

9TH UNPLUGGED

HONORABLE AMY CARTER

COUNTY COURT JUDGE

JANARY 26, 2023

HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Alicia Latimore.

JUDGE CARTER: Hi, I'm Judge Amy Carter.

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

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: So welcome to 9th Unplugged. Would you please tell our audience what your assignment is and how long you've been a judge?

JUDGE CARTER: Sure, I was elected in 2018. I took the bench in 2019. And right now I am assigned to a county civil division.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. And what type of cases do you handle?

JUDGE CARTER: Everything.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Everything.

JUDGE CARTER: We handle lots of different types of cases. I just did a speech for the new lawyers that came in for the Orange County Bar and when I was preparing for that I was thinking it would be easier to write down which types of cases county civil judges don't handle than what we do. But we do eviction. We do DAT cases. We do first party property cases. We do PIP cases which is personal injury protection. We do replevin which is you know – I mean, we do everything.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You do everything.

JUDGE CARTER: We do everything.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I agree with you. Okay, you absolutely do everything. So let's go ahead and get unplugged. And tell us what do you do after you've done everything at work. What do you do to relax and become unplugged?

JUDGE CARTER: Sure. Well, I love to run.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you run marathons?

JUDGE CARTER: I have.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh really.

JUDGE CARTER: Um-hum.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, have you done the Boston marathon?

JUDGE CARTER: No, I've never qualified for Boston. Boston is a qualifier so I've never qualified for Boston. But I've done the Disney marathon.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE CARTER: And I've done Chicago twice.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, wow.

JUDGE CARTER: Which was a great experience.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And how far is that? How long is that?

JUDGE CARTER: 26.2.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, wow. Now, have you been a runner all your life?

JUDGE CARTER: I started actually in law school.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, okay.

JUDGE CARTER: Yeah, just kind of a stress reliever in law school and I just liked the feeling of being able to set a goal, compete against myself and just kind of achieve it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you plan to do any in the future?

JUDGE CARTER: I do not. I say that I'm affectionately retired from the marathon distance.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE CARTER: But I still like to run. I like to do 10Ks and half marathons but the marathon is a really big-time commitment and I just don't really have the time to do that right now.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Any other sports that you do?

JUDGE CARTER: I love to play golf.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, are you good? That's not a fair question for most people, you know what I mean. That's not fair at all.

JUDGE CARTER: I'm not terrible. I'm not terrible, but I do really enjoy to play.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE CARTER: And I try to play as often as I can.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. That sounds good. So my point that I wanted to jump in to with you is that you love donuts.

JUDGE CARTER: I do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You do.

JUDGE CARTER: Oh, my God, I do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Any particular kind of donut?

JUDGE CARTER: Yeah, so I'm kind of a donut snob.

JUDGE LATIMORE: A donut snob.

JUDGE CARTER: I am. So I'm from up north and the donuts are very different up north.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How is that?

JUDGE CARTER: They are more of a cake style donut. They're not the fluffy kind of thin donut that you find down here in the south.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, here we go again with the south and okay, go ahead, how are your donuts.

JUDGE CARTER: I will eat any type, don't get me wrong. I will not discriminate against a donut or turn one down.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE CARTER: But yes, it's basically a cinnamon roll with white frosting and then peanuts on top, that's my favorite.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, now what do they call that donut?

JUDGE CARTER: It's just a cinnamon roll, yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: It's not a donut. It's a cinnamon roll.

JUDGE CARTER: No, I mean, it's called a donut but it's just basically like a cake roll with white frosting and nuts. It's my favorite.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. Well, we'll have to keep that in mind and make sure – I need to experience that one of these days. So what do you do to focus on health and wellness in your life? Anything in particular other than running a marathon? Any other activities?

JUDGE CARTER: Sure. I just really try to take time every day to do something to center myself, I kind of connect with myself. I usually try to do morning meditation, probably ten minutes, sometimes five, just to take a moment to just kind of center like I said. If I can't get a workout in, which I do try to do most days, I try to go for a walk in the evening like after dinner and everyone is kind of settled, I'll just take 20, 30 minutes and just go out for a walk. Download a podcast or some music and just kind of go for a walk and debrief from the day.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You like music.

JUDGE CARTER: I do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What type of music do you like?

JUDGE CARTER: I generally like my 90s pop and hip hop is my favorite. I'm a 90s kid so – but that's generally what I like to listen to.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Any favorite artists that you would list?

JUDGE CARTER: Well, in the hip hop genre, I would say like Biggie Smalls.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE CARTER: Tupac.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, so who do you think is the best, Biggie to Tupac?

JUDGE CARTER: Oh, geez. Judge Latimore --

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, I know. I know, that's not fair.

JUDGE CARTER: Why are you doing that to me?

JUDGE LATIMORE: Because we don't have much time, do we. I know.

JUDGE CARTER: They're so different.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, they are.

JUDGE CARTER: I don't think I could choose one.

JUDGE LATIMORE: But they both are so great.

JUDGE CARTER: But definitely amazing artists, both.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes. Okay, I'll leave it at that.

JUDGE CARTER: Okay.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I don't want you not to come back again. Okay, so let's do it that way. All right, so how would you like to be remembered?

JUDGE CARTER: Oh, wow. Gosh, I guess I would like to be remembered as someone who was kind.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You got that down.

JUDGE CARTER: Oh, well, thank you very much. I appreciate that. Someone who was fun. Someone who liked to have a good time. Hardworking.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What do you and your family do when you take the whole family out to have a fun time. What do you all do mostly?

JUDGE CARTER: Sometimes we go golfing.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE CARTER: So everyone plays in our family.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Really.

JUDGE CARTER: My son is six so he's kind of just coming into it and he did tell us that God made him for fast sports.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE CARTER: So he doesn't really like golf. But he said he'll try.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I love it.

JUDGE CARTER: So we do that. We'll go to the beach. We like to go for hikes. Go to the park.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE CARTER: That kind of stuff.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. And who inspires you the most?

JUDGE CARTER: That's a good question. I take I guess inspiration from a lot of people, but I would say my family really inspires me a lot. My mom is a really big inspiration to me. She's always really put all of us first.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

JUDGE CARTER: And has really invested a lot in all of us to make sure that we are happy and that we can do the things that we want to do. My husband is such a great example of someone who works hard, sets goals and achieves them, but also is able to step back and support me in the things that I want to do. He's a real partner.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, I understand you've been with your husband since –

JUDGE CARTER: I was a senior in high school.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wow. That's wonderful.

JUDGE CARTER: Yeah, Jerry was my neighbor.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, really.

JUDGE CARTER: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And so where were you all raised, born and raised.

JUDGE CARTER: We were raised in Lansing, Michigan.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE CARTER: And we were neighbors. We were just friends, you know, we hung out in the same friend group and then he was a year ahead of me in school And I was still a senior and we got together.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE CARTER: And yeah, that's basically it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What do you miss about Lansing?

JUDGE CARTER: I miss my family.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah.

JUDGE CARTER: I really do. My mom is one of seven and I've got tons of cousins who are essentially like first cousins – or brothers and sisters to me, my first cousins and so I'm just very close with all of them. And so that part is a little bit difficult, but we go back at least once a year. And in fact, we're going next weekend for Labor Day.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, good. Good, good, good. Now I understand you keep in touch with your girlfriends. You have four best girlfriends, is that correct?

JUDGE CARTER: I do. So all the girls that I grew up with, in that we all went through high school together with, I speak to at least once a week. We text, some of them daily. Just kind of depends on what comes up. But one of them, Mandy, I met her in first grade.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh wow.

JUDGE CARTER: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh wow, that's amazing that you all keep in touch.

JUDGE CARTER: Yeah, and we still talk all the time.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So which girlfriend are you because you know there's always that girlfriend, right. So there's the one that keeps everybody in check. There's one who's the planner. There's the one who's the party girl. I mean, I know you're not that one. But which girlfriend are you?

JUDGE CARTER: Yeah, I think I would be kind of the glue, right. I'm kind of the one that keeps everyone connected because we all have our different types of friendships. But I think that I'm really good friends with everyone still. Like, you know, I still talk to everyone quite frequently. Not everyone does. So I think I kind of always pull us back together.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, you're the center.

JUDGE CARTER: Yes, I think so.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes. Yes, that's wonderful. So with that, is there a particular place you'd like to visit if you were able to you know, all fully paid and have the type of vacation or trip you want, where would you go?

JUDGE CARTER: Yes, ma'am, I want to go to Ireland.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nice. Have you ever been?

JUDGE CARTER: No.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Why is it that you want to go there?

JUDGE CARTER: Because I want, the history one and two, to play golf.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wonderful. Well, thank you so much for joining me on unplugged.

JUDGE CARTER: You're so welcome.

(Music)