

9TH UNPLUGGED

AMELIA ULMER

TRIAL COURT STAFF ATTORNEY

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore

MS. ULMER: And I'm Amelia Ulmer.

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

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, welcome and before we get unplugged from work and dive into your life outside of the courts, tell us your title and which department you work in.

MS. ULMER: I am Amelia Ulmer, I'm a staff attorney in the criminal division.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And what are your assignments? What do you do as a staff attorney?

MS. ULMER: I work on a lot of – well, not that many so far, I'm pretty new. But post-conviction motions, helping out the judges in anything they need me for.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, welcome. We are glad to have you here with us. So let's just go ahead and get unplugged already since you're new to our circuit. So where did you go to school?

MS. ULMER: I went to undergraduate at the University of Florida.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Go Gators.

MS. ULMER: And I went to law school at Florida State University.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What happened? What happened there? Okay, so you live a little conflicted life sometimes, don't you?

MS. ULMER: I do, absolutely. It's hard to know what team to route so I just, you know, route for both of them, see what happens.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go. There you go. Whichever one wins, you're a winner, right?

MS. ULMER: That's right.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Where were you born and raised?

MS. ULMER: I am from Jacksonville, Florida.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. That's where my mom was from, so I feel an attachment to you already.

MS. ULMER: Aw.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So you're a native Floridian?

MS. ULMER: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And have you lived outside of the state of Florida before?

MS. ULMER: I haven't. Born in Florida and I'll you know probably stay here forever.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Is there anywhere you'd like to visit, live for a long term?

MS. ULMER: Oh, gosh

JUDGE LATIMORE: Any place you thought about.

MS. ULMER: If I had to live somewhere else, I would probably want to live in Atlanta and if I could visit anywhere, I'd like to go to Japan.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, now why Atlanta?

MS. ULMER: It just seems honestly like a nice big city, but still got that southern charm, that south experience.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, and not too cold. Well, it can get very cold there but not as cold as going up north, right?

MS. ULMER: Not too cold, right, I'm a real Floridian.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Me too.

MS. ULMER: Below 60 degrees.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I don't want anything real cold, yep. Absolutely, and so you mentioned Japan. So why Japan?

MS. ULMER: It honestly just seems like a really beautiful place. I have a friend who's from Japan so I would like to go with him and sort of, maybe visit his family and just see what the island has to offer.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, that would be wonderful. Now, one interesting fact about you is that you are a black belt in Taekwondo.

MS. ULMER: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wow, now that is something that I guess just meeting you, you would never I guess imagine. So how did you get into Taekwondo?

MS. ULMER: Yeah, thanks. I like take up for the silent but deadly. I started when I was a kid. My friend had a birthday party there and I got into it in like the fifth grade and I've been doing it ever since.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And are you still actively practicing or doing Taekwondo on the weekends?

MS. ULMER: Yeah, I haven't practiced in a while you know so maybe no one should count on me for protection.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I still wouldn't mess with you, I'm telling you. Muscle memory is real, okay.

MS. ULMER: Yeah, for sure.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And another interesting thing I saw about you is something with an alligator. Tell us about that.

MS. ULMER: Yeah, so I studied wildlife ecology in undergrad and then figured you know law school makes sense after that. But we had a class that sort of taught us like how to catch animals 101, so we had a field trip and we went camping for class credit. And they put us on an airboat with a guy from the Fish and Wildlife Commission in the middle of the night. And we sort of had to lean over the side and when he drove past the alligator, we had to dive into the water and catch it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Dive into the water and catch it.

MS. ULMER: Yeah, hang over the boat, and just sort of put your hands in the water and grab him by the back of the neck.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. And so how large was this alligator you grabbed by the back of the neck?

MS. ULMER: You know, since no one is fact checking, let's say it was 12 feet. No, it was about –

JUDGE LATIMORE: It's like a fish that got away, right.

MS. ULMER: Yeah. It was probably about two or three feet long.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, wow.

MS. ULMER: Just a little guy.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's interesting. Well, that is something that is very unique. I've never met an alligator catcher before.

MS. ULMER: I can't imagine you would have.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Any other adventures, things you did or would like to do? Any other animals that you would like to catch?

MS. ULMER: Gosh, honestly, I think my animal catching days might be over but I really love getting out in nature so I would love to see sort of what the Central Florida area has to offer. Maybe see some more alligators probably.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, so what do you do in order to get out in nature? Do you do anything on the weekends or while you're off from work to get out there?

MS. ULMER: Yeah, I really like just you know taking casual hikes. I love kayaking so I'm looking forward to exploring some of the like springs and fresh water bodies around here, maybe get into the ocean some.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nice. That sounds good. Let me ask you, is there something that you would never do again?

MS. ULMER: Oh, gosh. Honestly, well, I hope I don't ever have to go to law school again. No –

JUDGE LATIMORE: You don't. If you're good.

MS. ULMER: No, honestly, no regrets.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You're good. You don't have to go back. You got through one time. They're not going to make you go back.

MS. ULMER: Yeah, I would like to hopefully never take the bar again. Fingers crossed.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I can understand that. Do you have a dream car that you would like?

MS. ULMER: Oh, gosh, this is probably sad but I feel like I'm in my dream car right now. Subaru Outback, blue and tan interior, but if I ever have money, I would love a Ferrari. That would be nice.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nice.

MS. ULMER: Who wouldn't?

JUDGE LATIMORE: So if you hit the lotto, other than getting a Ferrari, what would you do with that money? If you won like the big, like the big lotto.

MS. ULMER: Yeah, all right, big lotto. First thing, paying off the student loans. Definitely, you know –

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's the responsible thing to do.

MS. ULMER: Take care of my parents, of course. Make sure they're set for the rest of their days and then I don't know, maybe it's boring, but I'd love to donate to you know a bunch of charities for the environment.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, that's not boring.

MS. ULMER: Or for like LGBT rights.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, sounds good. And what would you do for you?

MS. ULMER: What would I do for me? I mean, I guess I would take care of myself too. Maybe move into a house with a yard. I'd love to have a garden and a dog. May be boring but that's kind of what I want.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Not boring at all. Sounds good. And what makes you feel inspired? I mean, what makes you become your best self?

MS. ULMER: Yeah, I'm really inspired by just all of the people trying to do good out there. Advocacy and that sort of thing. Really inspired by everyone fighting for you know the rights of the environment like climate change, things like that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. And have you been active in any of that type of activity? Do you do any advocating or participating in those activities?

MS. ULMER: I do a little bit, just sort of in my circle. And I'm looking to, you know, now that I don't have law school to worry about anymore, looking to get a lot more involved with things like that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Is there anything you regret not doing so far?

MS. ULMER: Gosh, I you know I don't think so. Nothing I regret not doing so far but hopefully lots of things I'll get to do in the future.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Absolutely, and you're very young and so bucket list is really something that we shouldn't be talking about but do you happen to have something that you know you're going to have on your bucket list if you don't it any time soon?

MS. ULMER: Gosh, I don't know. I would love to – I don't know. Lots more travel. I would love to you know have a dog one day. That's kind of – kind of where I'm at right now.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What kind of dog would you like?

MS. ULMER: Oh, my gosh, okay I want like a Basset Hound, maybe like mixed with something from the pound. I just want something like long and short and really messed up looking.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Long and short. That describes it. All right. If you could have a super hero power, what would it be?

MS. ULMER: Okay, I think I would want to maybe I don't know, like control the elements. Like that would be fun.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nice.

MS. ULMER: Yeah, sort of an Avatar vibe.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So like when you're hot you can make it cooler or –

MS. ULMER: Yeah, that would be great. Like you know, wind and fire, that kind of thing.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All of that. Do you have any shows that you like, the X-Men or any type of shows that you watch that you really enjoy?

MS. ULMER: Oh, yeah, I've been to all of like super hero movies, Marvel, that kind of thing.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You have. Do you have a favorite super hero?

MS. ULMER: Um, I think maybe it's Hawkeye which is maybe not like the coolest but I like him. He's just a dude with an arrow.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, so tell me more about Hawkeye. I'm not sure I know about him.

MS. ULMER: Yeah, he's one of the Marvel characters. He's in the Avengers. He's got a bow and arrow, no super powers.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, just really good at archery.

MS. ULMER: Just really good at his deal.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's right. There's nothing wrong with you being good at your skills.

MS. ULMER: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, thank you so much for spending time with me to be unplugged.

MS. ULMER: Of course. Thank you so much. It was great to be here.

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