

9TH UNPLUGGED

HONORABLE TANYA DAVIS WILSON

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

JUDGE WILSON: And I'm Judge Wilson.

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

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, welcome, Judge Wilson. Before we get unplugged from work and dive into life outside of the courts, tell us your title as Judge of course, tell us where you are assigned and a little bit about your history on the bench

JUDGE WILSON: All right. I am a circuit judge in the criminal division. And I was appointed to the county division, the county bench in April 2014 and then Governor Scott appointed me again to the circuit bench in April of 2017. So I came from the U.S. Attorney's Office and I was in the middle of a trial actually, Judge Latimore, when I got the call. I was doing my closing argument and my phone rang. And I had told my trial partner if you see an 850 area code, you got to answer that. That could be the Governor saying yay. Well, my phone rang. But it was a 239 area code so Sean didn't get it. He was just like, oh, that's somebody else. Well, I finished my closing. I sat down and I'm like did my phone ring? And he said, yeah, it was a 239 area code so I didn't answer it. And I was fine, and then it dawned on me that Governor Scott was from that area code and that's when I started getting nervous. I don't really know what the first defense attorney said in his closing because I was focused on that phone call. And so during a break, I went outside and I was able to hear Governor Scott's message, and I called him back –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wonderful.

JUDGE WILSON: - and apologized, I'm sorry I missed your call, Governor. I was working.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You were working, right. You had a legitimate excuse.

JUDGE WILSON: I had a legitimate excuse.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you even know how that trial ended?

JUDGE WILSON: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You do. You remember.

JUDGE WILSON: Yeah, defendants one and two were found guilty. Three was not. What anybody said, no clue?

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah.

JUDGE WILSON: No clue.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. How have you enjoyed your time on the bench?

JUDGE WILSON: Oh, I love it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE WILSON: I love it. This is what I had been wanting to do since I started as a PD in January '97. I was in front of Judge Halker and what really brought it home was when I had this client who stole some food.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE WILSON: And the state attorney wanted my guy on probation and a little bit of jail. And I'm like, you can't possibly have to go to jail for stealing a steak. I just don't understand that. So she wasn't hearing me. And my trial partner said, Tanya, you can always ask the judge, you know, see if the judge would give you a better offer. And so when I did that, and Judge Halker said it's just food, I'm going to adjudicate him and you know he can pay court costs. And I'm like, oh, so this is how you can really help your community. It's not being an attorney, it's being a judge. And so ever since then, that's what I decided, okay, I want to be a judge because I can do more as a judge than I could as an attorney because as his PD I couldn't help him really.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, we are so happy that you joined the bench with us.

JUDGE WILSON: Thank you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So let's get unplugged.

JUDGE WILSON: All right. We're unplugged.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, so what is it that you spend most of your time doing when you're not on the bench?

JUDGE WILSON: When I'm not on the bench I spend most of my time unfortunately, I have found TikTok.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh.

JUDGE WILSON: So spend a good bit of time on that. But I do like to read. I like Sandra Brown. I like John Grisham.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE WILSON: Lee Child's with the John Reacher books. So I like to read.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Have you done a TikTok video yet?

JUDGE WILSON: Unh-unh. No, I'm one of those, I don't know what they call me. I think I'm just like lurker or something because I don't post but I look at everybody else's.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Stalker.

JUDGE WILSON: I'm a stalker.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You're a stalker. I don't know.

JUDGE WILSON: I'm a TikTok stalker.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go.

JUDGE WILSON: Okay, I am – hi, my name is Tanya and I am a TikTok stalker. So that's right. And I like to comment and you know click the heart button.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE WILSON: So I do a lot of that, but I also like to read. I find myself you know, I'm a baseball and basketball mom because my son likes to play -

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE WILSON: - both of those sports. So when he's not playing I actually have a little more time to myself, but when he's playing that's when I become baseball mom, basketball mom.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And what is your – who is your favorite author? Or do you have a favorite?

JUDGE WILSON: I would say it is Sandra Brown.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right.

JUDGE WILSON: I would say it was her.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And do you like movies as well?

JUDGE WILSON: Love movies.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Love movies.

JUDGE WILSON: Love movies, but you know COVID kind of put a little damper on that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right.

JUDGE WILSON: But –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Unless you're streaming, and Netflix or something to that affect.

JUDGE WILSON: Um-hum, yeah, I watch Netflix movies. We have Disney Plus.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE WILSON: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Some great movies on – Pixar is amazing okay, I just want to throw that in there.

JUDGE WILSON: Okay, so I'm not going to – I'm not going to be embarrassed if I say my favorite movie is Cinderella.

JUDGE LATIMORE: No, not in this company, okay. Absolutely not.

JUDGE WILSON: Okay. All right, so yes, I have Disney Plus, not because my child needs it. I have Disney Plus for myself. Cinderella, Mulan, Beauty and the Beast. And then every now and again, I'll watch an adult movie like you know Friday or Barber Shop. But that's not on TikTok, that's on, what you call it –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hulu.

JUDGE WILSON: Amazon Prime.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Amazon Prime. Let me ask you a question. If you were an actress, who would you want to be? You know, if you had a movie about yourself, who would you pick as the actress to portray you?

JUDGE WILSON: It better be Nia Long.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE WILSON: It needs to be Nia Long.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And tell me why you love Nia Long other than the fact that she's a great actress and beautiful.

JUDGE WILSON: She's a great actress and she's beautiful.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And that's all you need, right.

JUDGE WILSON: That's all I need. That is it. But yeah, it would have to be her because I can't think of anybody else who kind of remotely looks like me, maybe.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. And then on the other side of that, who would you want to play your husband in that movie?

JUDGE WILSON: My husband.

JUDGE LATIMORE: In the movie.

JUDGE WILSON: Well, Denzel is a little older but that's okay. It could be Denzel, Michael Idriss.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Idriss, okay. I'm going to bring this back though.

JUDGE WILSON: You know, I'd even do Brad Pitt as my husband too.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. Yes, yes. All right. Good picks. Absolutely.

JUDGE WILSON: I'm meditating because I might come up with somebody else in the middle of this, Judge Latimore.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You can always change your fictional name anytime –

JUDGE WILSON: I'm going to change it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: - you'd like to. I understand that you like comedy shows as well. Who is your famous comic – who is your favorite comic?

JUDGE WILSON: I like Cedric the Entertainer because he reminds me of my Uncle Lester.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Really.

JUDGE WILSON: Oh, gosh, yeah. Just his complexion, his size, his demeanor, I do like Ced the Entertainer. I like – remember Kings of Comedy?

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

JUDGE WILSON: Do you all remember that? They came here, what twenty years ago?

JUDGE LATIMORE: I think I was in the arena with you at that time.

JUDGE WILSON: Okay, we were there together.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Bernie Mac.

JUDGE WILSON: Bernie Mac. It's Bernie Mac. My favorite, it's got to be Bernie Mac, especially his joke where –

JUDGE LATIMORE: You just kicked Ced to the corner, I mean, to the curb, right, just that quick, right.

JUDGE WILSON: That's just – because I can switch them out. I like all of the Kings of Comedy but I think Bernie Mac and Ced are my favorites.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Absolutely. So let's talk food because I do know personally that you like food.

JUDGE WILSON: Okay.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right.

JUDGE WILSON: I do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, and what is your favorite meal? If you had to pick –

JUDGE WILSON: Favorite meal.

JUDGE LATIMORE: -- your last meal, what would it be?

JUDGE WILSON: The last meal. Okay, it's got to have a Reese's peanut butter cup. It does not – it cannot be frozen, cold. I need it warm.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Almost melted.

JUDGE WILSON: Almost melted, slightly greasy because the greasy ones are the fresh ones. Have you ever noticed that?

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go. I did notice that.

JUDGE WILSON: Here's the deal. If you ever get a Reese's cup and you bite into it and it's dry, throw it away. That is not a good Reese's.

JUDGE LATIMORE: It's outdated. Yes, we're having a great time.

JUDGE WILSON: Right, it's outdated. You want a greasy one. That's the one you want to eat so it's got to be that. Seafood, I like seafood.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, is there a seafood you won't eat?

JUDGE WILSON: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Which one?

JUDGE WILSON: I will not eat calamari, squid, octopus, whatever you all want to call it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I am so with you on that.

JUDGE WILSON: That – that animal is not right. It's supposed to be left in the water.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I don't think it's supposed to be eaten.

JUDGE WILSON: But a shrimp will catch the devil with me.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, right. Okay, listen, they're in trouble if they're anywhere around. And a crab for me.

JUDGE WILSON: Okay, I can't eat crabs, the little blue ones. I never learned how to eat a crab, but I can –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, you stick with me, ma'am. I can teach you. I'm a professional. I learned from my mama Josephine, okay.

JUDGE WILSON: Okay, got it. I'll learn how to eat blue crab.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's a date.

JUDGE WILSON: Got it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: It is so wonderful to have you be unplugged with me. Thank you so much.

JUDGE WILSON: Thank you so much, Judge. I appreciate it.

(Music)