

9TH UNPLUGGED

JAVIER RODRIGUEZ

JUDICIAL ASSISTANT

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Javier Rodriguez.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And you are listening to 9th Unplugged.

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: Welcome, Javier, we're glad to have you on 9th Unplugged. Before we get started, please share with us the job assignment that you have and how long you've been with the Ninth Circuit.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay, I work for, in county civil, judicial assistant and I've been a judicial assistant for two years.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And who is your judge, if you'll share.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Judge Brian Sandor.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, he is wonderful.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, he is.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, well thank you for being here. So what's the best thing about being a judicial assistant?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Oh, the best thing is probably, if you're interested in the legal profession, it's seeing behind the scenes, the backstage.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes. Yes.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's probably the best thing.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, don't tell everything. Okay.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: No, no, no, just a little.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All the good stuff, don't tell all the good stuff.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: No, no. All the good stuff. But that is probably one of the best things, seeing behind the scenes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, you get to learn a lot, don't you?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Definitely.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, well, let's get unplugged and let's stop talking about behind the scenes. Let's talk about outside the building. What do you do to be unplugged when you're away from work?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Well, normally, lately I've been going to the beach a lot.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You like the beach.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I do like the beach.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's your favorite beach?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Probably Clearwater. The closest and favorite.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: But I do like South Beach or Fort Lauderdale.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You like South Beach.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Well, South Beach, not the beach itself but –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Fort Lauderdale, the beach.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I was going to ask you, is there more to the beach or South Beach activities. And when you're at the beach do you participate in any water activities?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I do. I do. I like jet skiing. I like – and snorkeling. That is two things that I enjoy.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Have you had a chance to snorkel somewhere outside of Florida?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Well, Puerto Rico.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. Puerto Rico.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, nice.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: And a couple of you know surrounding islands.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Because you're from Puerto Rico, correct?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I am from Puerto Rico.

JUDGE LATIMORE: When is the last time you went to visit Puerto Rico?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: 2019. So right before the pandemic.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. Yes.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You have family still there?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: A lot. Most of my family actually is still there. All of my cousins,
aunts –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Lots of fun and food when you go home.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, oh definitely.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Aren't you missing that?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Oh, yes, I do. Yes, I do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, any plans to go back soon?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hopefully this Christmas maybe.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I'm sorry, I have some little plans that I'm cooking up.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, I'm wishing that you get to do that.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, I understand that you used to play the violin.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I did. I did.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. Are you still playing?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: No, no. I miss it, but no, I don't play anymore, when I was younger.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How did you learn to play the violin?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Well, I had to choose when I moved from Puerto Rico over here, in the school they asked me to choose, if I wanted to be in chorus, in orchestra or band and I chose the violin.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I was in the orchestra and was there playing for like four years.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's good.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I wished I learned how to play an instrument.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I know. I missed it for years after that, yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you have any other crafts or any other hobbies that you like to do?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Other than travelling, I like to travel.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Where do you like to travel to?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Well, I like to travel generally somewhere new. So --

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. Where is the last place you traveled to that was new?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: The last place that I traveled that was new was, let me think, it was Vegas actually.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Vegas.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. That was it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, I won't ask you what happened in Vegas because it stays there, right.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Right, right, it does.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you travel internationally?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I do. I do, yes. In Europe I've been in Spain and Italy and France, so I've been –

JUDGE LATIMORE: You travel a lot.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I do. I do. I like it, yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, that's good.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Different cultures, different food, different people.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, do you have a favorite?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Well – well, I have favorite things from each place.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Tell us. Share with us.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: So you know, depending, some you know, Italian food is exceptional so you know that recommendation –

JUDGE LATIMORE: I'll take it.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Anything with food, I'll be there.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Exactly. And I loved the scenery in Paris, you know, a lot of water and obviously like everywhere you see the Eiffel Tower, and that's the iconic you know that you get taken aback just by that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: You know things like that, depending on where I go.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, what's the most adventurous thing you've done in your life?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Adventurous thing would probably be going to Europe on an exchange – student exchange.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, that was during student exchange.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Yes, so I spent about a month and a half in Spain alone.

JUDGE LATIMORE: By yourself.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: By myself – with other – with other you know students.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How old were you?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: But yes, I was 25.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Did you live with a family there?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: No, no, I lived in like – in a center where all the students were staying at, in the center of like an old, old town in Spain. So you know, brick roads and things like that that just felt very, very nice.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes. So did you think that you would ever end up working in the legal field? Was that your plan?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, I did start to get interested and I've always – there's attorneys in my family that –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Your grandfather had a law firm, correct?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: He did. He did have a law firm in Puerto Rico, still going with my aunt and uncle. But yes, yeah, so that's always – that always interested me.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So law school in the future?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Who knows.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Who knows. Yes, that's always --

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Never say never.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Keep that a secret. If you were able to figure out how best to change this world, what would you suggest?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Wow, that is a – that is a deep question.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Thank you. Thank you. I try to keep this job.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: That is a deep question. I would probably need a little bit more time to get the correct answer for you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's fine. Let's talk about something more fun about unplugged. You like concerts.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I do like concerts.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, tell us about your favorite performers.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Oh, my favorite performers. Well, Rihanna actually is one of my favorite performers so I was very excited –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, did you feel – let me ask, it might be a little controversial. How did you feel about that Super Bowl – look at it –

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I'm all for it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: He's shaking –

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I'm all for it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, your head was going no and then he says yes.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: It's a no but it's a yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Tell me –

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I was all for it. I liked it, yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You liked it.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah, I mean it's so long for her not being on stage. I don't know what people were expecting, you know from a beautiful, pregnant woman.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's your favorite Rihanna song?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Maybe, We Found Love.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's a beautiful song, yeah.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, so what's – have you been to her concert?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have, actually.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Does she – I haven't been to her concert other than seeing it at the Super Bowl. Great concert?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Great concert. Great concert.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's the best concert you've ever been to?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Probably – she was included because it was a festival and it was Rock in Rio.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: And it was in Madrid, Spain so it was hours of music, live music and I was able to see David Guetta, Shakira, Rihanna, all in – all concerts of each so it was hours that I was standing there listening to great music.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wow, that sounds so excellent. I need to travel with you. You're just having all kinds of the fun. Now I understand you also like Italian. I saw Caribbean food.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You also like Italian food. You've spoken about that.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you cook?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I cook unwillingly. I thank God for the air fryer.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, I just purchased one of those so I'm new to air fryer life.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Oh, it's going to be your best friend.

JUDGE LATIMORE: It is.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I actually love to cook so –

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: -- it's been sitting there and I'm trying to figure out what to throw inside.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: But everything tastes very good and it's easy so you know you can just set it and go take a shower, go do your thing, you know you don't have to be slaving over the stove, you know.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Can you put any Latin cuisine in the air fryer?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Oh, yes, I do Tostones, I do – I do a lot of things, Empanadas in the air fryer.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, okay. You're getting your money's worth out of that air fryer, aren't you?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I sure am.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, that sounds wonderful. So I thank you so much. I appreciate you sharing this time with me and being unplugged.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Of course. Aw, thank you.

(Music)