



EPISODE 14: Another Good Day for Justice -What Happened to Gloria Satterfield? Part 4

Mandy Matney 00:00

I don't know if anyone killed Gloria Satterfield. But this week, prosecutors presented a paper trail of evidence showing how Alex Murdaugh allegedly stole millions of dollars in a despicable scheme and the aftermath of her death. In this week, prosecutors presented enough evidence about Alex Murdaugh to convince a South Carolina judge to keep Alex Murdaugh behind bars for the time being and that is a big deal. My name is Manny Matney, and I've been investigating the Murdaugh family for more than two and a half years now, and this is the Murdaugh Murders Podcast. Last week, I told you all that this bond hearing would be different. And I'm happy to say that I was right. On Tuesday, South Carolina judge Clifton Newman ruled against Alex Murdaugh and his so called Bulldog attorneys to many in South Carolina. The ruling had much larger implications on the justice system as a whole to many and meant that the tides were changing against the good old boy system and that this case is no longer under their thumbs. So today in this special Breaking News episode of The Murdaugh Murders Podcast we're going to go through the arguments a Tuesday's hearing and talk about what led Judge Newman to make this decision. Creighton Waters prosecutor with the South Carolina Attorney General's office was first present he told the court how Gloria Satterfield was the Murdaugh's housekeeper for more than two decades. He talked about how Gloria helped raise Alex's two children Buster and Paul and how she died suddenly at the age of 57 after an alleged trip and fall incident at Alex Murdaugh's Moselle home and Collington County, South Carolina in February 2018, Satterfield's entire family attended the hearing, I didn't see a single member of the Murdaugh family there to support Alex on Tuesday during the bond hearing Waters took the court through the Satterfield scheme that allegedly began soon after she died.

Creighton Waters 02:08

Your Honor. Mr. Murdaugh, as you may know, his longtime board state, South Carolina does a lot of tort work. And at the funeral of Miss Satterfield, Mr. Murdaugh tells the family, hey, she fell in my house is because of the dogs, it was my fault. And I'm gonna take you to a lawyer so that ya'll can file a claim and get some compensation for the death of your mom. And he takes the boys to a friend of his a very close friend, as a person by the name of Corey Fleming. And, Your Honor, as you're well aware, many times in these sorts of cases, There ended up being a structured settlement. And there is a company a legitimate company here that operates in South Carolina called Forge Consulting. And what they do is they help facilitate these structured settlements in certain cases where that is approved by the court. But as Your Honor also known as those have to be approved by the court, Mr. Murdaugh it appears back in 2015, set up a bank account at the Bank of America, in the name of Richard Alexander Murdaugh DBA Forge.



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Mandy Matney 03:14

Here at the court learn shocking information that Alex Murdaugh allegedly opened up the fake Forge account in 2015. This leads to so many other questions how many other people did he scam with his fake Forge account? Why did he open it in 2015? Here is Waters again,

Creighton Waters 03:35

and then appears that this account was nothing more than a an illusion of fabrication, in order to create the illusion that these checks that he was getting in various settlements, were going to a legitimate settlement consultant, when in reality they were going into an account that he controlled. And that's how the scheme was was took place in this particular case, and this led to a chain of events. So your honor that I've never seen before.

Mandy Matney 04:03

So if you've been following along and paying attention to the Murdaugh Murders Podcast and FITS news coverage of this case, you've heard most of this, but hearing it in court is a whole nother thing and it's a good recap of how the scheme went down here is Waters again.

Creighton Waters 04:18

Mr. Fleming talks the boys into appointing his PR person at Palmetto State Bank where Mr. Murdaugh has a long relationship, a guy by the name of Chad Westondorf. He gets appointed on December 18 2019. And on the very next day, December 19 2019. He files a petition to approve a settlement with which is a \$500,000 settlement on the homeowner's policy. The disbursement in this petition says 475 for the wrongful death 25 for survival and 5000 for the mid day and in that petition as well. There is \$166,000 for attorneys fees and then \$11,500 on the nose for cost and ultimately then not long after that, Mr. Fleming and his law firm issues a check at the direction of Mr. Murdaugh all made out just simply to the name Forge. And Mr. Murdaugh, take that particular check it is for \$403,500. That makes no sense with the disbursements that were in the petition proof of settlement. And he deposits that into this Forge account that he controls. And you're also able to review the bank records about that. And what we see is is that's deposited in January 2019. And by March 2019, he is transferred all that money out of that Forge account he controls into his personal checking account where they are spent on personal use and family expenses.

Mandy Matney 05:43

Here Waters is saying that in March 2019, which would be days or weeks after the 2019 boat crash that killed Mallory Beach, Murdaugh transferred a large amount of money from the Satterfield settlement into his own bank account for personal use. This boat crash forever changed the dynamics of the Murdaugh family and thrust them into a media spotlight that they just were not prepared for in March 2019. The Murdaugh family was sued for that crash by Mallory Beach's mother Renee Beach, who is being represented by Mark Tensley. In an April 2019, Paul Murdaugh, Alex Murdaugh son was charged with three felonies in that crash.



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Attorneys Dick Harpootlian, and Jim Griffin were hired to represent Paul either in March or April 2019, which would be after he got this money likely considering that the Murdaugh family got millions in the settlement. How can we know for sure that none of the money went to Jim Griffin or Dick Harpootlian? And if it did, wouldn't that be a conflict of interest?

Creighton Waters 07:01

But that's not the end of it, Your Honor. There's also an umbrella policy that's got a much higher limit and ultimately, Mr. Fleming negotiates a \$3.8 million settlement with the insurance company on that umbrella policy. And then what we see is there is an unfiled petition. The Caption has changed doesn't have Mr. Murdaugh name on it. It just says inrae Gloria Satterfield, Murdaugh name is removed. And it is this petition to approve the settlement as on May 13 2019. And it's actually for \$4,305,000. So it is for 3.8 plus the five and five that was from that previous petition, there's no mention of structure, there's no mention of a structured settlements. And in the disbursement that set out there, they're supposed to be \$2,765,000 is supposed to go to the beneficiaries. And then there's also \$105,000 and costs on those again, 01 \$105,000, not 21 cents, not 37 cents \$205,000. So that disbursement also has on there for attorneys fees, and all the rest of it. And again, 2.7 million is supposed to go to this, these boys back here. And instead, Mr. Fleming sends a check to Forge and Mr. Murdaugh's direction on May 13 2019, for \$2,961,911.95. And that represents the second charge the first charges 403,000. The second charges for the 2.9, almost \$3 million. And again, Your Honor, when you look at the petition, the disbursements make no sense whatsoever. They don't bear any relationship to what was said on those petitions. But the reality is, is that \$2.9 million, went into that Forge account and Mr. Murdaugh controlled, and within a few months, he had transferred all that money for personal use.

Mandy Matney 08:50

So before the court hearing, we never heard what Alex did with the money. And that was revealed in Court yesterday. Here's Waters again.

Creighton Waters 08:59

He'd had been carrying \$100,000 credit card balance for months, that gets paid off? He writes 300 some odd grand to his father, he writes a check for 602 grand to himself. He writes a check for 125 grand to himself. Not a dime goes to this family back here. And interestingly, I noticed last night that one of the checks and there was an \$84 Check that he wrote to Scott Harriet, who was one of the family members back here. So he had over \$3 million of money that should have gone to this family are almost \$3 million of money that should have gotten to this family.



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Mandy Matney 09:34

Not a dime went to Gloria's sons Brian Harriet, and Tony Satterfield. And they wouldn't have known that there were any dimes distributed in this case had it not been for my article that they read in 2020, which was about the only part of the settlement that was on public record, and I only wrote that article because the Murdochs were involved in the 2019 boat crash so many events had to occur in order For Alex's arrest to happen in this case, here is Waters again.

Creighton Waters 10:04

Your Honor, there is one final check. That was in October of 2020. Over a year after all this other stuff occurred, and that was \$418,000. And Mr. Fleming also sent the Forge that Mr. Murdaugh absconded with that as well. That's not one of the current charges. But that is because this is an ongoing investigation. Your Honor, this is the tip of the iceberg. It is this is an ongoing investigation. And I think there's gonna be far more that we will reveal as we review these records.

Mandy Matney 10:34

Earlier this week Satterfield family attorney Eric Bland told FITS news that he believes that elec should have been charged with a third check. At the very least, that third check was \$418,000 that he allegedly stole in the settlement. The Attorney General's office here is basically saying that they expect more charges will come and that this is just the beginning. At the end of the prosecution statement Waters asked the judge for a surety bond and a GPS monitor. He said Murdock is a flight risk and should be considered a danger to himself and the community. Your Honor,

Creighton Waters 11:08

Very quickly, the state would be asking for a surety bond here today. In the neighborhood of \$200,000. We would ask for GPS. And the reason for that is is that we do believe that Mr. Murdaugh is a danger. He's he's already about the previous charges that he had. He has been a danger to himself and a man who is a danger to himself is a danger to others. The underlying facts of those and there's already been a Boston on that. And I recognize that but the underlying facts of those charges were in fact fight. Someone who's suicidal is also a danger to other people. Additionally, he's been apparently under treatment for a very severe opioid addiction. And you're out there doing a lot of drug cases. I know how powerful that is. And how unmoored that can make someone. And then obviously we're all aware of the unspeakable tragedy that his family has suffered. His professional life is coming apart at the seams, he's facing very serious charges with additional ones to come. And that really can make someone very unmoored and very dangerous. And for that, Your Honor, I think that he is a danger. I think we also have to consider the fact of a flight risk. This is a man who, just here today I'm going to charges were here today, we're talking about over \$3 million. That was misappropriated. That's a lot of money. And I think inherently that makes somebody with



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that kind of means what kind of money that this man was dealing with makes them capable of being a flight risk, Your Honor, if you steal \$3.4 million, I believe you deserve shirting, I believe you deserve deserve GPS. I believe that that would be treating him by the book.

Mandy Matney 12:45

After Waters, Murdaugh's defense attorney Dick Harpootlian address the court Dick Harpootlian did not look on top of his game yesterday. Her peatlands argument was basically saying that Murdaugh is a recovering addict and should no longer be considered a danger, arguing that Murdaugh is not a flight risk. carpetland claimed that Alex was willing to voluntarily turn himself in on any additional charges before he was arrested on Thursday, but law enforcement didn't take him up on that. I thought this was interesting as the two systems of justice theme keeps reoccurring, and this that Harpootlian would expect Alex to be able to turn himself in again and not get arrested like a normal person.

Dick Harpootlian 13:26

We're not here today to make the allegation by the state you presumed innocent at this point. And while the allegations are just that allegations, they're really not relevant to the bond, Your Honor says. The second thing I point out is this when he was made aware of the charges in in in Hampton County, for which he's out on bond now, he brought himself from a treatment facility in Georgia surrendered himself, a PR bond was set he was released, he went to another treatment facility. We offered to sweat to let us know if you need him we anticipated for the charges. They did not take us up on our offer to have him come up under his own steam and surrender himself. They went to Orlando, Florida took him into custody. Without giving us a heads up. That was not what was represented to me. They have some reason for doing it. He is not a flight risk. He surrendered himself. He was willing to surrender himself on this. He's really got nowhere to go. He's from South Carolina live here his entire life.

Mandy Matney 14:28

The defense really pushed the narrative that Alex was a drug addict who needed to go back to rehab.

Dick Harpootlian 14:34

The second thing I think it's important to recognize is this. He has had at least a decade if not longer of severe addiction to OxyContin and other opioids. Much of the conduct we're talking about they're talking about here today occurred because of that, some of it to fuel that, in certainly his judgment was apparent in dramatic way. He is off of those he has just completed almost six weeks to detox and treatment at an addiction center to different centers.

Mandy Matney 15:09

So first of all, is it a 10 year addiction or a 20 year addiction? Why is Dick Harpootlian saying that his client has been addicted to opioids for over 20 years, and now he's saying it's at least



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10 years. Second of all, Harpootlian said that elec was addicted while this conduct was occurring. So is he saying that his client did it?

Dick Harpootlian 15:30

But we would ask you to consider and Mr. Griffin is going to go into this great greater detail. A person we're talking just fine. I mean, for him to have a surety bond means he's going to have to waste some of those assets that Mr. Waters talking about, on paying the bondsman so your honor, having pointed out his willingness to confront these charges, he hasn't run once, not gonna run. And the fact that maybe he you know, at some point was a danger to himself and opioid addled mental condition, ask somebody to shoot him in the head. But that's not where he is today. He's been through six weeks of addiction treatment, he needs more. And, Your Honor, we'd ask you to consider a PR Bond. and I'll let Jim go into greater detail on

Mandy Matney 16:19

Harpootlian concluded his statement basically asking for special treatment for his client. He said that Alex needed to complete more rehab in order to get better and keep in mind he was arrested after completing over a month of rehab a two different facilities. He also asked for a PR bond, which is what he got at the last bond hearing in his home court of Hampton County. A PR bond means that he doesn't have to pay any money to the Court in order to be released. He asked for this by saying that Murdock, a person who's accused of stealing over 3 million from the Satterfield family in over 10 million from his own law firm doesn't have any money and would have to sell his own assets in order to pay for the bond. How did he go through all that money so fast? And if he doesn't have any money? How is he affording to have the most expensive defense attorneys in the state defense attorney Jim Griffin follows Dick Harpootlian and ask for a PR Bond.

Jim Griffin 17:15

The statute says you began with a resumption of a PR and your honor we think that is what is entitled to we put in our memo, a suggestion that he be subjected to random drug testing. You know, he's willing to do that he's committed to do that. He will do that, regardless of this court order. But, Your Honor, we think with random drug testing, that lab will be sufficient condition of release to ensure his appearance, and that he's not a danger to the community. The Alex Murdaugh who's not hooked on drugs, has led to good, fruitful life and law abiding life. Only when he got hooked on opioids did things turns out and he truly regrets his conduct.

Mandy Matney 18:04

After Griffin closed attorney Eric Bland address the court on behalf of the Satterfield family,

Eric Bland 18:10



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Judge Newman, my partner Ronnie Richter, and I represent the victims these Satterfield's sons, The Harris family. Brian Harris, he's the direct victim of Alex Murdaugh.. This is sad day, your honor. It's a day for lawyers. We looked upon another lawyer who stole money from clients. Alex Murdoch stained our profession. He also put a black eye on this state. I disagree with Jim Griffin and Mr. Harpootlian. If he's an opioid addict for 20 years, how is it that he tried cases? How's is that? Did he appear before judges like you? How is it that he worked with his partners and represented clients, I do not believe that is the case. He is a clear and present danger to the citizens of this state and to my family. This is a man that used a gun on Labor Day weekend. This is a man that used a pen to steal \$3.3 million with another \$118,000 is potentially going to be charged. It's no different than somebody walking into a back and using a gun. We need to make sure that when somebody steals with a pen, it's the same as if they're stealing with a gun.

Mandy Matney 19:22

Then Judge Newman asked Eric Bland to clarify what kind of bond he's asking for.

Eric Bland 19:28

I want him not to have a bond. I would love it if this this man was locked up and he couldn't harm anybody else. But there is a presumption that somebody is going to get fired. And if you're going to put by put those serious conditions on and that will restrain our position is He does not deserve but he forfeited that right. He stole he's a liar and a cheat. Thank you.

Mandy Matney 19:55

Next, Bland law partner, Ronald Richter, asked the judge to place financial restrictions on Alec Murdoch as a bond condition, Alec Murdaugh is currently facing at least four different lawsuits and a number of plaintiff attorneys are concerned about his assets.

Ronald Richter 20:10

We have concerned that he has been engaged in a pattern now of dispossessing himself of assets for the purpose of avoiding attempts by us and others to collect against him. We know that in recent times, he has transferred an interest of EO and a Green Swamp club, done club hunting club down in Beaufort. We're not sure exactly what money you got for this, but the transaction occurred on October 1 2021. And I'll have a copy of that for the court's consideration. He is listed for sale. A Grady White boat that he owns for \$150,000. And more concerning and more troubling from us is He has granted to His son a it's a broad power of attorney sledging and all financial control to his son. So, Your Honor, if you do consider a bond, we would ask that that bond restrict the ability of his son to assist in the dispossession of assets that would otherwise be available, providing the financial crimes that have been committed on our family.

Mandy Matney 21:15



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Richter, you're asked the judge to set a serious bond for Alec Murdaugh, as he has demonstrated to have supporters with deep pockets.

Ronald Richter 21:23

Now, finally, Your Honor, it's important to note that we're not the only victims. We're the only victims here today. Mr. Murdaugh's law firm has sued him for allegedly stealing \$10 million, more or less. Now, amazingly, it's only at the time that the Satterfield came forward with their complaints that the Murdaugh law firm discovered for the first time that there's \$10 million missing. And what they explain on their website and this is a notice that they've published to the public on their website is it's all clients, all clients have been restored, no one has suffered a loss because of this. That is not true as to the Satterfields. Right? So if ability to pay is a concern for the court, apparently, Mr. Murdaugh has enough wealthy and powerful friends and family members that somebody stepped in on his behalf to cure a \$10 million wrong for him is that that's what this represents the world on the website, I can tell you, it's not true to our clients. So if you set a bond with a high financial amount, you should rest assured that he has the financial wherewithal to influential friends and family members to respond to virtually any bond that you condition. So you want to we ask that you issue if you're going to issue a bond that at this point is serious and now he has the ability to pay and to close your honor?

Judge Clifton Newman 22:53

What seems serious enough? 10? 20? 30? 50? 100?

Ronald Richter 22:59

4.3 million feels appropriate to us. That seem to seem severe some relationship to the to the crime that was committed to our clients.

Mandy Matney 23:11

After read your statement, Judge Newman asked to hear directly from law enforcement Special Agent Turner with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, also known as SLED address the court

Special Agent Turner (SLED) 23:21

To put it clearly sorry, and right now what I can speak on the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, we are investigating multiple different allegations or investigations at this point in time to include the Steven Smith death which you're aware of the actual cause of Miss Satterfield's death. We're looking into that the financial case that you're here with today, and numerous other financial investigations dealing with with fraud or possible other criminal actions. As of right now, these are the charges we're comfortable with and that we feel appropriate bringing forth. That's not to say that there won't be additional charges brought



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forth in the near future or in the deposit possibly brought forth in the future. But these right now are the charges that we decided on Well, Law Enforcement Division felt were appropriate to bring before you today. Thank you, sir.

Mandy Matney 24:12

Special Agent Turner also mentioned Satterfield's cause of death is under investigation. Now, if you remember on Satterfield death certificate, the manner of death said natural which the coroner said was not consistent with what was stated in the settlement about how the 57 year old died. Satterfield's His death was not reported to the coroner at the time, nor did officials perform an autopsy which ultimately caught the attention of the New Hampton County Coroner who asked SLED to investigate Satterfield's death. And that was at the time when they believed the Satterfield fell in Hampton County. But now we know that she fell at Moselle. It's interesting that here he mentioned Steven Smith, Gloria Satterfield and the financial crimes but not the double homicide Remember, last week, Alex's own attorney admitted to a Fox Carolina reporter that his client was still a person of interest in the double homicide investigation. So I don't know why sled would not mention that. But anyways, after this Harpootlian popped up again, and this time it was to place blame elsewhere in the case.

Dick Harpootlian 25:19

Your Honor, I hesitate to address Mr. Bland's directors allegation, but I think it's important for the court to understand Mr. Murdaugh, was not a lawyer in the Satterfield case. He was the defendant. He had no authority over any money whatsoever. He was the defendant, the lawyer was a friend of his, but that lawyer is the one that issued those checks. That lawyer is the one that made sure that money went to this Forge. He's the one that has responsibility and then there's a personal representative who was a bank they were responsible for making sure that Mr. Murdaugh could not get the effect it prolong that money. So that the idea that somehow he used his position as a lawyer, he was the defendant. He was the one that got sued.

Mandy Matney 26:10

Harpootlian tried to argue that Murdoch did not use his authority as an attorney in the settlement scam, but a paper trail showing emails and letters from the Murdaugh's law firm appears to prove otherwise. This was a shocking error for Murdaugh's own defense attorney who's supposed to be one of the best lawyers in the state to make those emails and letters were in public record and published by FITS News. How did he miss that? Here is Eric Bland explaining this.

Eric Bland 26:35

Mr. Murdoch prepared personal representative documents for Tony Satterfield to become the personal representative of his mother's estate. His paralegals and secretaries conversed with



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Corey Fleming secretaries and paralegals about how money was supposed to be exchanged. He very much acted as a lawyer in this case, it's the strangest thing where the defendant dictates to the plaintiff's lawyer how to run the case, and then how to allocate money in contravention of court order. And we have introduced into the courts of this state the documents that show that Mr. Murdaugh actually did represent the family at the same time, he was a defendant in the potential loss.

Mandy Matney 27:19

After Bland addressed the Court Judge Newman spoke and said that he needed a recess to consider the evidence in the case before deciding on bond. This is unusual for a judge to go into recess during a bond hearing, which are usually pretty quick but before Newman went into recess, he told the court that he wasn't even considering a PR bond, which is what Alex attorneys were fighting for. After a short recess, South Carolina Circuit Judge Clifton Newman officially denied bond for Alex Murdaugh. He said that Murdaugh presented a danger to both himself in the community. He said he couldn't provide a bond at this time with safety of others in mind, Newman also ordered a psychiatric evaluation from Murdaugh while he's behind bars. Now this decision was shocking to many of us in the courtroom, especially the few of us who've been following the story since 2019. I've seen Dick Harpootlian and Jim Griffin represent the Murdaughs at four different bond hearings. Two of them are for Paul's DUI charges in 2019. And two for Alex recent charges. In three of those other times the judge gave them exactly what they wanted, and no questions asked. But this time the judge took these two lawyers and many of us completely by surprise, it is not typical for a judge to deny bond in a non capital case. But then again, this case is anything but typical. As we were driving back from the hearing and Columbia yesterday, Eric Bland called me.

Eric Bland 28:45

I just think it's a good day again for our justice system. And I'm confident that he will be charged with that third check. I'm confident that that may not be the end of it for today was the day that Alex starts to get comfortable getting uncomfortable. If he looked around the courtroom, there wasn't a friend inside. He's gone back to that jail. He's gonna have to go there and think to himself, who is there for me now? No one. That's what happens when you know, there's nothing worse than somebody who steals from the family and the woman who raised your children is despicable is just a bad person. This Judge listened and he was very deliberate. He recognizes in the eyes of the world are on this courtroom. It wasn't a Dick Harpootlian lunch special. 2.99 You get a turkey sandwich and fries and you're out of there. He served a full meal of Justice.

Mandy Matney 29:46

So we don't know what's around the corner in this case, but stay tuned to FITS news.com for the latest updates and the Murdaugh Murder saga.



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DAVID MOSES 29:56

There's so much to unpack in this case and Mandy works tirelessly to expose the truth but the truth is she works hard and she does get tired. If you believe like I do that Mandy is the best in the business and I'm a little biased visit [Murdaugh Murders Podcast.com](http://MurdaughMurdersPodcast.com) and click the support the show link to learn how you can help leave a five star review to offset the haters refer an advertiser and get a finder's fee or advertise your company product or service we could geotarget across the globe and find the right audience to suit your needs. Help us get Luna some treats so she doesn't interrupt the show as much. And absolutely subscribe to [FITS news.com](http://FITSnews.com) Mandy and Will are revolutionizing journalism and your subscriptions are invaluable to that mission. Plus you get awesome content every day.

Mandy Matney 30:43

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