

9<sup>TH</sup> UNPLUGGED

LIZ LADNER

COURT PROGRAM SPECIALIST

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

MS. LADNER: And I'm Liz Ladner.

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

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: Before we become unplugged, please tell me your job title and the department you work for.

MS. LADNER: Sure, so my job title is court program specialist for the Human Resource Department.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, and how long have you been doing that?

MS. LADNER: It will be a year in February so I'm very excited to celebrate my year.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wow, congratulations on that.

MS. LADNER: Thank you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And what were you doing before you got into human resources?

MS. LADNER: Well, I've been in human resources the last ten years, but my job before this, I was working at Sea World, Parks and Entertainment, so in the theme park industry so totally different types of human resource departments.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Did you work with like the walrus and the dolphin and all that kind of –

MS. LADNER: No, but I did get to go over to the park a lot and do the behind the scenes tours. We were kind of like guinea pigs and when we practiced as Discovery Cove to have us

swim with the sharks, the employees got to go first before the customers. So it was – we were the guinea pigs for that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Did you do that?

MS. LADNER: I did.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. LADNER: I got in the water.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What was that like?

MS. LADNER: It was scary because I'm deathly afraid of the water. So luckily, I had a full suit on with floaties so that I could kind of float across the top. But it was definitely a little nerve racking, but luckily they fed the sharks before we got in the water with them.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You were more afraid of the water than you were the sharks.

MS. LADNER: Yes, I'm deathly afraid of the water.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right, well, let's keep you out of that atmosphere, right.  
So what do you do for Fun?

MS. LADNER: Well, currently I watch my 17-year-old senior in high school play soccer. He loves to play soccer and it is just so fabulous to see him connect with the ball and his teammates. And then I also like to bake. I own a baking business or did own a baking business until just recently.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. And so what is your favorite baking item?

MS. LADNER: I like to make wedding cakes because I just think weddings are just a huge celebration.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, you're a real baker.

MS. LADNER: But I've also dabbled in cakes that have characters on it, like Minnie Mouse or even animals and things of that nature. So I just really like playing with fondant and creating different things with it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, did you go to school for that or is that something that you learned through your family? How did you get into baking?

MS. LADNER: My grandma was a huge baker, homemade cinnamon buns, pizza, pies and then just over the years, I just really find it relaxing. And it just brought joy to family and friends, so I really just like doing it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Other than baking, do you also like to cook?

MS. LADNER: Oh, yeah, I can throw it down.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, really.

MS. LADNER: Yeah, our Christmas dinner, we had prime rib, and shrimp and crab cakes and the whole nine yards.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, you got an extra seat at the table any time. I mean, really.

MS. LADNER: As soon as COVID is done, absolutely. Everybody is welcome.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's your favorite food?

MS. LADNER: Steak. I'm a meat eater.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right, and do you at any time eat food like that's not cooked?

MS. LADNER: So I have had –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you like food –

MS. LADNER: -- sushi but I'm not the –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Think about steak –

MS. LADNER: Yeah, I'm not the raw sushi person but I do love carpaccio, which is very thinly sliced raw beef. It just melts in your mouth. It's so delicious.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And that's one of your favorite foods as well, isn't it?

MS. LADNER: That is, yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Let me ask you a couple of questions. I want to see if you had to pick, which would you pick, extrovert or introvert?

MS. LADNER: Extrovert.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Extrovert?

MS. LADNER: Um-hum.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, what about zoo or aquarium? Water or land?

MS. LADNER: Aquarium. Because dolphins are my favorite.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Are they.

MS. LADNER: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, Jeep or Jet Ski?

MS. LADNER: Jeep.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Small groups or big crowds?

MS. LADNER: Small groups but they have to have big personalities.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right. Early morning or late night?

MS. LADNER: Early morning.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And so if you had to tell me your favorite color, what would be your favorite color?

MS. LADNER: Green.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Green.

MS. LADNER: Yeah, I love green. Emerald green to be specific.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Does it happen to be like your birthstone or anything?

MS. LADNER: It's actually my son's birthstone, coincidentally enough but yeah, I've always loved green.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What is your favorite place to go here in Orlando?

MS. LADNER: It's actually not in Orlando. My favorite place to go is Captiva Island. It's right outside of Fort Myers. I got married there ten years ago on the beach, so I love it there. Very quiet.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Have you traveled internationally before?

MS. LADNER: No.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Would you like to?

MS. LADNER: Yes, I would love to go to England. I would love to take my son on a tour of all the soccer stadiums over there.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. And within the United States, have you traveled outside of Florida?

MS. LADNER: Yeah, California. I used to live in Virginia, so North Carolina, West Virginia.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What is your favorite in the United States?

MS. LADNER: My favorite place in the United States has to be West Virginia. There's this deep creek lake and you can ski there, but then in the fall and the springtime, there's a big lake so you can do all kinds of water sports. You can fish off the dock so I just really like it because it's very country and relaxed.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So let me get it clear. You do not like water.

MS. LADNER: Correct.

JUDGE LATIMORE: But you like water sports.

MS. LADNER: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Just to observe or to participate in?

MS. LADNER: I love being out on a boat. It's the water that scares me.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. LADNER: Yeah. I just love being on it because it's relaxing. I know it's really weird.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, no, it's not that weird. That's not that really weird at all. So when you were younger, what is it that you strived to be?

MS. LADNER: I strived to be the best person I can be, especially in the world now but I do know that when I was younger, I was in a very diverse school, grew up in a very diverse neighborhood and could just see the struggles of people. And I just wanted to be somebody that could be approachable and open, and just share the good in life with them. I always joke that if I'm not smiling, everybody should be running because I'm just a naturally happy easygoing person. I love to make people smile. I love to show them what their real worth is. And that's just something that I've wanted to do my whole life. And I'm lucky enough to do that, not only here at work, in the human resources department, but even outside of work with my family and friends.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you have a pet peeve?

MS. LADNER: Yes, dishonesty.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, how do you respond to experiencing your pet peeve?

MS. LADNER: I think you have to just see where the other person is coming from, maybe they were dishonest because they were afraid. Maybe they just were afraid that the truth was worse than the lie and I think you have to just put yourself in their shoes and actually breakdown why they were dishonest in the first place.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And what would you like to accomplish within the next year or so?



MS. LADNER: I'd like to finish my associate's degree. I'm five classes away.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, wonderful.

MS. LADNER: And then that way I can go straight into the bachelors. I got a late start so that is my goal.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, and what is your focus?

MS. LADNER: Business administration with a human resource focus.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, so what are your goals in the future?

MS. LADNER: My goals are to continue to live this fabulous life that the good Lord has given me, watch my son graduate college, myself graduate college. Be there for my dad, you know, we lost my mom a couple years ago and I just want to make sure that he can live as long as he wants to cause I've got some really young nieces and nephews and I just want to help him with his health and just to stay on track with that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Can you name someone you'd love to talk to over coffee or a drink that you haven't had a chance to do?

MS. LADNER: My mom.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah.

MS. LADNER: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, it's hard. Missing mom is hard.

MS. LADNER: Yep.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah. What's your definition of success?

MS. LADNER: My definition of success is trying to learn at least three new things a day. I believe if you haven't taken the time to learn something new you've really wasted the day. And also sharing with others what you have learned. Don't be afraid to teach somebody else for fear that they may take your job or they may you know have a better place in life than you. I just believe in paving it forward.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And what's the worst job you've ever had?

MS. LADNER: Joann Fabrics, my first job. I was 14 and it was hot in that place.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So other than the temperature, was there anything that you enjoyed about that job?

MS. LADNER: Getting the paycheck, that was about it. Because people in retail are mean, and I just like to be happy.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I always thought the ladies who sewed the quilts were really quiet people but apparently, there's some that are not quite –

MS. LADNER: They get a little crazy.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, it's been wonderful being unplugged with you. Thanks so much for taking the time to talk with me.

MS. LADNER: Thank you. It's been wonderful.

(Music)