

9TH UNPLUGGED

RODQUEL OWENS

PURCHASING SPECIALIST

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

MS. OWENS: I'm Rodquel Owens.

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

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: So welcome. We're going to take a moment and have you share with us, what's your position and department and then we're going to unplug completely from work.

MS. OWENS: Great, I'm the purchasing specialist in the fiscal services department. So I handle the supply room. I also help with processing, travel reimbursements, registrations, different expenses as well. I also handle the reconciliation for the expenses to make sure that we're within the budget and we're on track.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. So when you're away from work, what is the best thing that you like to do?

MS. OWENS: I love seafood.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Seafood.

MS. OWENS: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, you're speaking to the right person. We're in the same place. So which seafood's are your favorite?

MS. OWENS: I love the crab pot, the low country boil with the snow crabs, or you may do crawfish, shrimp, potato, egg, sausage, the works.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Is there any seafood that you do not like?

MS. OWENS: I'm not a big scallop person.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Me neither.

MS. OWENS: It's the texture.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, it's the texture, isn't it?

MS. OWENS: It's the texture.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, that sounds familiar. So where are you from?

MS. OWENS: I'm from Jacksonville, Florida, born and raised.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. And how did you end up in Orlando?

MS. OWENS: Initially I received a promotion from my previous job that took me to Miami. And from there I transitioned here to Orlando.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's the best thing that happened to you last week?

MS. OWENS: Last week, oh, video called my grandkids.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, okay.

MS. OWENS: That was great.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How many grandkids do you have?

MS. OWENS: I have a total of eight.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right, do you keep up with them and their names and ages, and birthdays and all of that?

MS. OWENS: Absolutely, yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Definitely, grandmas do that. What do you regret not doing in life?

MS. OWENS: What I regret not doing is going into the military. I thought about it when I was in high school and just took a different path and I've always wondered what that life would have been like for me. So that's the one thing, if I could do a redo, I think I would experience that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Which branch?

MS. OWENS: Air Force. Not Navy, can't swim.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Eat lots of seafood but can't swim.

MS. OWENS: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You'd be in trouble if you were in their world, right. Okay. What is the best compliment you've ever received?

MS. OWENS: My professionalism. To me you know the way I am at work is very important. It's not only your character, it's your work ethic. So I definitely work on keeping that consistent across the board. So when I do hear that, it's being seen, it's a big compliment for me.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. What elements of pop culture will you – will be forever tied to your childhood? Be careful you know you age yourself when you start talking about things like that.

MS. OWENS: I know, right. I'm going to put it out there.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Go ahead.

MS. OWENS: To me, the music nowadays don't really have a lot of meaning, and when you have to have an edit version and a radio version, that's a problem for me.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's a concern.

MS. OWENS: So I like to take it back when music was music. It has the meaning you could understand.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Who's your favorite group?

MS. OWENS: Well, of course, New Edition.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. OWENS: Jagged Edge.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Uh-huh.

MS. OWENS: Just some of that soulful meaning lyrics that has a purpose, definitely.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Tell me something about your – that culture that you would leave behind?

MS. OWENS: The culture I would leave –

JUDGE LATIMORE: That time.

MS. OWENS: -- behind. I would love for them to take away what you're leaving to your next generation. The music that's there now would be what you leave for the next generation. So it's kind of like really think about what you're putting out, yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So what old person thing do you do?

MS. OWENS: What old person thing.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Don't be offended. I didn't mean anything by that.

MS. OWENS: No, I'm thinking like, what do I do. I really – it's hard to say because being a grandmother, you know, I guess I do things and don't realize it's what old people do, and my granddaughter, I had hurt my ankle and I had one of those scooters. And she's looking at me, she's like, Mimi, what are you doing, you're not a grandma. And I'm like, yes, I am. She's like, no, you're not. So I guess me on a scooter was being a grandma.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go.

MS. OWENS: Was being older.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go. All right, and so I understand, I believe you like to watch movies.

MS. OWENS: I do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. And what is your favorite movie?

MS. OWENS: I just recently seen Unhinged, and that was in my opinion phenomenal.

JUDGE LATIMORE: If you could be a movie character, who would it be?

MS. OWENS: A movie character. I'm not sure. That's a great question.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, if you had an actress who could play you in a movie, who would it be?

MS. OWENS: Jada Pinkett Smith.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go. And why would you pick her?

MS. OWENS: Just because of course, the you know, she's representing the petite, the shorter generation of what I am, and still has a boisterous voice, still can do very well acting even though she hasn't been in a lot of different things. I still always admire her for the movies that she was in, you know, and her role in of course Different World.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. What would be the most amazing adventure to go on for you?

MS. OWENS: Well, I have been to Dubai. My next adventure that I definitely have on my bucket list is to visit Africa.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, and do you know which country you want to visit?

MS. OWENS: Not yet.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Not yet.

MS. OWENS: Not yet.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, that sounds good. And why is it that you're interested in going to Africa?

MS. OWENS: Just something different, something I never thought I would do and my husband and I, we always – we're starting to write down places that we want to go. And just making it happen. So instead of thinking about what is more realistic, I'm just stepping outside the box.

JUDGE LATIMORE: If you could step into my shoes, what would you have asked yourself that I didn't?

MS. OWENS: Nothing. I'm so glad of your questions. I feel so comfortable.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, good. Okay, that's a good thing. I want you to be comfortable. How would you like to be remembered?

MS. OWENS: I would just want to be remembered as a hard worker, someone that you knew was going to be honest and someone that you can count on, that's dependable.

JUDGE LATIMORE: If you could start your own business, what would it be?

MS. OWENS: An organizational company. I love to organize things.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You love to organize.

MS. OWENS: I do. I know it's weird but I just like to take something that's chaos and just make sense of it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, I would love to invite you to my house. Just for a day. That would be wonderful. So have you always been that way?

MS. OWENS: I have. I have.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And do you find that that comes in handy when you are either plugged in or plugged out?

MS. OWENS: Exactly. It does in my household, my cabinets, here at work. It's just something I can do just not even thinking about.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's your favorite – what is your favorite pastime?

MS. OWENS: Just relaxing, watching movies and snacking. I love to snack and eat so just really mentally letting my brain rest.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. Do you have any favorite stories from your work life?

MS. OWENS: Um –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Even though we're unplugged, is there something that you carry with you when you're away from work? Like you remembered that happened at work?

MS. OWENS: I can't say. I think I enjoy every day. Nothing really stands out and it can be a quiet day at one point and it can be a crazy, hectic day as far as when it comes to getting paper work processed and the supplies. But no, no story really sticks out.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right, and when do you feel truly alive?

MS. OWENS: I feel truly alive when I feel like I have the sense of accomplishment. And I know it sounds crazy but after running errands you know on the weekends, you have your to-do list, and when I can look at it and everything is checked off and I still feel good, I don't feel worn down, I'm so excited.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You are so organized. I can't even get through the first three things on my to-do list, okay. All right, well, it has been so wonderful speaking with you. Thank you for being unplugged with me.

MS. OWENS: Thank you for having me.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You're quite welcome.

(Music)