

9TH UNPLUGGED

CELIA LOPEZ-PORTOBANCO

COURT PROGRAM SPECIALIST III

JANUARY 29, 2021

HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

MS. PORTOBANCO: Hi, I'm Celia Lopez-Portobanco.

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

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: Before we get started, tell me your position and the department you work in.

MS. PORTOBANCO: I'm a senior court program specialist for family court case management in Osceola County.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And can you tell me like what does your job entail?

MS. PORTOBANCO: Oh, we case manage all pro se cases, anyone who's not represented by an attorney.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. So you're helping people who do not have lawyers?

MS. PORTOBANCO: Exactly.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wonderful. You're a big help to them, I'm sure. And so when you are away, we're going to go ahead and get unplugged from work. When you are away from work, what do you enjoy most doing?

MS. PORTOBANCO: Being at home, chilling, being with my family.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. Tell me something about your family. How many are in your family?

MS. PORTOBANCO: I have two children. They're all grown up, a 32 year old and a 27, she's still home and my son has two children. Actually, he has three children and a stepson so it's four.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, yep.

MS. PORTOBANCO: There's four grandchildren.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. And grandchildren are a joy, aren't they?

MS. PORTOBANCO: Oh, I'd die for my grandchildren.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What do you love doing with your grandchildren?

MS. PORTOBANCO: I love keeping them over the weekend, believe it or not. Every Friday night most of my weekends is being with them.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, wonderful.

MS. PORTOBANCO: I miss them so much. They spend the night over.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That is nice. All right, so before you came to the court, what did you do? What job were you working in?

MS. PORTOBANCO: I was a court clerk with the Clerk's Office in Osceola County.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, do you remember your very first job?

MS. PORTOBANCO: My very first job, yes. I was 14 years old and I worked at the, oh, Lord, County Housing Authority.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, and what did you do there?

MS. PORTOBANCO: I was just like a receptionist, secretary type of thing.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. Is there anything that's most memorable about – at that job that you take with you?

MS. PORTOBANCO: It was actually my very first job and it was kind of like an internship. And it kind of felt real for me. I was actually earning money for the first time so I was proud of the things that I learned, and I was happy to be given that opportunity during the summer break.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Is there someone in your life who inspires you more than anyone?

MS. PORTOBANCO: My dad.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Tell me about that.

MS. PORTOBANCO: I came to this country when I was 12.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Where did you come from?

MS. PORTOBANCO: Nicaragua.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. PORTOBANCO: I'm getting a little emotional, I'm sorry.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's okay.

MS. PORTOBANCO: And my dad always instilled very good values. He always wanted me to go to school and become somebody, and he was very strict. So I just love the way I was raised.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes. That's wonderful. Thank you for sharing that with us. So let me ask you a couple of questions about your favorites. Who is your favorite singer, musician, or band?

MS. PORTOBANCO: Oh, my God, I love – I love the 80s music. So I'm trying to think of --

JUDGE LATIMORE: So when you're in your car – let me ask you quickly. When you're in your car, what radio station do you have your radio tuned to?

MS. PORTOBANCO: 106.7.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And what kind of music are you listening to then?

MS. PORTOBANCO: The 80s.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go. There we are. What is your favorite place to go in Orlando?

MS. PORTOBANCO: I like the theme parks.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. Which one? Which one is your favorite?

MS. PORTOBANCO: MGM. Well, they don't call it MGM anymore.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. And if you had to pick, let's see which one you would pick between, music or podcasts.

MS. PORTOBANCO: Music.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Sports or cinema?

MS. PORTOBANCO: Cinema.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Cinema or Broadway?

MS. PORTOBANCO: Cinema.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Cinema. Winter or summer?

MS. PORTOBANCO: Summer.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Summer.

MS. PORTOBANCO: Summer.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. What is it that you like so much about the summer?

MS. PORTOBANCO: I like being outdoors. I love going to the beach. I don't like the cold weather.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right. I will have to agree with you on that very much so. If you had an opportunity to change your first name, do you have a name you would pick?

MS. PORTOBANCO: I think Anastasia.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, that's nice.

MS. PORTOBANCO: I think it's a strong name.

JUDGE LATIMORE: It is. I like the flavor of that too. What is the best compliment you've ever received?

MS. PORTOBANCO: Well, I get one most of the time saying that I'm a sharp dresser so I like –

JUDGE LATIMORE: I wish they could see you now. You are all coordinated from head to toe, okay.

MS. PORTOBANCO: I love to coordinate my jewelry with my clothing so you know –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes. Yes. That's a very –

MS. PORTOBANCO: I like to be presentable.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And you have a collection, correct?

MS. PORTOBANCO: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You collect. And tell us about your collection.

MS. PORTOBANCO: Many things. Oh, my goodness. I started when I had my first child, and that was back in 1988, I started collecting the Precious Moments. So I have, oh, my gosh, I have a big collection of Precious Moments.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, tell the people who might not know about – I do know about Precious Moments. Tell the people about that.

MS. PORTOBANCO: They're just ceramic figurines. Very pretty faces. They're just – they have all kinds of you know things for birthdays, for different occasions. They even have for anniversary. It's just a big variety of things. They have the old town, like the village for the Christmas. I have the train. I mean, I have the –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, you have it all.

MS. PORTOBANCO: -- nativity. My collection is humongous.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wow, yes. And when you say humongous, can you tell us approximately how many figurines you have or is that too much to count?

MS. PORTOBANCO: I can tell you I have four wall units.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wow. That's a lot. You have a true collection. Okay, you do have a true collection. That's wonderful. What is your favorite food? Do you have one?

MS. PORTOBANCO: Oh, yes, Mexican food.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Mexican food, okay.

MS. PORTOBANCO: I love Mexican food.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Any particular Mexican dish?

MS. PORTOBANCO: I have two dishes that I love. The best is Chimichangas. I don't know if you've tried that or the steak fajitas. Those are my two main plates.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Tell me, what is your definition of success?

MS. PORTOBANCO: Feeling fulfilled and happy about what you do. And just being happy at what you do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. Is there anything on your list, your bucket list that you would like to fulfill?

MS. PORTOBANCO: Oh, do more travelling.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Where do you want to go?

MS. PORTOBANCO: I would like to go to Australia. I love the scenery there. And Italy.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And Italy.

MS. PORTOBANCO: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Italy seems to be at the top of many people's list. It just seems to be one of the favorites. All right. And when you think about how you can make the world a better place, what do you process?

MS. PORTOBANCO: Well, being more compassionate and giving to people. Understanding that some people who have more and people that have less, that we need to give more for the less fortunate people. And also always follow the golden rule.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And do you want to share it with us?

MS. PORTOBANCO: I'm sorry.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you want to share the golden rule with us? We all should know it, right?

MS. PORTOBANCO: Of course. Don't do unto others what you don't want undone to you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go. All right. Well, thank you so much for being unplugged with me. It was a pleasure speaking with you.

MS. PORTOBANCO: Thank you for having me. It was a pleasure.

(Music)