

9TH UNPLUGGED

STACY JOHNSON

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

MS. JOHNSON: Hi, I'm Stacy Johnson

JUDGE LATIMORE: And welcome to 9th Unplugged.

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: Welcome, Stacy, to 9th Unplugged.

MS. JOHNSON: Thank you so much.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So glad you are here. Would you tell the audience your position with the Ninth Circuit and your duties?

MS. JOHNSON: Yes, so I am an administrative assistant for the general magistrates. My duties consist of mainly reviewing reports, sending them out to judges, and emailing. I do a lot of clerk duties, administrative duties, typical things you would see for a secretary.

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

MS. JOHNSON: Two years now.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Welcome. Glad to have you here. So we're going to do 9th Unplugged right now, which means we're going to put the work aside and talk about what's happening after work, okay.

MS. JOHNSON: All right.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. So what is it that you spend most of your time doing when you're not at work?

MS. JOHNSON: So I really enjoy –

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's fun.

MS. JOHNSON: All right.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. JOHNSON: Because sometimes there's work outside of work, right.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, I had to clarify that, right.

MS. JOHNSON: So I really enjoy dancing. I like to work out. I love to bake, a few of my hobbies. And spending time with my friends and family is really important to me so I make time for that as well.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So what type of dancing?

MS. JOHNSON: I love ballet, African. I teach ballet and African.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, do you.

MS. JOHNSON: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh.

MS. JOHNSON: And so I have little girls, like ages four to seven that I've taught for a while and it's really exciting. It's one of my passions so I'm happy I'm able to do that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, so prior to coming to the Ninth Circuit and working in the legal field, what type of jobs did you hold?

MS. JOHNSON: Teaching jobs, mainly. I was a sub for Orange County for about four years. But after that I guess I should have said that I was a legal assistant for four years, but I was

in the teaching mode so I was thinking about teaching. So I've been doing legal assistant work, right beforehand, but before that, I was teaching.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. JOHNSON: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. So I noticed that you indicated that you were a photographer at portrait studios at one time.

MS. JOHNSON: Oh, yeah. Back in my past.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So how long did you do that?

MS. JOHNSON: Three years.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Three years. And are you – do you continue to do photography?

MS. JOHNSON: It's funny actually, because I notice like now among friends, they always pick me to do the photos when we're on trips and they're always like –

JUDGE LATIMORE: You didn't put that together.

MS. JOHNSON: Not for a while. I was like oh, I guess I did do photography for a while, didn't I. And I do like a lot of food photography since I love to cook.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I noticed that. Food photography, so tell me about that. Like you're taking pictures of hamburgers...

MS. JOHNSON: I mean, it's a thing.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. JOHNSON: It's just basically the food, it's like a food journal, the things that you eat and you just take pictures of it and you can post it on social media and things like that. Keeping track of it and I love to do that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah. So you're like the real expert foody that we talk about on social media?

MS. JOHNSON: You know expert is a strong word. I would say enthusiast maybe.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go. All right. I like that. That's fair. That's fair. So what food do you have in your frig right now that you've taken pictures of?

MS. JOHNSON: To be honest, I eat out a lot. But yeah, but I do have salad right now in my frig.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay and what's your go-to order at your favorite restaurant.

MS. JOHNSON: I would say a stir-fry. I love stir-fries.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you.

MS. JOHNSON: Yeah. If they have it at the restaurant I'm at, I'll do a stir-fry. I love tacos. Pretty much anything that you can put a lot of vegetables on, I like stuff like that because it makes me feel like I'm being healthy.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go. Aside from the time that you bake apparently.

MS. JOHNSON: Well, you know I mean –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right, you know, there's balances.

MS. JOHNSON: It's hard to be healthy when you're baking all the time.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's right. So what do you bake, tell us that.

MS. JOHNSON: My favorite to bake is snickerdoodles. I love brownies. And it's so funny because I've baked and I brought things here.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, where was I?

MS. JOHNSON: I don't know. Next time I bake, I'll let you know.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Let me give you my cell number.

MS. JOHNSON: Okay.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You let me know, okay.

MS. JOHNSON: But I would have people come ask me when am I baking again, and when am I going to bring some more cookies.

JUDGE LATIMORE: See, I'm going to be thinking about snickerdoodles all day long now.

MS. JOHNSON: I mean there's nothing wrong with that. They're delicious.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right, absolutely. Okay. Thank you for putting that on my mind for the rest of the day. All right. If you could hold on to one memory from your life forever, what would it be?

MS. JOHNSON: My childhood. I was four years old. I had so much fun playing outside, climbing trees. I was kind of a tomboy and I always played, and it was just such a fun time.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Why do you remember age four, specifically?

MS. JOHNSON: I don't know.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. JOHNSON: I think it was just like really a carefree time in my life, you know, like you're in pre-K, you're just playing all day, and you're just playing with the blocks and you're learning, and everything is easy then. You don't have to take tests and things so it's just – it was a fun time.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, life is wonderful, isn't it and we were all in such a rush to grow up.

MS. JOHNSON: Yeah, now you look back and you're like, man, I should have savored that time a little bit more.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And what do you regret not doing or starting when you were younger?

MS. JOHNSON: What I regret not doing.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Um-hum.

MS. JOHNSON: I think what I regret, if I had one, it would be worrying too much about what people think of me. You know because it kind of hinders you from being creative or hinders you from pursuing things that you want to do in your life and once you take all of people's opinions out of the way, you can just really be free. And I'm really big on freedom so yeah, I think that's what I would say.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's wonderful. So what do you aspire to do that you haven't had a chance to do as of yet?

MS. JOHNSON: Travel internationally.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nice. Where would you like to travel?

MS. JOHNSON: I want to go to Japan.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, we just had a conversation about Japan.

MS. JOHNSON: Oh, yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, I'll let you know and you can find someone who speaks Japanese fluently and actually was there for three years.

MS. JOHNSON: Oh, that's so cool. I can't wait to meet them.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes. That's wonderful. Anywhere else other than Japan? That's a place that I would really like to go to.

MS. JOHNSON: Spain. Japan. I want to go to Spain too.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes. Spain. Why is it that you want to visit Spain?

MS. JOHNSON: Well, I actually have practiced Spanish for like years and I feel pretty confident in it but I feel like if I go to Spain and there's this little region of Spain, called Salamanca -- I've been doing research you all, see. But it's like a prime location for people who want to study Spanish cause they speak Castilian Spanish which is the kind you learn in English courses.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. JOHNSON: Well, Spanish classes in America. And so I feel like it would really help me develop it more if I immerse myself in the culture.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wonderful.

MS. JOHNSON: Yeah. One day I'm going to do it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Are you planning it?

MS. JOHNSON: Yeah, actually I'm doing my research.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go.

MS. JOHNSON: I have to figure out when is the right time, but I really want to do it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So have you traveled – you have not traveled internationally as of yet, correct?

MS. JOHNSON: Technically, no, because Puerto Rico and St. Thomas are really – are they considered international? They're still American countries.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There still over here on this side.

MS. JOHNSON: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And where are your favorite spots that you've had a chance to travel to?

MS. JOHNSON: I think Puerto Rico is my favorite, but St. Thomas is a contender. I like the island vibe.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You like the beach, don't you?

MS. JOHNSON: Oh, I love the beach.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, I think I saw that.

MS. JOHNSON: I used to go every weekend.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Really.

MS. JOHNSON: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. JOHNSON: That's like my favorite spot.

JUDGE LATIMORE: But you're not going as frequently as much –

MS. JOHNSON: No, not really. I've been home more, you know, but it's been good. It's a little break from the beach but it's summertime so I might be back out there before you know it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go. This is the time to go. So if you could title the current chapter of your life, what would be the title?

MS. JOHNSON: Oh, that's a good question. At my first time, I'm pretty good with coming up with names so give me a second, let me see what I come up with. Stacy's Escapade.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Listen. Look at you girl. Do it.

MS. JOHNSON: See, I told you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wonderful.

MS. JOHNSON: If anybody needs titles for anything, come see me.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. Okay, and then tell me what would that all be about, if I picked up that book?

MS. JOHNSON: It would be about all the new experiences that I've allowed myself to walk into now that I have kind of accepted who I am and just you know not been so caught up in

what people think of me or you know like their opinions. I'm just excited to walk into my own life and be my own person.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And that transition takes courage doesn't it?

MS. JOHNSON: It is – it does take courage.

JUDGE LATIMORE: It really does take courage to get to the point where you're comfortable, you don't worry about what people think and say.

MS. JOHNSON: Yeah, and I like that you said courage because it's not really fearlessness, it's – you're still scared, you know or you still have those moments where you're apprehensive, but you just do it anyway.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right. Keep moving forward --

MS. JOHNSON: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: -- until you get to the other side and realize I shouldn't even have been worried about that.

MS. JOHNSON: Right, all this time.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Thank you so much for being unplugged with me today.

MS. JOHNSON: Thank you for having me. It's been a pleasure.

JUDGE LATIMORE: It was great.

(Music)