

9<sup>TH</sup> UNPLUGGED

SERENA DERVIL

HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALIST II

JUNE 21, 2023

HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

MS. DERVIL: Hi, I'm Serena Dervil.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And you're listening to 9<sup>th</sup> Unplugged.

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi Serena, I'm so glad that you joined us today. Welcome.

MS. DERVIL: Hi, thank you for having me.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And would you share with our audience so we can get started at the unplugged part, could you first share with our audience what your position is with the court and how long you've been here.

MS. DERVIL: Yes, so I am a human resource specialist II and actually on June 28<sup>th</sup> will be my two-year anniversary here with Court Administration.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Congratulations.

MS. DERVIL: Thank you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: We are glad to have you. So what are your duties?

MS. DERVIL: Oh, let's see. Some of everything. So mainly I handle all state funded employees here with Court Administration. Let's see here, I take care of like senior judges. I also do Orange County payroll.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. DERVIL: I'm just an overall go-to person. I pretty much handle just about everything.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wonderful. So you like people.

MS. DERVIL: I love people.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You love people. That's awesome. So let's talk about what you do when you're not here working with the courthouse people.

MS. DERVIL: Okay.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So what's the favorite thing that you like to do when you're not working at the courthouse?

MS. DERVIL: So recently it will be taking naps.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Taking naps.

MS. DERVIL: I found the older I get, I love to take naps. You know, it's fun when you're younger, you used to like –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Fight it.

MS. DERVIL: -- not nap like your parents but now, you catch me on a good day, that's what I'm doing. But really, I just love spending time with my nieces and nephews and just crafting, doing home improvement projects.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So you do crafts.

MS. DERVIL: I love crafts.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And home improvement.

MS. DERVIL: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So how did you get into that?

MS. DERVIL: I have no idea. I just –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Just a natural skill?

MS. DERVIL: Just a natural. I just love doing it, just creating things, making things look nice and just helping people.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Share with us one of your major projects that you just finished.

MS. DERVIL: So a major project that I just finished is my family had a home in Haines City, so it recently was put on the market so I pretty much was like the project manager. So I had to help with picking out paint colors, flooring, being there when the contractors are there, so basically telling everybody what to do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

MS. DERVIL: Like this is how we want it so that was a really big project for me to do so – I actually kind of enjoy it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And it came naturally, huh?

MS. DERVIL: Um-hum. Easy.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nice. Is it something that you'd like to get into further?

MS. DERVIL: Not particularly.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. We'll move on from that. I understand you like to travel.

MS. DERVIL: I do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. What is the most favorite place you've been?

MS. DERVIL: Well, I love to cruise and I'm actually going on one next month.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nice.

MS. DERVIL: So any time I can cruise, just going to a different country to explore will be fun. So the last country I went to was Bahamas but it wasn't a cruise. My husband is actually from the Bahamas so I'm able to just go whenever now. But that's not my favorite actually. It's overrated.

JUDGE LATIMORE: It's overrated?

MS. DERVIL: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, what's your favorite?

MS. DERVIL: It will be – I don't know.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you have a favorite?

MS. DERVIL: Not really.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, that's fine. Tell the audience, where would you like to go if you were just able to plan a weekend getaway. Where would you be likely to go?

MS. DERVIL: Actually, believe it or not, I would like to be in the mountains when it's snowing, in a cabin.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I understand you were born in Florida.

MS. DERVIL: Florida, born and raised in Florida.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Born and raised, but you like cold weather.

MS. DERVIL: I actually hate the cold weather but I just want to experience that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. So have you seen snow before?

MS. DERVIL: I have.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You have, okay. But you just have to have that experience.

MS. DERVIL: I just want to experience that for like a weekend.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nice.

MS. DERVIL: If I can last that long, just the weekend.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You surely can.

MS. DERVIL: Build a fire. That's it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's wonderful. What is it that you haven't experienced other than that, going to the mountains, anything else that you haven't experienced yet that you really want to attempt such as jumping out of a plane or skiing, I don't know, deep sea diving?

MS. DERVIL: Well, deep sea diving, actually is one of the ones that I would like to do but not really because the water terrifies me like that. But really what I really, really want to do is be like a fighter pilot.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Really.

MS. DERVIL: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, how did you come to that?

MS. DERVIL: I don't know. I don't know. I think I just like watching, when I see the movies and it has like – like Top Gun and everything, I just think it's so fascinating so I always tell my husband, man, wouldn't it be cool if we were just like fighter pilots just for like a day. But crazy thing is, I don't like to fly, right. Everything I don't like, I want to experience.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You want to do, right.

MS. DERVIL: Yeah, so it's just like – it's because I'm terrified of doing it that I want to do it just to be like, oh, that looks so cool.

JUDGE LATIMORE: To overcome your fear, I'm guessing.

MS. DERVIL: Right, but yeah wishful thinking.

JUDGE LATIMORE: It may happen. It absolutely may happen.

MS. DERVIL: It may. It may. We'll see.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Since you're a people person, what is it that you like most about human nature? What is it that you see in people that really attracts you?

MS. DERVIL: I like – so I like to make memories. I like to make a lasting impression on folks. I mean, you just never know what someone's going through so you just don't know how a simple hello or just a small conversation can affect someone, like turn their day around. Like I have – I've been in situations where I'll be in the grocery store and I'm just smiling or thinking about something and I'll have complete strangers walk up to me and say, your smile just made my day. Like I was having a horrible day and just looking how happy you just turned it around. So it's just those moments knowing that I can touch somebody, especially a stranger to just like make their day go great. That's the human interaction I love. And I know there's still good in a

lot of people out here considering all of the things that are going on in the world, so I just love just to see that we still have that love and unity amongst one another.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's awesome. So in your group of friends, do you have a group of friends that you particularly hang with?

MS. DERVIL: I do. I do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. And so in the group of friends what are you known to, they can count on you in certain areas.

MS. DERVIL: Yes, I am the counselor. I am the secret keeper --

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

MS. DERVIL: -- that goes to my grave. I am the non-judgmental, non-biased, I'm here. I don't sugarcoat anything. Like if you want a real honest opinion, the truth, I will let you know. Very transparent.

JUDGE LATIMORE: With a smile on your face.

MS. DERVIL: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, that is wonderful.

MS. DERVIL: Yes, and I always start off, I mean, I don't mean to hurt your feelings but I just have to let you know, you were wrong in this situation and this is why. But I don't force my opinions on people. I wait until you ask me for my opinion, then I'll tell you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, do you come from a big family?

MS. DERVIL: Actually I am an only child.



JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh.

MS. DERVIL: So maybe I think that's another reason why I'm a people person because I always wanted to be around people. But yeah, I'm the only child. My immediate family is not so big but my family in general, yes, we are very huge.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So you grew up in Jacksonville.

MS. DERVIL: Yes, I did.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And when did you come to Orlando?

MS. DERVIL: I came to Orlando in 2003 after I graduated high school.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And why is it that you ended up in Orlando?

MS. DERVIL: I came here for school, for college.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. And where did you go to school in Jacksonville?

MS. DERVIL: So in Jacksonville, I went to a magnet school so it was called A. Philip Randolph Academy of Technology and believe it or not I was in the medical program because I wanted to go to school to be a nurse.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. DERVIL: But clearly my career path totally changed.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Like it happens to many.

MS. DERVIL: Yeah, so really when I came to college like the first two semesters, I was pursuing medical for nursing and then I changed it right after that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Why the change?

MS. DERVIL: Because I realized I didn't want to do that and then I started becoming squeamish to certain things.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I was wondering if that was it.

MS. DERVIL: I was like, yeah, maybe this is not for me.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Maybe not.

MS. DERVIL: So I switched to hospitality management which is what I got my degree in.

JUDGE LATIMORE: It seems like you have the perfect personality for all of that.

MS. DERVIL: Thank you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So thank you so much for joining us for unplugged today.

MS. DERVIL: Thank you, I had so much fun. Thank you for inviting me.

(Music)