

9TH UNPLUGGED

SONJA MAYLOR

JUIRY SERVICES COORDINATOR

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, hello, I'm Judge Latimore.

MS. MAYLOR: And I'm Sonja Maylor.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, and you're listening to 9th Unplugged.

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: So today before we get started and get unplugged, please tell me your position and the department you work in.

MS. MAYLOR: I'm jury services coordinator for the jury services department.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And what is it that you are responsible for doing?

MS. MAYLOR: In our office, we summon jurors to come in to take part of in jury trials and we deal with the jurors all day and send them in and out of court. And trying to making them happy about doing it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. So we're going to talk about what you do outside of that job. But before we do that, what are some crazy experiences you have had while being in that position?

MS. MAYLOR: It's – now it's becoming a daily occurrence.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Is it fun having interaction with the community?

MS. MAYOR: Yes, it is. Yes, it is.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I bet it is. So what did you want to do when you grew up?

MS. MAYLOR: I looked into going into the FBI and then I thought, no, because they deal with guns and I don't like guns so then I went into teaching.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. And did you teach for a while before you came to this job?

MS. MAYLOR: I did, I taught just for two years.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. What subject?

MS. MAYLOR: It was in high school, in business administration, teaching typing and things like that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. How many words can you type?

MS. MAYLOR: Oh, I haven't – I haven't tested it in a while.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, okay. If you could change the world, how would you do that?

MS. MAYLOR: Make them more – make people more, not so edgy. You know, just – just say – you know, just look to – people aren't naturally edgy unless they're edgy about something. So just look past that and think about, well, what's going on in their life that's making them like that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What is it that you do to take the edge off?

MS. MAYLOR: What do I do to take the edge off? I usually call my sister.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. And so I guess she's a good source to bring you down –

MS. MAYLOR: Oh, yes, she is.

JUDGE LATIMORE: -- and even you out.

MS. MAYLOR: Yes, she is.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How many sisters do you have?

MS. MAYLOR: I have two.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Two. One particular sister or either sister?

MS. MAYLOR: The youngest one. The youngest one.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right. That sounds good. Let me ask you, what are the personal rules you never break?

MS. MAYLOR: The personal rules I never break.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Um-hum.

MS. MAYLOR: I can't say there's a personal rule I never break.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Is there something that you will just not do? You say that's just where I'm not going to change, I'm not going to differ on this.

MS. MAYLOR: Oh, not breaking the law.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's good to know, Sonja. I'm happy to know that. You're in the right place. If you didn't have to sleep, what would you do with your extra time?

MS. MAYLOR: Oh, I'd be out helping the homeless.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right.

MS. MAYLOR: Yeah, and feeding and trying to get them housing, yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right.

MS. MAYLOR: I already said that once I retire I'm looking into doing something like that anyway.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wonderful. Do you do anything at home that involves trivia or games?

MS. MAYLOR: Yeah, usually around the holidays but oh, stupid COVID had us to do something different. Yeah, we would get together at my sister's house and if she had people over, I always knew that I had to be the one to come up with the games.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. MAYLOR: Every year. Every year.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Every year.

MS. MAYLOR: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, what's your favorite game?

MS. MAYLOR: Something that involves people letting their hair down. You know not being so stiff. You know, people come like this and you know, I'm thinking, no, we got to do something fun. I love charades. And I'll do like a holiday charades. My nephew taught me one about who's the murderer. But it's people, you know, you got to look around. You know, pass out these pieces of paper and if you get a piece that says murderer, that means you're the murderer and you have to keep it and you have to guess who it is. And you have to look and it's really fun. At first, I thought it was boring but it was fun.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, that's wonderful. I have to check into that game one day. That's something that the people in the law would be interested in I'm sure, who's the murderer. What, if you were able to change your first name, not saying there's anything wrong with your first name, but if you could change it, what would it be?

MS. MAYLOR: Something African. Something – I don't know. I just like having a name that actually means something. I don't know.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Name three people who have been the most influential in your life.

MS. MAYLOR: My mom, my dad and my sister.

JUDGE LATIMORE: The youngest one.

MS. MAYLOR: The youngest one.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Who you always call. That's the one.

MS. MAYLOR: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. What is something that you're friends would consider to be so you?

MS. MAYLOR: Helping.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Helping people.

MS. MAYLOR: Helping people. Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. And what is the most memorable gift that you've ever received?

MS. MAYLOR: Memorable gift.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

MS. MAYLOR: A juror – a juror had – it's been years ago. She had a broach that I just complimented her on and I thought, oh, that's a beautiful broach, I never seen one like that

before. And before she left, she came to me and she said, here, it's yours. And I kept that thing. Oh, it was beautiful. I just kept it for years and years. I'm thinking wow, she just took it off and gave it to me. And I kept trying to tell her, we're not supposed to accept gifts, we're not supposed to – she said, no, you like it. I want to give it to you. I'm passing it on. And she said you pass it on to somebody who compliments you, and over a few years, that's exactly what happened. I passed it on to somebody who complimented me on it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That is a wonderful story. That is very nice. What food do you have in your refrigerator right now?

MS. MAYLOR: Oh, my, I made dinner for two days so I wouldn't have to cook when I went home so I have beef stroganoff. I have chicken soup. Some orange juice and celery.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. And do you like to cook?

MS. MAYLOR: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's your favorite dish to –

MS. MAYLOR: Lasagna.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Lasagna.

MS. MAYLOR: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Your own personal recipe?

MS. MAYLOR: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. Do you have any Italian people in your family? Any Italian in the background, no, okay.

MS. MAYLOR: No.

JUDGE LATIMORE: No, okay. All right. Just wanted to see if you had some expertise coming from way back when. All right. So what are the two rules that you use to navigate your life?

MS. MAYLOR: Always treat people as if you, you know, treat strangers as if they're angels because you never know.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's your favorite season of the year?

MS. MAYLOR: Christmas.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Why?

MS. MAYLOR: Just the giving part. You know, it just – I guess the season kind of makes people you know forget about issues and they want to be joyful and that's what I like.

JUDGE LATIMORE: If your life were made into a movie, which actress would you want to play you?

MS. MAYLOR: Angela Bassett.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Aw, you said that with such conviction.

MS. MAYLOR: And then I want my husband to be Denzel Washington.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, there you go. That is required for the movie. Okay. Do you have any favorite stories from your work life – I'm sorry, from your personal life that you want to share? You told us kind of about your work life. Is there something from your personal life that you would love to share with everyone?

MS. MAYLOR: Personal life to share. No, not that I can think of.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, that's fine. And if extra lives were a real thing in this world, how would we get them? If we would be able to receive extra lives, how do you think we would deal with them?

MS. MAYLOR: We'd have to ask but then justify why we need those extra lives. No, not just say cause I want to live five more days to shop. No, if you get five more days to help people, to do something like that, or make another person's life better, then yeah, that would justify.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. When you wake up in the morning and you just think about what's going to make me happy today, what's the first thing that comes to mind?

MS. MAYLOR: Making jurors happy.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. It was a pleasure speaking with you. Thank you so much for taking a moment to be unplugged.

MS. MAYLOR: Thank you, Judge.

(Music)