

9TH UNPLUGGED

HONORABLE ROBERT EGAN

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

JUDGE EGAN: And I'm Judge Bob Egan.

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

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: Welcome, Judge Egan.

JUDGE EGAN: Thank you. It's nice to be here.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nice to have you here today. Looking forward to speaking with you about what you do when you're unplugged.

JUDGE EGAN: Thank you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Before we get started, would you please tell the audience how long you've been on the bench and what division you're assigned to?

JUDGE EGAN: I am assigned to a felony criminal division and I have been on the bench as a circuit judge for 15 years. Done almost a little bit of everything but right now I'm doing criminal law.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Prior to coming to the bench, you didn't do criminal law, did you?

JUDGE EGAN: No, no, I did all civil law. I was an insurance defense lawyer for 8 years and a plaintiff's personal injury lawyer for 8 years.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Having been in the criminal division now, prefer criminal over civil?

JUDGE EGAN: Very much so.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Good answer.

JUDGE EGAN: The attorneys seem to get along much better for whatever reason than they do in civil court. Criminal is entertaining, yes, ma'am.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. So let's get unplugged. Let's get unplugged. I understand you were born and raised in Maitland, Florida.

JUDGE EGAN: I was, right here in Orange County.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nice. Where did you go to school?

JUDGE EGAN: Edgewater High School. Go Eagles.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Go Eagles. Did you go to any other schools after high school? I'm sure you did. You're a judge.

JUDGE EGAN: I went to Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. I had a failed soccer career but I did spend – I did graduate from there and then went on to University of Florida Law School.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So you did do sports while you were in school?

JUDGE EGAN: I played soccer at Edgewater.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And why do you call it a failed soccer experience?

JUDGE EGAN: Well, I will tell you this. I walked on to the program at Mercer and I made the team.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE EGAN: I didn't see a lot of playing time but I made the team.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You did. So I think that that is success right there, all right. It all depends on what you're looking for. And was there any special occasion or a special experience that you had while you were playing soccer?

JUDGE EGAN: In college?

JUDGE LATIMORE: Any –

JUDGE EGAN: If I made the travel team, that was at an away game, not everybody gets to go, so if you got to go to the travel team like we went as far away as Houston, Texas and played Houston Baptist. And you get money for meals, so sometimes you'd actually get home from a long weekend soccer trip and you'd still have money in your pocket and it felt like you were getting paid, in my case, paid to sit the bench. Other people paid to play.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So you played soccer prior to going to college because that's what gave you the confidence to walk on, right?

JUDGE EGAN: Yes, ma'am. I played all my life and three years at Edgewater.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And so you must have been a star in high school, I'm guessing.

JUDGE EGAN: My mom probably agrees with you, but maybe not so much everybody else but I will tell you this. I was captain of the Edgewater soccer team when I was a senior, how about that?

JUDGE LATIMORE: How about that. All right and played some long games.

JUDGE EGAN: Oh, well, okay, I did. We – and this is a record that will never be broken, but Edgewater and Evans played the longest high soccer game ever in the history of the United States because we didn't have shoot-outs back then. If a game ended in a tie, you simply

continued to play extra five-minute overtime periods until someone scored. And we played I believe 21 extra overtimes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wow. What time did the game end, do you recall?

JUDGE EGAN: Well, I think it was in the evening and it started probably mid-afternoon.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, so the question is, who won? You don't recall?

JUDGE EGAN: Can you go on to the next question? The Evans Trojans won that game, Judge.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, well, I'll leave that alone, all right. Do you play any other sports?

JUDGE EGAN: Is fishing a sport? I don't think so, but – no, I used to play a little tennis but no, I ride a bike. That's about it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What do you do for fun?

JUDGE EGAN: Well, I love to cook. I listen to music and I –

JUDGE LATIMORE: I didn't know that about you, Judge Egan. You like to cook?

JUDGE EGAN: Really. I love – I didn't say I'm good at it, but I love to put on music and cook.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And what is your specialty dish, or what do you –

JUDGE EGAN: You know, I will cook any – you know, I'm obsessed with chicken thighs, boneless skinless chicken thighs. I will do anything with them. They're fantastic but I do make a chicken ghoulish with bowtie pasta that is out of this world.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And how did you learn how to cook?

JUDGE EGAN: I used to bake with my mom. My mom cooked a lot. She was raised on a farm in Minnesota so I spent a lot of time in the kitchen with mom and she made a lot of breads and things like that but I just was comfortable as a kid being in the kitchen and that's what I like to do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, you're a veteran, is that correct?

JUDGE EGAN: I am a veteran, Army, yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Did you cook in the Army?

JUDGE EGAN: I did not but I knew a lot of cooks in the Army because they would feed us every day.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So you made good friends with them, correct?

JUDGE EGAN: Absolutely. And they give you a nice omelet if you're nice to them.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And you're a nice guy. That's a wonderful thing. So I understand that you are – you're just a fun person to be around. And what is it that your friends love most about you?

JUDGE EGAN: You're my friend. Can you answer that question for me?

JUDGE LATIMORE: We're being recorded so I'm not sure you want –

JUDGE EGAN: Okay. I don't know why my friends may want to be around with me. I think I try to make light of most everything so I like to believe I have a healthy sense of humor,

maybe that's why. I don't try to get too serious about much of anything so I make jokes and maybe I make too many jokes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's your secret talent other than cooking? Do you have one?

JUDGE EGAN: I don't know if I have a secret talent. I told you I like to fish but I'm no good at it so my secret talent –

JUDGE LATIMORE: What type of fishing do you –

JUDGE EGAN: - is being a bad fisher person.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What type of fishing do you try?

JUDGE EGAN: Well, I try inshore fish salt water, but in inshore, not offshore. And we get lucky from time to time but mostly you're just out there to drink a beverage or two and enjoy that scenery.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What are you catching?

JUDGE EGAN: Some red fish, some trout, way too many catfish which in salt water is a bad thing. Occasional flounder and things like that. And we would call those inshore fish.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right, and do you cook fish a lot?

JUDGE EGAN: When I catch ones that are keepable because there are size limits but yes, we will bring dinner home and cook them.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, what gives you – or what gives your life meaning? Can you share with us particularly?

JUDGE EGAN: Lots of things. I'm blessed to have a wonderful family, two kids, a wife. I've been married – if I get this wrong, that will be a problem. I believe I've been married for 30 years, possibly 31. I have a son and a daughter –

JUDGE LATIMORE: You were under pressure, that's what it was. You were under pressure here.

JUDGE EGAN: But no, we're blessed to have two wonderful children and I think having raised them, they're both adults now, that's probably what gave me the most pleasure, was raising two beautiful kids.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes. And congratulations, I understand one just graduated with a doctorate?

JUDGE EGAN: He's a pharma – well, he is a pharmacist and he just completed a residency and then got a Ph.D., an extra pharmacy degree from a school up in North Carolina that we won't mention because I think you went to Duke. And this was the other place –

JUDGE LATIMORE: That other place that's in North Carolina.

JUDGE EGAN: But he'll be the Director of Pharmacy for the children's hospital up at Shand's, now that he's completed his residency.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, congratulations to you and your family.

JUDGE EGAN: Thank you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That is wonderful. Is there anything else that you were interested in doing other than practicing law?

JUDGE EGAN: Oh, again, I'm not a musician. I can barely play the piano but I just love listening to music so when I'm doing anything, some type of music is always playing.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's your favorite genre?

JUDGE EGAN: I like of lots – I am a lifelong Parrot Head so Jimmy Buffett fanatic. I've probably seen Jimmy Buffett in concert conservatively maybe 30 times.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Really?

JUDGE EGAN: Almost like a Dead Head. So I've always loved Jimmy Buffett. That's not embarrassing but I like Sappy stuff, you know, 70s stuff, Barry Manilow, the Carpenters.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you?

JUDGE EGAN: It's kind of embarrassing when you're in your office and the streaming plays your favorite music and someone walks in and they're like – I like show tunes, is that Grease, hopelessly – you know, I've always wanted a dude in the room, but if a guy walks in, I hit the button on the computer and it just starts playing Aerosmith or Guns or Roses or something. But it's Barry Manilow playing or something.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's wonderful. Well, thank you so much for being unplugged with us today. It's been a very exciting and interesting opportunity.

JUDGE EGAN: Thank you, Judge Latimore. Thank you so much. Enjoyed it.

(Music)