

9<sup>TH</sup> UNPLUGGED

LAUREN BURROWS

JUDICIAL ASSISTANT

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

MS. BURROWS: And I'm Lauren Burrows.

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

(Music)

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

MS. BURROWS: Well, I'm a judicial assistant to the Honorable Luis F. Calderon. He is a circuit judge and we are currently working in felony division 12 here in Orange County.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And have you all been in felony for quite some time?

MS. BURROWS: No, ma'am, about seven months.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And how is that going?

MS. BURROWS: It's going well. It's going well. It was a first for me. I had never worked in felony as a clerk or as a JA before now, and I've been in the court system for, it will be ten years in April, and it was a little bit nerve-racking for me because we were in the middle of the pandemic. We were in the middle of a lot of procedure changes and it was a brand new type of law, but I can honestly say after seven months that I am genuinely enjoying it. And I'm looking forward to the next couple of years for sure.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wonderful. Wonderful. That is always good to hear.

MS. BURROWS: Yes, ma'am.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. So let's get unplugged and stop talking about work.

MS. BURROWS: Okay, sounds great.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. Okay, so tell me, how is it that you were schooled when you grew up. Tell me about that.

MS. BURROWS: Well, I started out in a private school down in Kissimmee. I was there from preschool through Kindergarten and first grade. And then the summer between my first grade year and my second grade year, my parents decided that they were going to withdraw my sister and I and we were going to begin our homeschooling journey. And we were homeschooled from when I was in the second grade through my graduation in twelfth grade.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And tell me what that experience was like. Did you enjoy it?

MS. BURROWS: I did. It worked really well for my sister and I because we both enjoyed horseback riding as our sport of choice and so we were able to grow up in St. Cloud on 11 acres with three horses and we were able to arrange our school schedule around our activities. So as long as we got our assignments done for the day, my mom didn't mind when that was done during the day as long as it was finished. And so that allowed us to really be able to focus on our activities and on our courses and our enjoyment of that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Did you compete in horseback riding?

MS. BURROWS: Yes, ma'am, I did.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, and tell me about that? How successful –

MS. BURROWS: I rode English Style and I did hundred jumpers and we were active in 4H and we had three horses total. One we shared and then my sister and I each had one of our own. And we had a trainer that came out once a week to give us lessons and instruct us. And we

did different types of 4H in open horse shows throughout Central Florida from Tampa to New Smyrna, to here in Orlando.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And how long did you do that?

MS. BURROWS: I was, I'm trying to recall. I think I was ten when we first started, when I got my first horse and our last horse actually passed away unfortunately a couple of years ago, but they all lived until old age. And it was a wonderful experience that I will always cherish and that I really hope I can share with my kids one day when they're a little bit older.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So now what do you do for fun with your kids?

MS. BURROWS: We do a few different things. We do enjoy going to the theme parks. We're pass holders with both Sea World and Disney. And we try to visit a theme park – well, pre-COVID, we were trying to visit a theme park at least once or twice a month on the weekends because the beauty of being able to be a local pass holder is you can go for a couple of hours until the kids are tired, and then you can go home after you've enjoyed some of your favorite attractions and your favorite rides. So those are some of the things that we enjoy doing the most and we were very thankful when the parks opened back up and we still do that as often as we can.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So you were riding horseback as a sport and what do you do for sport activities now?

MS. BURROWS: I watch my son play t-ball, and chase my daughter. That's a lot of cardio right there. She's two-and-a-half and she has a lot of energy. And right now, I don't really have a sport, per se for myself that I enjoy in my off time. Most of the extracurricular activities that I have on the weekends involve time with my family going to the theme parks. We enjoy

going to football games when we're able to, watching football games, having friends over for barbecues, things like that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So you like football.

MS. BURROWS: Go Knights. Charge on.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Get it in there.

MS. BURROWS: Yes, ma'am. College mostly over the NFL.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Me too.

MS. BURROWS: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I like college more than I like professional.

MS. BURROWS: Good to know. Good to know.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Go Gators, since you started.

MS. BURROWS: My boss would be very proud of you to say that. But no, I graduated from UCF in 2010 and I didn't actually follow the team much when I was there ironically but the season that they went to their first Fiesta Bowl was the season that I first started learning the sport, watching the games, going to games and now I'm hooked. It's really funny because I talk about sports more and watch sports more than my husband does. So it's a really funny dynamic but my son is starting to enjoy it as well. My daughter gets really excited when there's a touchdown. She doesn't know what's going on but she gets excited. She throws her hands up and she gets happy so –

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's funny.

MS. BURROWS: -- I'm looking forward to sharing that with them as they grow older.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. I also see that you like NASCAR racing.

MS. BURROWS: I do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. So have you been to a NASCAR race?

MS. BURROWS: Several. My husband and I have gone to races in Daytona and Homestead, and in Bristol, Tennessee. We actually have plans to attend the Homestead race at the end of February with our son.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Who's your favorite driver?

MS. BURROWS: I've had a few, and for some reason my favorite drivers tend to retire but my current favorite driver is Martin Truex, Jr. and he drives for Joe Gibbs Racing. And he is not only a talented driver, but a very compassionate individual and he and his significant other spend a lot of time helping charities and fund raising for cancer research and things like that. So for me, whenever I follow an athlete or someone in sports, their character and their work outside of the sport is just as important to me as their talents on the field or in the car.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, I just like the way he drives. Dale Earnhardt, the original was my favorite.

MS. BURROWS: Yes, yes, ma'am.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I used to love him and the way he used to cut people off, but I shouldn't say that.

MS. BURROWS: The intimidator. Yes, ma'am.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I shouldn't say that.

MS. BURROWS: Yes, ma'am.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So what was your first job? Where did you work before you even got into the legal field?

MS. BURROWS: I started out in customer service at a grocery store. I was a cashier, bagger, and self-checkout attendant at Winn-Dixie and it was a fantastic first job. And I can say that only because it gave me experience in working with different types of people. It gave me experience working with customers who maybe weren't necessarily happy with the answer that I was giving them, but I was able to learn different ways of dealing, interacting, and connecting with people from different walks of life with different personalities. And it was a really good –

JUDGE LATIMORE: And you can apply all of that to what you're doing right now.

MS. BURROWS: -- foundation. Absolutely. Absolutely. And I hope that someday my children have a similar first type of job because it's really served me well in my future jobs.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What did you want to become when you grew up?

MS. BURROWS: I, from the time I was a teenager probably around 13 or 14 years old I decided that I wanted to go into political journalism. And I took a journalism class at Circle Christian School here in Orlando when I was in high school in my junior and senior year. I was on the writing staff and I really enjoyed it. I never once changed my major in college. I majored in journalism, minored in political science. And it was about a month before I graduated from UCF that I realized maybe the plan that I have for my life wasn't what I wanted after all. And that was a little bit nerve racking because here I was a month from graduating. I had all of these

plans and all of a sudden I wasn't so sure what I wanted but God opened a lot of really amazing doors for me. I started working in the clerk's office two days after I graduated from UCF, and that's how I got to start working in the courtroom.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, you know, you aren't the only one who didn't know what they were going to do when they graduated from college. Believe me, you're not – you weren't alone.

MS. BURROWS: Yes, ma'am.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And so you enjoy watching cooking shows, don't you?

MS. BURROWS: Oh, yes, ma'am.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. BURROWS: That is an activity that my family and I enjoy just about every evening after we get home from school and from work, generally as we're eating dinner. And then –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you cook? You watch the shows. Are you cooking?

MS. BURROWS: Here's the funny thing. As much as I love watching the Food Network, I can barely boil water.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh –

MS. BURROWS: My husband is a fantastic cook. He can grill meat. He can smoke meat. He can bake. He can cook in the kitchen. I cannot. So – but I appreciate those who do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, yes. You don't need to if you have somebody in the house who does all of that.

MS. BURROWS: Yes, ma'am. I am very, very blessed and very fortunate that my husband feeds me so well.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, that sounds really good. And I really enjoyed speaking with you today.

MS. BURROWS: Thank you, ma'am.

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

MS. BURROWS: Thank you. Have a wonderful day. I appreciate the opportunity. Thank you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You too.

(Music)