

9TH UNPLUGGED

LIZZETTE LABELL

JURY SERVICES ASSISTANT

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

MS. LABELL: And I'm Lizzette Labell.

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

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: So before we get unplugged, would you tell me or tell our audience what it is that you do with the courts?

MS. LABELL: Absolutely. I work in jury department and I am the jury service assistant.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And so what are your duties as the jury service assistant?

MS. LABELL: Basically, I provide a positive and a pleasant experience for our jurors that come in. I welcome them at the window so we do our check-in. I answer phones. I pass along the excuses to the judge so that our jurors can get excused, and just provide whatever needs to be done in our wonderful office.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, and you are the friendly face that greets them when they come to do their civic duty so thank you for your service.

MS. LABELL: Well, thank you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So what do you do when you leave work and get unplugged?

MS. LABELL: Just going home and relaxing. I'm an empty nester with my husband and so we enjoy riding the Harley bike. We love going out to eat. We do movies and just date nights.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, how long have you been riding a Harley?

MS. LABELL: It's going to be, well, 20 years now.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Really.

MS. LABELL: Yes, ma'am.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So how did you get into riding?

MS. LABELL: My husband.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, okay, so you all have known each other and been together that long?

MS. LABELL: Yes, yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, wonderful.

MS. LABELL: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So what type of Harley do you ride?

MS. LABELL: Well, right now we have an Electra Glide. So basically, I'm the passenger and that's the best part to be in so he takes care of riding the actual bike and I sit behind and enjoy the scenery, enjoy our destination. Just you know having a great time, just passing it –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Living life.

MS. LABELL: Living life, exactly.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Living life of an empty nester, right. All right. So where did you grow up?

MS. LABELL: I grew up in a town called Dumont, which is located in Bergen County in New Jersey. I was originally born in Manhattan and then our parents took us into a suburb area called Dumont, which is in New Jersey.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. And what was Dumont like? What do you remember the most about Dumont?

MS. LABELL: Just being able to go outside riding your bike, being home when the lights came on.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, streetlights come on, you had to be in the house.

MS. LABELL: The street lights, yes, absolutely. Just those wonderful memories of just being able to play outside and not have to worry.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How did you end up in Florida?

MS. LABELL: Through a job that led me to Florida and then never left Florida. It's just the place where I've always wanted to be, sunshine all year long.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, speaking of job, what was your first job?

MS. LABELL: My first job was a cashier/server at a restaurant called Sizzler.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Sizzler was the best.

MS. LABELL: Yes, ma'am.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, my gosh, yes. I remember Sizzler, I'm going to date myself. Okay, yes, I remember Sizzler.

MS. LABELL: They don't have them anymore. But yes, it was a wonderful job. The first place where --

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, you enjoyed it?

MS. LABELL: Yes, where I learned customer service, just providing that friendly smile and making sure people were happy and what they ate, and just providing everything that they wanted.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's the biggest challenge with being a server? I always just admire people who can be a server because you have to be patient and tolerant, all of those things, right?

MS. LABELL: All of the above, yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All of the above, yes.

MS. LABELL: Just being consistent, you know, making it fun not only for yourself as you're coming into work but making it a fun and an enjoyable place for people to eat and to remember you because they're going to come back. The food is always going to be good but they're going to come back because they had a great service.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wonderful. So we hope our jurors come back because they're going to have a great experience –

MS. LABELL: Absolutely.

JUDGE LATIMORE: -- with you.

MS. LABELL: We have a great team.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right, exactly. So did you decide to get into this field of being in the court system on your own, or did that happen without your planning?

MS. LABELL: Without my planning.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What is it that you wanted to aspire to be as you were growing up?

MS. LABELL: And I actually achieved it. At one time I thought it was a shallow occupation so to speak, but I've always wanted to be a stay-at-home mom.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, okay.

MS. LABELL: And growing up, you know I always had friends that aspired to be nurses and teachers and some professional occupation, and I always wanted to just stay home, raise good kids, and just be a wonderful wife to my husband. And I got the opportunity of doing that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That is awesome.

MS. LABELL: And as our kids grew up and left our nest, it was time for me to try to put my skills back into the working field. This particular job popped up. It was the first one that I applied, and I was accepted and I just enjoy it one hundred percent. I mean, the team that I work with, the people that I work with are just incredible.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What is – tell us something that most people might not know about you? What's your secret talent or secret?

MS. LABELL: Well, to be quite honest, there's nothing really secretive. I guess the only little quirk that I might have is that, and I know it's not funny, but for some reason I just – if you are to stump your toe or you trip and fall, I am going to laugh really bad and with no disrespect, I will find out if you're okay. But I'm going to laugh uncontrollably, and it has happened in our office. But at the end of the day I will make sure that you are okay, safe, and –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Look, you're laughing already. No one has fallen. She's just cracking up. You missed it. I missed the chair at the bench and just went down. My JA looked over and just fell out laughing.

MS. LABELL: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: At one point, she said are you all right? I'm like, I'm good, thank you, but you would have been right next to her, I'm guessing, right.

MS. LABELL: Laughing.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How do you hope you'll change as a person in the future? Is there anything you would like to change?

MS. LABELL: There's always growth. I truly believe that we learn just by watching others and there's always something to learn about other people. It's just being open and having that acceptability to want to change. We always need some growth.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Absolutely. I definitely will agree with you on that. Do you have anything that you do on the side other than work and family? Do you have any type of hobbies?

MS. LABELL: Oh, I love to eat.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's your favorite food?

MS. LABELL: Oh, it would have to be pizza and Chinese food.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Pizza and Chinese food.

MS. LABELL: Um-hum.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Which Chinese food or meal is your favorite?

MS. LABELL: Oh, that would be like sesame chicken, lo mein. I could do beef and chicken broccoli. I could do –

JUDGE LATIMORE: You have a list –

MS. LABELL: Oh, yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: -- of them. Do you have a favorite restaurant?

MS. LABELL: Yes, Judge. No, just – just anywhere that tastes very good.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, have you ever traveled internationally? Did you go China and eat some Chinese food?

MS. LABELL: No.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Where would you like to go if you had a chance to travel and eat particular foods that you like?

MS. LABELL: To travel, oh, I would say, I guess my bucket list would be Bora Bora. Absolutely. On a – over the water bungalow.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

MS. LABELL: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, I think all of us at some point in time would dream to do that.

MS. LABELL: That would be my goal, however, you know, I guess just being able to have the health to travel and experience different types of food would just be something incredible to do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right. Tell me, what's the relationship deal breaker for you?

MS. LABELL: A relationship deal breaker.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, whether it's friends or colleagues, or just a deal breaker. You do not accept that. That's not something you're willing to –

MS. LABELL: I guess – I guess not being truthful or not being real. You know, it's important to I guess know the surroundings of who you're going to fellowship with, and making sure that they're real. You want an honest and open relationship with friends, with family. I guess that's just the way I was brought up, just being yourself and being truthful.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, it's been a pleasure to speak with you and to get unplugged with you, so thank you so much for joining us today.

MS. LABELL: Thanks for having me. It was an honor. Thank you.

(Music)