

9TH UNPLUGGED

HONORABLE EVELLEN JEWETT

COUNTY COURT JUDGE

JUNE 21, 2023

HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: And I'm Judge Jewett.

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

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: How are you doing today, Judge Jewett?

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: I'm doing great.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Welcome to 9th Unplugged.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: Well, thank you. My pleasure to be here.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And if you'll take a moment before we get unplugged to tell everyone how long you've been a judge and what division your assigned to. What does that entail?

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: Okay, I have been a judge, let's see seven and a half years now. Is that right? Probably more.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: I don't know.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Having so much fun, can't keep up with it.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: Six and a half years. I don't know. Anyway, and – no, I guess it's six and a half years and I'm currently in county civil which entails sadly evicting people and then less sad but run of the mill, call them glass cases and PIP cases. And also Judge Judy type cases.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: Small claims. You deal with a lot of different people so it's interesting.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, did you always want to be a judge?

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: Not necessarily civil, but yeah. Actually not always. I was a public defender for a really long time and about six years into my PD stay, I looked at what I was doing and what I used to do when I was down in county and said, you know the perfect job for me would be to be a county court judge. I just – I love it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wonderful.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: It's just dealing with the general public on smaller issues, big to them but smaller issues. Not you know trying felonies and not you know huge civil cases that go on for weeks, more you know let's do the Judge Judy stuff and clear the air for people.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So what do you do when you're away from the courts? What do you do to have fun?

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: Well, I – I'm actually kind of a homebody. I like to be home with my dogs. But if I'm not at home, I like to travel. So I recently went to Iceland.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nice.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: This has actually been the year of travel. We went to Iceland for a week which was unexpected but it worked out that way, and then a cruise – we did a three week, well, two-week cruise, a three-week trip which was a really long time. That has been a pushed a couple of times because of COVID so everything just kind of ended up

happening this year. So we went to South America, we went from Chile down around Cape Horn and up to Buenos Aires. Our very first cruise, 12 days, it's quite a way to decide whether or not that's what you want to do –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, whether you like it or not.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: I'm not necessarily a cruise person but it made sense for this trip.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: And it was a family thing so –

JUDGE LATIMORE: How do you unexpectedly get to Iceland?

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: Gosh.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Please explain that to me. I want that to happen.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: I know. I know. Yeah, it was weird. I had been – we had been to Iceland before during COVID. It was the perfect COVID trip. We – they were very careful about testing. I was very careful about testing. You had to have a negative test to even to get on to Iceland Air. You had to have a negative test to clear your way into the country.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: And our trip, that we went to previously was by car and we went around the circle road, the ring road in a car. And it's kind of like going to all the national parks along the way. So you're doing things outside. There are only 375,000 people in the entire country so there are no people around. So it was a perfect COVID vacation. So we went to Iceland during COVID. And then my husband is a huge Elvis Costello fan. It's his

favorite. They actually have the same birthday, not the same day, date. And – not that that matters, but just a coincidence. But we had actually gone to see Elvis Costello in Austin --

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: -- for my birthday and my husband had told me previously that there was going to be this Elvis in Iceland trip, a four-day trip.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I see.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: Where there are these private concerts and then the big concert at the – I can't think of the name of it all of a sudden. The big concert hall that's gorgeous there.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So it was your husband that kind of got you in there.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: Well, he wanted to go and I said well, here's the thing, Steve, we're already going to Austin to see Elvis. We've seen Elvis, I don't know, more than 20 times. A lot more than 20 times, I'll say. We've been to Iceland. You know this trip is a little pricey, you know we don't need to do that. But when we were in Austin, I looked over and saw how happy my husband and I just leaned over to him and said, you know what, if you want to go to Iceland, we should go to Iceland, so –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nice.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: So that night he took me up on my mood and we –

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's right, that's smart. It could change tomorrow.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: We booked the trip. We booked our airline tickets. You know we spent a lot of money that night. But we locked it in then but we got ten percent off by booking before – before the end of the year.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, no one has ever said that Steve Jewett is not a smart man so with that –

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: I've said it. About some things.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Tell me this – tell me this, what is something that tons of people are obsessed about that you just don't get the hype? Anything that you can think of?

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: Oh, Kardashians.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well –

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: Yeah, I don't care.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, what's interesting is that I've had a chance to interview your husband and he apparently is really into the Housewives, right?

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: Yeah, he's insane. Like I said, somebody has said my husband is not a smart man. He loves that Bravo TV reality stuff.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, he shared that.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: Which is great and I found out during our cruise that my brother-in-law who is an ocular plastic surgeon apparently is obsessed with, I don't know, Marry at First Sight or something. And it's because the ladies that he works in his office are in their you know thirties and forties and they're obsessed with it. So it gives them something to talk about –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: -- with them. So they you know, who knew that they were little gossipers which is – I was so disappointed to find out my brother-in-law who I thought – who I respected previously. I don't know about anymore.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So what are some of your favorite shows? Do you have any favorite shows that you watch?

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: Well, I just finished – I can't think of the name of it. What is it? The Never Have I Ever – I like a bunch of – Mrs. Maisel, the Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, things on Netflix.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Netflix type shows.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: Yeah, those you know ten-episode series type of things. Just finished Succession. I love Succession. I started out on Succession saying I hate everybody on this show.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I think a lot of people shared that.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: I'm having a hard time liking the show because I hate everybody on the show but I also find the show very amusing and then it occurred to me, that's the whole point and you know once I got by you know, it's like you don't have to be rooting for anybody just to kind of watch the – watch the mess that it is. And so yeah, once I got over needing to like somebody, yeah, I was fine.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You spoke about traveling but I understand that you all take a trip every year for a jazz concert, is that correct?

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: It's not a jazz concert, it's a jazz fest.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What is it?

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: It's New Orleans Jazz Fest.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, jazz – New Orleans Jazz Fest, okay.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: Yeah, it's the New Orleans, what's it called, Jazz and Heritage Festival.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: And it's the last weekend of April, first weekend of May every year. It's been going on since the early 70s. And I first went to it in like 1982 and I had a great time and then when my husband and I first started dating in 1991, I said, hey, you know there's this – my brother was living just outside of New Orleans and I said there's this great party that goes on, we should go. And we went in '91 and then we didn't go back until our 10th Anniversary. And then we were like, you know, we should do this every year. And we've been going back every year. We have a bunch of friends that we meet there. It's fabulous.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wonderful. That sounds like a great time.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: It's just – it's really more about the reunion than the music at this point but the music is what drew us in the first place and we love – we love music so –

JUDGE LATIMORE: And it gives you an opportunity to spend time with friends.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: To see Elvis Costello again.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go. There you go. Well, thank you so much. I appreciate you being here on unplugged.

JUDGE EVELLEN JEWETT: Well, I appreciate the offer so anyway, it's good to see you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Good to see you as well.

(Music)