

9<sup>TH</sup> UNPLUGGED

JONATHAN DIAMANI RIVERA

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM SPECIALIST

OCTOBER 3, 2022

HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

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

MR. DIAMANI: Hi, I'm Jonathan Diamani.

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

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: So before we get unplugged from work and dive into the life that you experience outside of work, can you tell me your assignment in the court as well as your duties.

MR. DIAMANI: Yes. I'm currently a DV program specialist. I manage participant cases that are being ordered by the judge such as batterers' intervention, mental health evaluation and substance abuse. I made videos about things that I wanted to do in the future.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And how long have you been doing that?

MR. DIAMANI: Just a year in this position.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Enjoying it.

MR. DIAMANI: It is awesome.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. Good. We are glad to have you. So let's get unplugged, okay.

MR. DIAMANI: Yes, ma'am.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Putting work aside. Let me know what you do, the thing that you do that's most fun when you leave work.

MR. DIAMANI: I play softball and go to the gym.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nice. So are you good at softball? I always ask people that question. Are you good?

MR. DIAMANI: I'm going to say yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. DIAMANI: I think I'm okay.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How long have you been playing softball?

MR. DIAMANI: About four years, but I played baseball for eight years when I was younger.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. Are you a member of a team like an A team, or –

MR. DIAMANI: Yes, I currently play in a league in Altamonte and then I travel like around Florida.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's your position?

MR. DIAMANI: I play the outfield.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right, well, wonderful. Do you have uniforms and a team name, and all that?

MR. DIAMANI: Yes, we do. The team name is called Good Times.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Good Times. Who came up with that name? That's great. All right. Well, that sounds fun. So when you – where are you travelling, all around Florida to do that?

MR. DIAMANI: Yes, depending where the tournament is, we could go to Viera, we go to Titusville, De Leon Springs, anywhere, anywhere in Florida, or even outside of Florida but most of the time it's here in Florida.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Any other sports that you do?

MR. DIAMANI: At the moment, no.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. You can swim though, apparently.

MR. DIAMANI: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Because I understand you used to be a lifeguard at Aquatica?

MR. DIAMANI: Yes, ma'am.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So I'm glad that you know how to swim being a lifeguard. So how was that experience?

MR. DIAMANI: It was nerve racking at the beginning because you had to like act, you cannot hesitate, but you also have to do it safely because you can't hurt other people. But it was fun. After a while, it's like second nature.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, just to share just a fun fact, I used to be a lifeguard when I was younger.

MR. DIAMANI: Nice.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And so it's always interesting how young kids just jump in the water and they don't know how to swim and they're fearless. Did you have that experience?

MR. DIAMANI: Yes. And all the time their parents, oh, they know how to swim when they're like clearly almost drowning.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right, yeah, they're going under, ma'am, let me help that child now, okay, because apparently you have more confidence than we do. Okay. All right, and how long did you do that?

MR. DIAMANI: I did it for like three years. I started in Aquatica, then I went to this hotel called Westgate, that they opened up a water park called Ship Wreck Island and then I worked – I actually was part of the opening team for Volcano Bay.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, okay.

MR. DIAMANI: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, I would suspect because I was at a small pool, there's a lot of people you're watching at Aquatica and Volcano Bay.

MR. DIAMANI: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How many – was that nerve racking at times?

MR. DIAMANI: At the beginning when like I would say the first few months, yes, because you're also being watched. But later on it was just like, I don't know, riding a bike.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, second nature to you.

MR. DIAMANI: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wonderful. That is great. Now I understand that you have a few siblings.

MR. DIAMANI: I do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How many siblings do you have?

MR. DIAMANI: I would say plus eight.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Plus eight.

MR. DIAMANI: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, but you said that you're an only child.

MR. DIAMANI: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How does that work?

MR. DIAMANI: So they're all from my father's side.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right. And do you have get-togethers or family reunions where you bring everybody together?

MR. DIAMANI: I, technically we found out about each other when he passed because not even our mothers knew that there was more kids.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, that's a surprise.

MR. DIAMANI: Yes, a big one.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right, have you been able to develop relationship with –

MR. DIAMANI: Yes, I have.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Good. Good. All right, well, that's a blessing actually, to know that you have other relatives out there.

MR. DIAMANI: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, so tell me this, what is it that you have not done in your life that you really look forward to experiencing in the future?

MR. DIAMANI: Like a hobby or like goals?

JUDGE LATIMORE: Whatever you like.

MR. DIAMANI: Oh, that's a good question.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Good question.

MR. DIAMANI: Maybe jump out of airplanes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Interesting. I could introduce you to someone who happens to work in this building that you could do that with, okay. Listen to the podcast; you'll find out, okay.

MR. DIAMANI: Okay, will do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And what is something that you'd never do again?

MR. DIAMANI: Something that I would never do again.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Difficult question.

MR. DIAMANI: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So everything you've done, you'll do that all over again one more time.

MR. DIAMANI: Probably, I would have to think more about it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Really think about it.

MR. DIAMANI: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, well, that's fair. You indicated in your responses to some of the questions that we provided is that you like to hang around people who are older than you. Why is that?

MR. DIAMANI: Since I was little, that's what I did. When I was younger, like I never like played with people my age. I always used to – like you go to like a birthday party, I would be sitting in like around older people, so I think since I grew up with that, like all my friends are older than me. I'm always the youngest one of the group.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And do you find that to be a benefit?

MR. DIAMANI: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How?

MR. DIAMANI: Because I don't know, I guess I got to mature faster since they say that guys doesn't mature as fast as girls.

JUDGE LATIMORE: No comment. Okay, and so tell me, what's an old person thing that you do?

MR. DIAMANI: I don't go clubbing.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That is an old person thing, yes. Okay, do you miss it somehow?

MR. DIAMANI: I was never a person going clubbing. Like I been living here for ten years and I think I can count on my hands how many times I went to the club.



JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, that's interesting. So what do you do at night when you're not going clubbing? What are some of the exciting activities that you are involved in?

MR. DIAMANI: I either drink at home or go to a friend's house.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. DIAMANI: And they're older than me so they look out for me too.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's good. All right. So you're safe.

MR. DIAMANI: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And you're smart. All right, well, that's a good thing. What city would you like to live in?

MR. DIAMANI: What city?

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes. If you had a choice, is there a particular city or state, or country that you would like to live in?

MR. DIAMANI: Probably Virginia.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Virginia, why?

MR. DIAMANI: My Godmother is there.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, to be close to her.

MR. DIAMANI: And I visit and I like going to D.C., it's super close.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, where were you born and raised?

MR. DIAMANI: Puerto Rico.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And do you visit Puerto Rico?

MR. DIAMANI: The last time I went, it was last year. I don't really miss it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You don't.

MR. DIAMANI: No.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right, I won't – I'm not going to bite on that one, okay.

MR. DIAMANI: It's just, I don't know, I'm used to living in Florida.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah. Yeah, and so you really prefer this state over the others except you would venture to Virginia.

MR. DIAMANI: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, do you like cold weather?

MR. DIAMANI: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you do any cold weather sports?

MR. DIAMANI: No, I want to do snowboarding.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You do want to try that.

MR. DIAMANI: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You find that to be interesting because...

MR. DIAMANI: I've never done it before and it seems cool.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, what do you do that makes you feel truly alive?

MR. DIAMANI: Always smiling and cracking jokes. I like seeing other people laugh.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You do.

MR. DIAMANI: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Have you ever thought about being a comedian?

MR. DIAMANI: No, I have not.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You haven't thought about that one yet.

MR. DIAMANI: No.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you have a secret talent?

MR. DIAMANI: I don't know, maybe I do and I haven't discovered it yet.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, well, you're young enough to have time to figure it out.

Okay, right. All right, and tell me this, what life hacks have you found to be particularly effective? What is it that you think that has been really effective in helping you to maneuver this thing called life?

MR. DIAMANI: Being myself at all times and around everybody, even my mom so I'm the same way with my friends as I am with my mom.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You're always constant and consistent.

MR. DIAMANI: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And how does it make you feel if you're in an environment that just really isn't quite your – your fit, how do you adjust to that?

MR. DIAMANI: I either will try multiple times or I step out and don't go back to that environment.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Can you tell me anything that makes you – that you believe is the proudest moment of your life?

MR. DIAMANI: Moving out of my house.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Moving out of your house.

MR. DIAMANI: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And getting your own spot.

MR. DIAMANI: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, and so you're safe and there's no clubbing up in that house, right?

MR. DIAMANI: No, ma'am.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, well, thank you so much for joining us for 9<sup>th</sup> Unplugged.

MR. DIAMANI: Thanks for having me.

(Music)