

9TH UNPLUGGED

ISAAC WOOTSON

JUDICIAL ASSISTANT

MARCH 1, 2023

HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

MR. WOOTSON: Hi, I'm Isaac Wootson.

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

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: So before we get started with everything about being unplugged, tell the audience what your job responsibilities are and what's your title, your department?

MR. WOOTSON: Well, I'm a judicial assistant, county civil. Basically I'm the gateway to the judge in that division, setting hearings. We mostly work with evictions, personal injury protection, insurance, you know, and little – small things, claim of exemptions.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. And what's the most exciting thing about that job for you?

MR. WOOTSON: For me, it's just what's coming in that day. You never know; we have such an array of things and people coming in, you know, attitudes and you know, so forth. So it's just what's going to come on that day, you know.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, it's always a surprise.

MR. WOOTSON: Absolutely.

JUDGE LATIMORE: It can be at least.

MR. WOOTSON: Absolutely.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, so let's get unplugged. FAMU Rattler.

MR. WOOTSON: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I have to start off with that one, okay. All right, so you went to the Bethune Cookman Rattler Classic. Did you make it?

MR. WOOTSON: No, I didn't go. I don't go as much anymore. My sister is actually a Wildcat also so we have that rivalry in the family. My younger sister also, she's FAMU, so it was a great experience growing up on the hill. I loved it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I bet. I bet you did. And I understand that your family is big on seafood and soul food?

MR. WOOTSON: Yes. Well, all kinds of food. You know, I have one of those big southern families where food – everything revolves around food. I have four brothers and three sisters.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, okay.

MR. WOOTSON: And so it's a lot of us and when we get together, my sisters always cook –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you cook?

MR. WOOTSON: A little bit, not much.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What do you cook?

MR. WOOTSON: I'm big on my air fryer.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. I don't know if we're going to officially put that in the cooking category, but okay.

MR. WOOTSON: I think it's good, you know, a little healthier, not all of the grease and the oils. I put everything in there. French fries, you know, chicken wings, chicken nuggets, anything. But I don't do the complicated stuff, baking and everything –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, you did some kind of complicated thing. Your first job was at Quincy's Steakhouse. You were a cook, right?

MR. WOOTSON: Yes, I cooked steaks and basically, you remember those yeast rolls back in the day –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Um-hum, delicious.

MR. WOOTSON: So I only stayed there for about three months before I went to Tallahassee, you know, to FAMU. But it was an experience.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. I bet. I bet. And so I understand that you are the son of a preacher.

MR. WOOTSON: I am, yes, my father is a pastor. He's been pastoring longer than I've been in this world, I guess about 50 or 60 years or so. He's 84 now, about to turn 85 in a couple of weeks.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, that's a blessing.

MR. WOOTSON: Yeah, so we're big on faith and family.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And so what have you done within the Church and congregation? Have you been active?

MR. WOOTSON: Yes, I am actually now executive pastor at my Church. I'm big on music. I play organ, piano, so forth. I've been over the music with our organization for certain areas, over 60 some churches.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Over 60 some churches.

MR. WOOTSON: At one time, yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: At one time.

MR. WOOTSON: Yes. We come together for conventions; I'm over all the music, coordinating the bands and choir and everything.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you sing?

MR. WOOTSON: Just a little bit.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You sound baritone or something like that. Some area in that, right.

MR. WOOTSON: Yeah, I try to push everyone else. I do sing a little bit, but I mostly play –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Microphone right in front of you.

MR. WOOTSON: No.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Let's do it. Let's do it.

MR. WOOTSON: No. No. I mostly play so I just get the music together. I accompany the singers more so than sing.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, all right.

MR. WOOTSON: Yeah, I've always been into music. I started taking lessons when I was like seven years old.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How many instruments do you play?

MR. WOOTSON: Piano, organ, four.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Four.

MR. WOOTSON: Yeah, four. Well, keys, any kind of keys, organ, piano, trombone, and baritone, I play also.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right. Were you in the Hundred?

MR. WOOTSON: No, I didn't go into Hundred. It was so funny because I could see them practicing everyday from my dorm room. I'm like no way. I mean, that takes some real commitment.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes. Yes.

MR. WOOTSON: It was like 24 hours a day.

JUDGE LATIMORE: My father was in the Hundred.

MR. WOOTSON: Oh, wow, really.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, yes. It's one of my favorite pictures of him. So I understand you like to travel.

MR. WOOTSON: I love to travel.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. Where is your favorite place that you've traveled to?

MR. WOOTSON: So far, I think Dominican Republic was my favorite place. I really enjoyed it. It was a nice place. I like to go and not just to go to like the resorts, but I want to see how the people there actually live.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. WOOTSON: And so that was one place that I really enjoyed, yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, and share with us, what did you learn about the Dominican Republic that you found so intriguing?

MR. WOOTSON: Well, it's just the people and you know half the island is Haiti, half the Dominican Republic and the conflicts between both sides and just the culture, you know, the growing – you know how – you know, they're growing and how they live and I just loved it. You know just loved the people itself you know.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. So tell me, is there something that you've done that you would never do again? And would you share that with us?

MR. WOOTSON: Well, one thing that I did, speaking of the Dominican Republic, while I was there, I needed money from the ATM. It was late at night.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That is not a good thing.

MR. WOOTSON: Had to be you know like real dark. And I just decided to walk by myself down the street to the ATM. And when I got there, I was like this is not a good idea in a foreign country by myself.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right.

MR. WOOTSON: So I got what I needed. I ran back, no problems, no issues. But I said, that was kind of crazy. I would never do that again.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah. I think that's good advice. Now, are you Florida born and raised?

MR. WOOTSON: Florida born and raised.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Where?

MR. WOOTSON: Clermont, Florida.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. WOOTSON: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. That's a place that I – it's the first place near by Orlando that I saw that actually has hills.

MR. WOOTSON: Yes, yes, a lot of hills. I live on a big hill. My dad and grandfather moved there in 1941.

JUDGE LATIMORE: From where?

MR. WOOTSON: Jacksonville, Georgia.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. WOOTSON: Yeah. So we've been there ever since my family moved there.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So let me ask you some quick ones, some quick picks. Extravert, introvert.

MR. WOOTSON: Introvert.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Zoo or aquarium.

MR. WOOTSON: Aquarium.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Winter or summer?

MR. WOOTSON: Winter.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Sports or cinema.

MR. WOOTSON: Cinema.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's interesting. What's your favorite movie? Or do you have one?

MR. WOOTSON: I don't really have one right now.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What type of movies do you like?

MR. WOOTSON: I watch everything, crime, horror. I really like horror movies. Of course, Jean-Luc Picard, the movie is out now. I enjoy all of those.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes. Of course. Of course. Can you share with us, what is the most memorable gift you've received?

MR. WOOTSON: Most memorable gift I've received.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Seeing that Christmas is right around the corner.

MR. WOOTSON: Oh, wow, that's kind of a hard one. Well, my dad did buy me a car.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. WOOTSON: He bought me a car and that – I think that probably would be it. A '94 Toyota Corolla.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Always remember the cars.

MR. WOOTSON: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. WOOTSON: That's my most memorable. He's always provided so much for us and we do the same for him now.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you have hobbies, other than the music area?

MR. WOOTSON: You know we live in Clermont. There's a lake around every corner. I try to go out with my brother fishing some time. Me and my sister bought – took golfing lessons.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How did that go?

MR. WOOTSON: It went pretty good. I don't play as much anymore but I still like to go every now and then and you know hit a couple of holes you know.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right, so golfing because you're good at sports. And what else are you doing around the lake? Do you do many water sports?

MR. WOOTSON: Oh, yeah, I love – I really can't swim but I'm not scared of water. I jump in.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Uh-oh, see, I was a lifeguard. I remember kids like you. Jumping in the water and don't know a lick about swimming. Here we go.

MR. WOOTSON: Right. So I mean, you know like when I go on cruises and you know, I'm always one ready to go with water. I love water. And I love just you know being out in that nature and all.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. Well, it's been such a pleasure being unplugged with you. Thank you for coming.

MR. WOOTSON: Thank you for having me.

(Music)