

9TH UNPLUGGED

SYDNI REESE

COURT INTERPRETING COORDINATOR

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

MS. REASE: Hi, I'm Sydni Rease.

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

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: You have me smiling already. All right, so with that before we get more unplugged, we've already kind of started before we started recording. Let's have you share with the audience your job, your department and how long you've been working here with us.

MS. REASE: Okay. I am in the court interpreting department. I am the interpreter coordinator so every time like Your Honor needs an interpreter for any type of language, Spanish, Creole, Portuguese, Arabic and many other languages that many don't hear about, like we just had a Q'eqchi trial and you know a Mam trial so I'm the one that coordinates the interpreters. I get them set up to go to court. I get their paperwork done, invoicing and contracts of that sort. And I am going on 11 years being here.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nice.

MS. REASE: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Great having you here.

MS. REASE: Thank you so much. I appreciate it. It's an honor.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So we're going to get unplugged.

MS. REASE: Okay.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. Are you ready?

MS. REASE: I'm ready. Yes, ma'am.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So with that, tell me, what are some of your favorite hobbies?

MS. REASE: I love to kayak. Love skating.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What kind of skating?

MS. REASE: Roller skating.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Roller skating.

MS. REASE: I cannot do the ice skating. The balance isn't there like it used to be when I was younger. But roller skating, love it, it's something that we do every Saturday and I'm getting my little one into it. He loves skating and he's the reason why I fall. I don't fall on my own, but you know –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, right.

MS. REASE: -- when you have a one-year-old –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, exactly.

MS. REASE: You know, I got to you know shift the blame somewhere.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go.

MS. REASE: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So are you roller blading also?

MS. REASE: No.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you do that as well?

MS. REASE: No. I used to when I was younger but now it's like I need that full support of the four wheels.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

MS. REASE: So no roller blading for me.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Are you doing the dancing and the –

MS. REASE: Oh, yes, the shuffle skate, yes and the backward skate, yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, that's special. Yes.

MS. REASE: Oh, I don't know about that but you know I try. I just try.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's wonderful. And that's a great family time.

MS. REASE: Oh, yes, absolutely.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You have any special hobbies that bring in more creativity?

MS. REASE: I try to do my best with the creative juices and try to, I guess the closest thing is to go to like those little like pottery like barns or like the little art gallery type things where you can paint your own thing. Mine come out terrible every time but I try. But as far as creative and like I wish I knew how to do like interior design and things like that, the things that people can do when it comes to that. I just you know, I just wasn't blessed with that gene.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's right. That's just not our calling.

MS. REASE: But it's okay.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's not our calling.

MS. REASE: It's okay. It's all right.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right. But I understand and I heard it from a little birdy that you can sing.

MS. REASE: Now, what birdy is that?

JUDGE LATIMORE: I don't know but that birdy had a beautiful voice and told me you had a beautiful voice as well. And so we are in the midst of celebrating the end of the year, the new year that's coming, the holidays, all of those things.

MS. REASE: Absolutely.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And it would just be amazing to hear like an angelic voice come across unplugged all of a sudden.

MS. REASE: Yes. Where is it going to come from? Where is it coming from? Is it about to walk in this room?

JUDGE LATIMORE: It's sitting across from me. Okay, since we have to go straightforward, could you just share with us your voice for a second? It could be very short.

MS. REASE: Sure. Okay, it will be very short. Okay, I'll just do what I did when we came in.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How about that.

MS. REASE: Okay, yes, ma'am. (Singing) Oh Come All Ye Faithful, Joyful and Triumphant, Oh Come Ye, Oh Come Ye to Bethlehem.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I think we should just wrap it up right now. How about that. So how long have you been singing?

MS. REASE: I guess since I was a child in the church choir.

JUDGE LATMORE: Okay.

MS. REASE: That's where I started and that's where I still am. I actually am the praising worship leader at my church.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. REASE: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, I was about to ask, do you lead. Of course you do.

MS. REASE: Oh, yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's your favorite song?

MS. REASE: Oh, gosh.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you have one?

MS. REASE: I really don't. I have so many. There are so many but I love worship though. One of my favorite artists is William McDowell. Love him. He has a song Falling On My Knees. I play that on repeat, yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, karaoke ever?

MS. REASE: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

MS. REASE: Yes, I do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So you do take it outside –

MS. REASE: Well, no, not out – no, not so much outside. Every year my family has a tradition. We do karaoke and lip-synch.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. REASE: So that's where I – like in front of people I don't know, I couldn't do that. But in front of family it's fine. So you know you're special Your Honor for me to sing like that in front of everybody so –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, thank you. I appreciate you –

MS. REASE: Of course.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Thank you so much. So I understand that you were the first graduate from a university in your family, correct?

MS. REASE: Yes, ma'am. Yes, ma'am.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. But what's really intriguing to me is what type of instructor you want to be.

MS. REASE: Oh, are you talking about the ski diving –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, where does that come from?

MS. REASE: And yet I haven't been ski diving yet –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Let's just add that part.

MS. REASE: Yes. It's you know, it's just a dream and you know we might get there.

You know and it's okay –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Start with the ski diving part.

MS. REASE: Yes, you know I might start you know –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Try that first.

MS. REASE: If I can get there. But you know we all can dream and that's one of my dreams.

JUDGE LATIMORE: When you say if I can get there.

MS. REASE: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Why haven't you gotten there yet?

MS. REASE: Because I don't want to do it by myself and a lot of people are like, I'm not going to do that. So yes, so just trying to get somebody to come with me, you know. And then we'll just take it from there.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I see. No luck from here, no, why jump out of a perfectly good plane.

MS. REASE: A lot of my family, they're afraid of heights so it's like nobody is willing. They're like, I love my life. I don't know why you want to do that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Are you adventurous in other ways?

MS. REASE: I am. I'm up for anything.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Are you?

MS. REASE: Yes, I am. Even though I don't like hiking, but I will hike. Like to just go – I love doings spontaneously. Like just live in the moment. Don't always plan everything.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That is a great approach to life.

MS. REASE: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What is the most adventurous thing you've done so far?

MS. REASE: I want to say one time it was my family, we're like you know what, let's just drive to Georgia and just get up and drive, and just go. Now, you know I'm not a woodsy person and you know they like to do the camping stuff. And I can't do that. Like I haven't – when it comes to adventurous, I have my limits.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

MS. REASE: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Adventure with air conditioning.

MS. REASE: Exactly. I'm so spoiled. I should live on the land and see what it's like but you know, like you said, that's not my calling right now. I'm not called to that right now.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. So you said that you were over all of the interpreters, I mean all of the – gathering all of the interpreters for the courts, right?

MS. REASE: Yes, ma'am. Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you speak any languages other than English?

MS. REASE: No, I try to speak Spanish but it don't always work. I tell people, (speaking Spanish).

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, that was enough.

MS. REASE: So –

JUDGE LATIMORE: That explains everything they need to know, right?

MS. REASE: There we go. Yes, because you know this is the trick when it comes to Spanish. Just say the first two words right, mumble the rest and say the last two words right and then you're good to go. You'll put it together, right.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right.

MS. REASE: You'll put it together. I try so hard but –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, they will walk away. They will absolutely walk away from you and they'll know not to – I understand also though you would like to learn sign language.

MS. REASE: Oh, yes, absolutely. My brother actually – I have an 18-year-old brother who is actually at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville and that's his major, to be a sign language interpreter. And he teaches – I do have a son, his name is Nehemiah, he's beautiful, he's eight years old and he actually, when they're together, he teaches him what he knows.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Great.

MS. REASE: Yes, always, because if I would have known Your Honor, if there was money in interpreting, I definitely would have stuck with Spanish and sign language because when I was in the sixth or seventh grade, my teacher, my Spanish teacher took my mom aside and said, please keep her in Spanish. She can be fluent by the time she's 18. But you know I'm

in school, I just want a grade and get out of there so I didn't pursue it until I came here and I'm like, there's money in this. So, yes, Your Honor.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, those decisions we made when we were young.

MS. REASE: I know.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So what do you have that you really would desire to do – say a bucket list. You're too young for a bucket list, but what is something that you'd like to do in the future?

MS. REASE: Oh, to travel.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Where do you want to go?

MS. REASE: I feel like I haven't been anywhere. I would love to go to Hawaii. I would love to go to Spain, Italy, France, all of those good, exotic places. Switzerland, Germany, all of those places. Canada, just to travel because my sister – I have a younger sister. She is a little social butterfly. Every three months, she's off somewhere. Like she just came from Canada. Then she – she's actually in New York right now.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Have to learn how to jump on those planes, pack that luggage –

MS. REASE: I know, exactly.

JUDGE LATIMORE: -- and just do it.

MS. REASE: But me and planes, we need to have a conversation.

JUDGE LATIMORE: This is the one who wants to teach people how to sky dive.

MS. REASE: I know. But the thing is, I'm only in the – when it comes to sky diving, I'm only in a plane for a temporary time.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. REASE: Now, we're not talking about being in a plane for two, three hours or more. But you know me and these planes need to have a conversation and let them know like you know –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, let me know how that conversation goes when you come back for our next unplugged. Thank you so much for being here today.

MS. REASE: Oh, you are so welcome Your Honor. Thank you for having me. I appreciate it.

(Music)