granted. I think health is probably always a big one and I think you know, these times being at home, you know, COVID times, I think we've all had more time to reflect. I think just you know, taking the time to slow down, you know, spend time with family.

JUDGE LATIMORE: If you had to pick your last meal, what would it be?

MR. DESMOND: I love Vietnamese food.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You love Vietnamese food.

MR. DESMOND: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And how is it that you came to love Vietnamese food?

MR. DESMOND: When I was in high school, I had a couple of friends, Vietnamese and also one from Thailand, so I got you know very, firsthand, very authentic you know foods going into their homes. And I just always have gravitated towards that ever since.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you have a favorite restaurant here locally?

MR. DESMOND: I believe Pho Vinh. That's a pretty good Vietnamese restaurant. I haven't been there for a long time now but I would like to go back at some point.

JUDGE LATIMORE: If you could hold onto one memory from your life forever, which would that be?

MR. DESMOND: Just one? That's tough. I have many good ones.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, share some with us, and we'll tell you when you run out of time.

MR. DESMOND: Certainly marrying my wife, but then also I'll say each, the birth of each child and yeah, so kind of I guess going back to the family thing again.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah. Do you have a large family outside of your nuclear family?

MR. DESMOND: Really when I was growing up, it was you know mostly my mother and I. My parents were divorced, always had a good relationship with my father so I had a relatively small family. So you know having family, having three kids, we're starting to have a larger family. Like that's, I think was more important to me than I ever realized as I've gotten older. You know, you learn those things about yourself.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What life hacks have you found particularly effective?

MR. DESMOND: I think because I'm in the computer world, keyboard shortcuts. All right. I have to say that. It sounds silly but there's a lot of truth in it. You can save a lot of time but probably in a more practical – I take pictures. Photography, right. But I really, I document things like you know you meet somebody, you get a business card, I take a picture of it. I take pictures of everything. That way I can always refer to it later and I don't even necessarily have to you know look anything up. I can just you know pull out my phone, do a Google search on my Google photos, and there it is.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right. And there you have it. That's a great idea. I mean, I'm not a photographer but that would help me to find the things that I need to find.

MR. DESMOND: You don't need to be. It just needs to be good enough.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So how would you like to be remembered?

MR. DESMOND: Be remembered. Patient, kind. I don't know. Good father, good husband.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, yeah.

MR. DESMOND: Friend.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Anything on the bucket list?

MR. DESMOND: Travel.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. Where would you like to go?

MR. DESMOND: I'd like to travel. Anywhere really. I'm very fascinated with travel. I'd like to go to Europe. I'd like to go to Asia.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You would love to take some pictures there.

MR. DESMOND: Never did a lot of travel when I was younger. I wish I had done that so you know with our kids being at the age that they are now, that's not really probably something that's happening soon, but I think we'll get there. And you're right, I'll bring my camera.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. It was really great talking with you. Thank you so much for joining us at unplugged.

MR. DESMOND: Glad to do it. Very nice to meet you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nice to meet you as well.

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