

9<sup>TH</sup> UNPLUGGED

CINDY BROWN

JUDICIAL ASSISTANT

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

MS. BROWN: And I'm Cindy Brown.

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

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, so before we get started and get fully unplugged from work, tell us your position and the department you work in.

MS. BROWN: I am the judicial assistant to the Honorable Judge Bob LeBlanc.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Judge Bob LeBlanc. Everybody knows Judge Bob LeBlanc.

MS. BROWN: Everybody.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So everybody knows you too.

MS. BROWN: Everybody knows Bob. Everybody knows me. And everybody knows me because everybody knows Bob.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. How long have you been his assistant?

MS. BROWN: Let's see, I came over with him January of 2007.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And you came over from where?

MS. BROWN: The Public Defender's Office. I was a legal assistant over there. I actually started there in 19, I believe 88.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. BROWN: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. So when you are not at work, when you're away from work, what do you spend most of your time doing?

MS. BROWN: Oh, my, God, don't judge me. But I like to shop, whether it's window shopping, I'm sorry, I am a shopaholic. I just like going out –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. BROWN: Going into stores, looking at nice things. I don't necessarily always buy but it's retail therapy.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. BROWN: That's what I like doing.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. Therapy is good for everybody.

MS. BROWN: It's good.

JUDGE LATIMORE: A little therapy can't hurt, right.

MS. BROWN: Good for the soul.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, so what did you do when you were on lockdown and you couldn't go out and look in windows?

MS. BROWN: Oh, listen, a lot of Discovery ID.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go.

MS. BROWN: I love that Discovery ID channel.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You love it.

MS. BROWN: I love watching that, anything to do with you know the Discovery ID. So I did that. A little bit of reading. And did church on video.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. BROWN: So, yeah, a lot of TV, eating.

JUDGE LATIMORE: No Amazon.

MS. BROWN: No.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You didn't make up for it on Amazon.

MS. BROWN: And you know why because I'm paranoid about shopping online. I don't know why but putting your credit card information and all that, so no, I didn't do that, a lot of the Amazon. I didn't do a lot of shopping online. But I did do a lot of eating.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What do you eat? What is your favorite food?

MS. BROWN: Girl, junk.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Junk. Okay, what do you consider junk?

MS. BROWN: Chips.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That is junk.

MS. BROWN: Popcorn, candy, just you know, cookies. Sweet is my downfall. It really is, so I did gain some weight. But the good thing about it, I lost it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And how did you do that?

MS. BROWN: Walking.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You do that a lot, don't you.

MS. BROWN: You know I love to walk.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

MS. BROWN: And Zumba.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And Zumba.

MS. BROWN: I did Zumba at home. I have a Zumba tape that I did at home, 45 minutes a day, girl. It works. I'm telling you right now. You want to lose some weight, do some Zumba.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go. What's the most wonderful event that has happened to you within the last couple of years?

MS. BROWN: In the last couple of years. Let's see. In the last couple of years – in the last couple of years. I got to spend the most wonderful time with a friend of mine who, believe it or not, died of prostate – not prostate, I'm sorry, pancreatic cancer. She paid for an all expense trip to Washington, D.C. with her and ten of her girlfriends and also brought our daughters with her. So we went to Washington, D.C. and stayed at this very nice hotel, went to several – she had several things lined up for us to do in Washington, so we got to spend this time together like almost, it was actually a week. And it was really nice because it was the last time that we really, really spent some time together and unfortunately, she passed this last March.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I'm sorry.

MS. BROWN: But it was absolutely wonderful. I got to visit the museum there, the African-American Museum, the Kennedy Theater, I think it was the Kennedy Theater or something. She had a play that we went to see. It was just really nice.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And was that the first time that you had been to D.C.?

MS. BROWN: The very first time.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's awesome.

MS. BROWN: So the weather was cold but I enjoyed it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Did you see the Cherry blossoms.

MS. BROWN: Wonderful. That was – that was – it was just beautiful.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's wonderful. That's a wonderful, memorable –

MS. BROWN: So it was. It was a very nice thing.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Thank you for sharing that with us. If you had to pick, tell me which one you would pick, meat or vegetables.

MS. BROWN: Girl, I like meat.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, you like meat.

MS. BROWN: I like meat.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Carnivore.

MS. BROWN: Okay.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You're in my club.

MS. BROWN: Uh-huh.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So steak or seafood.

MS. BROWN: Seafood.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. BROWN: Seafood.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Turkey bacon or bacon bacon.

MS. BROWN: Oh, girl, bacon bacon, honey. Bacon on everything. Bacon make everything taste good. Wrap it in some asparagus, girl, I'm telling you it's really good.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. That sounds good. What gives your life meaning?

MS. BROWN: You know, my family, my children. I pride myself in you know being this mom, single mom who raised my children, the best of my ability and they give me meaning.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wonderful. How many children do you have?

MS. BROWN: I have two daughters. One that's 29 and the other one just turned 24. Beautiful daughters.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, that's a blessing.

MS. BROWN: Beautiful daughters.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That is a blessing.

MS. BROWN: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So what is your pet peeve?

MS. BROWN: You know what, I'm just an easygoing person. You know what, I really –

JUDGE LATIMORE: But what line is it that someone should never cross with you?

MS. BROWN: When it comes to, let's see, well, when it comes to – well, my children, when it comes to my kids, I'm that mom. So when it comes to my children. Other than that I'm pretty easygoing, but when it comes to my kids, don't cross the line.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What would you like to accomplish within the next couple of years?

MS. BROWN: You know what, I really wish, at one point in time they said, you never get to old to do this, but I never finished – you know, I never got my degree. I wish I could one day just go back to school and get an AA or AS. That's something I wish I could do even though I'm 59 years old. They say you're never too old.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's right.

MS. BROWN: You're never too old.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And I'm sitting back because you said 59, you are beautiful.

MS. BROWN: Girl, you better –

JUDGE LATIMORE: There it is. Okay.

MS. BROWN: There it is.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What does your family think about your career?

MS. BROWN: Oh, my goodness. My grandmother who is the matriarch of our family who is no longer with us, she and my mother who is still with us, they just can't believe where I am. They always – my grandmother always knew there was something about me. She knew I would always be something and do something. And they love the fact that I work for a judge.



Oh, my goodness. My daughters do as well. My grandmother used to brag about it all the time and my mom still do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, where did you grow up?

MS. BROWN: Avon Park, which is I think 80 miles, like south of here going towards Haines City, Lake Wales. It's a little country town, honey. If you blink twice, when you enter it, if you blink twice, you missed it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What do you miss most about that town?

MS. BROWN: The intimacy. Like it's very homey. Everybody knows everybody. You know, it's just very country. It's not busy like the city is so I just miss that part. Everybody knows everybody.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, if you were able to live somewhere other than Florida, where would you want to live?

MS. BROWN: Probably somewhere where it's warm all the time.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And if you could travel out of – out of the country, where is a place that you really would like to visit?

MS. BROWN: I want to go to Paris, honey.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go.

MS. BROWN: Did you hear, Bob?

JUDGE LATIMORE: Because you like –

MS. BROWN: Judge.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And tell us what exactly, why do you want to go to Paris? I pretty much think I know but tell us.

MS. BROWN: You know what, I just want to see – they say it's just beautiful there. To visit the Eiffel, you know, Tower. Just to see the, you know, the country itself.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

MS. BROWN: I want to – I just want to visit it. So we're going to speak that into it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: We're going to speak it into existence.

MS. BROWN: We're going to speak it into existence.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's right, Bob.

MS. BROWN: Uh-huh, I hope you're listening, Bob.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Thank you so much for speaking with me. It was great being unplugged with you.

MS. BROWN: Oh, you are so welcome. It was wonderful being unplugged with you.

(Music)