



EPISODE 40: Bowen Turner - The Two Systems of Justice

Mandy Matney 00:03

I don't know what it will take to change the justice system in South Carolina. But this week, we came across a shocking case that shows just how far money and influence gets you in the South Carolina courtroom. A case so egregious it made us stop everything we were doing in the Murdaugh cases so we could do a special episode bringing light to this injustice. My name is Mandy Matney. I've been a journalist in South Carolina for more than six years now. This is a special episode of The Murdaugh Murders podcast with David Moses and Liz Farrell. This week, something happened that enraged Liz, David and me. And we all decided, as South Carolina residents dedicated to exposing our polluted justice system with the hope that we can fix it we are doing something different. This week, we will be focusing a majority of today's episode on a case that is not tied to the Murdaugh family in any way, but the storyline is familiar. And it is an example of the good ole boys ruining our state and putting public safety at risk. It is a tale of two justice systems, one for the fluent, the rich, the powerful, and one for everyone else. It's a story that deserves the national spotlight just like the stories of Stephen, Mallory and Gloria deserved the spotlight before last June. It's a story that serves as the clearest example of exactly why the way we elect our judges in this state corrupts the entire system. This story deserves our time and our platform. And please don't assume that this special episode means that we're running out of updates in the Murdaugh cases, we have plenty. This case just needed our immediate time and attention. So what happened in summary, Bowen Turner is a 19-year old man who was accused of violently raping three girls between 2018 and 2019. This week, the system let him walk away free. We believe that the powerful players involved in this I wanted the Bowen Turner case to go away quietly. We're doing this podcast today to ensure that it will not every day listeners send us cases that deserve

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the spotlight and public exposure. But honestly, I haven't had the capacity to focus any time and energy on anything else in the last 10 months. But last week, someone tagged me in an Instagram post about the Bowen Turner case. And then one of the victim sisters reached out for me and asked for help. And I just couldn't say no. As much as I've told myself that I should only focus on one case at a time I couldn't help it. I fell down the rabbit hole mouth agape and clicked on Instagram video after Instagram video. And the thing is, I remember this case from 2019 so vividly. Liz and I were both working at the Packet and paying attention to FITS News a lot because frankly, well, Folks was the only one who could beat us on the Murdaugh stories. We found his story about this and the story immediately made Liz and I so angry. We both saw so many similarities between Paul Murdaugh and Bowen Turner, their mugshots alone have so many striking parallels.

Liz Farrell 04:04

If you or your teenager or your adult child were to be arrested and charged with a crime, you would have to endure the booking process at a jail where you would be ordered to change out of your street clothes and into a jail uniform. We all know what jail uniforms look like. They are an ugly reminder that you are the accused and it is a visual signal that you are behind bars. After you've changed into this jail uniform. You'd have photos taken of you and those photos would be public for the world to see. It is a photo that depicts you during what is probably your least proud moment. Then you'd have your volunteering for people like Paul Murdaugh and Bowen Turner though kids with parents who can afford the kind of attorneys who have plenty of power to leverage on their behalf. The booking process is different. Mandy and I call this the gentleman's treatment in South Carolina. Privileged young men like Paul and Bowen after they've been accused of irreparably harming other people get to stay in their J Crew shirts while someone takes their picture, and that gets to serve as their mugshot, so basically every

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stigma associated with getting arrested is kept far away from these boys. In 2019, after Paul's first hearing, I wrote a column about this gentleman's treatment and how there are two systems of justice in South Carolina. In response to that column I got a very long email from a man named David Miller basically telling me that I knew nothing about how the justice system works, and that everything in Paul's case was copacetic. This he told me is exactly how the system is supposed to work. Remember that name David Miller, because you're going to hear it again in a little bit.

Mandy Matney 05:36

Bowen Gray Turner was accused of raping three girls between 2018 in 2019 in three different South Carolina counties, but this story is not about Bowen. It is about three victims and what our elected officials have done to them and what our system is doing to our girls in South Carolina. The first victim who was assaulted in April 2019 does not wish to be named at this time. The second victim 20-year old Dallas Stoller, unfortunately died from a self-inflicted wound in November 2021. The third victim, who was allegedly raped while Turner was out on bond without an ankle monitor for his charges in Dallas' case, spoke with the Murdaugh Murders Podcast and FITS News. Her name is Chloe Beth, she wants the world to hear this story. This week we also spoke with Dallas' sister, Brette Tabatabai and her father Karl Stoller, who are both fighting for change in the South Carolina judicial system even after everything that happened to them. This story takes place in Orangeburg County, which stretches across both the Midlands and the low country of South Carolina. It's about an hour north of Hampton County and a tiny tip of its southern border touches Colleton County where Moselle is located. Hampton has a lot in common with Orangeburg. Hampton, and Orangeburg are among two of the poorest counties in South Carolina. They're both rural with depleting populations, and they are both knowingly run by the good ole boys.

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Senator Brad Hutto, a Democrat represents the people of both Hampton and Orangeburg counties. He has been in that position since 1996 as a state senator and is now the House Minority Leader. In fact, State Senator Brad Hutto plays a starring role in the sad saga. He was hired to represent Bowen Turner likely because of his power and how it could keep billing free from consequences. Yes, just like Paul Murdaugh, Bowen Turner, who comes from an influential family, got a state senator to represent him. And it worked just as the good ole boys wanted it to. But the good ole boys per usual underestimated the victims in this case and those who will go to war for the victims. They did not anticipate Brett who has been blasting her sister Dallas, his story on social media for the last week. Here's Brette:

Brette Tabatabai 08:22

Okay, so Dallas was basically the complete opposite of me. Dallas was literally just a huge, bright personality. She always had a smile on her face. She was kind to everyone. She was funny. She was extremely smart. She was her senior class president. She was one of the top in her class. She was the editor of a yearbook, she played volleyball, she liked travel volleyball, she was always very athletic. And she kind of...she wasn't really clicky, she was friends with everyone. Anybody that you would talk to you and tell you the same thing. Dallas had a huge personality, and extremely personable, extremely time. She wanted to go to school at the College of Charleston, she was studying to be a physical therapist, and so she was in sports management. And unfortunately, after she was assaulted, she completely changed.

Mandy Matney 09:13

Dallas Stoller knew Bowen Turner the two of them attended Orangeburg Preparatory School, which is a private school in Orangeburg, their families also knew each other, they hung out with the same group of friends, which is why they were both at the same



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party on October 7 2018, and Bamberg County. Here's her sister talking about what happened that night.

Brette Tabatabai 09:35

They went to a party at a place called you know, I can't think of...I remember her talking about her but like the pawn house or the lake house. Basically it was like where all the kids would go to party right all the high school. Kids always go to parties, they're you know, they're out of party. They're seniors in high school, they're drinking. She was obviously very intoxicated, Dallas, so we don't know how she got out there. But Dallas went missing and everything you know, friends at the party, they all go searching for Dallas. They find one of Dallas' friends. They're walking through the woods and they walk up and Bowen is standing over Dallas. Dallas has passed out on the ground unconscious, like in the woods, and he's pulling his pants up and zipping up his pants. And this guy runs at Bowen. Bowen starts running through the woods, and the guy who sees him starts running and he actually beat him up.

Mandy Matney 10:27

As all of this was going on, Dallas' mom was on the way to the party to pick her up.

Brette Tabatabai 10:34

And she gets to the party, and she has her windows rolled down. And she hears two girls walking out, like they said, "We need to get out of here. Some girl got raped." My mom immediately starts panicking. Dallas has friends come up to her and they said something happened to Dallas, you know, they're crying. They're saying something happened to Dallas. Her friends pick her up. They put her in my mom's car. And she's unconscious, she's beaten. She's got bruises all over. She's got leaves and everything. You know, from the woods all over scratching,



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bleeding. She, my mom, you know, hauls it to the house. She runs in the house and wakes my dad up. And my dad comes out and they immediately call 911. They call the ambulance. Because Dallas was so intoxicated at this point, either intoxicated, or you know, I'm not sure how intoxicated she was. But they're obviously drinking at a party. Dallas was a very strong girl. She's very tall, and athletic. And for someone to be able to do what they did it's mind boggling, because in any pictures you see of her, she was a very strong girl. So she got to, again, being intoxicated had to play a huge part in not being able to fight back. So my parents, they take her to the hospital.

Mandy Matney 11:56

Here's Dallas' dad, Karl.

Karl Stoller 11:59

And when they got there, they immediately started kind of giving her fluids and that type of thing to help get alcohol out of her system and get her where she could speak coherently, and they could figure out what the extent of her injuries were and what caused them. And it took the better part of that entire night on into the next morning before they got well. She, I mean she started coming around for treatment sooner, but as far as getting her calmed down to where she could talk about it, was earlier that next morning.

Mandy Matney 12:37

At the hospital, Dallas encountered her first of many hurdles. The thing here is that Liz and I have reported on dozens of sexual assaults in our career. And when you peel back the layers piece by piece, we've both noticed something: these women a lot of the time are met with so much resistance while reporting their assault even from those specifically trained to work with survivors. According to Dallas, his family, the sexual assault nurse examiner, also known as the same nurse



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at the Orangeburg Regional Medical Center talked Dallas out of the sexual assault examination in warned her about how bad it would be.

Brette Tabatabai 13:21

Okay, so at this point, they are at the Orangeburg Regional Medical Center. The same nurse tries to talk my sister out of doing the rape kit. Yeah, very, very odd. Not sure why. Dallas had a you remember my parents calling and saying that her eyes, one of her eyes specifically, was completely red and bloodshot because of the strangulation. Her neck had, and these pictures are posted, we posted these pictures. Her neck was completely like black and blue from being strangled. Mind you, the solicitor has seen all these pictures.

Mandy Matney 14:11

The solicitor is solicitor David Miller, the guy Liz mentioned a little bit ago. Don't forget his name. He is another powerful player involved in this and we'll get to him initially Dallas decided against having the same nurse at Orangeburg do the examination but ultimately she went to MUSC in Charleston, where they collected evidence and performed a sexual assault exam with the support of her family. Dallas decided to press charges and participate in the prosecution of Bowen.

Karl Stoller 14:45

And then, ultimately, Dallas made the decision to move forward with revealing what the situation was about and she did say during the night of the incident that it was...she did describe her attacker, name her attacker, Bowen Turner. And she of course you know within 24 hours a little better what she told me that was SLED she called him out as the gentleman that attacked her, and I don't say gentlemen, but the young man that attacked her and assaulted her and forcefully I'd been, you know, got with the agent charge the investigation.



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Mandy Matney 15:23

So Dallas cooperated with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, also known as SLED, which is the lead investigating agency in this case.

Karl Stoller 15:35

It had to be done within a 72 hour period. I think the timeline was if I'm not making a mistake, and they went down and did that and whatever results came out of that were immediately forwarded to SLED it and that's what pretty much kicked off the full investigation. And at that point, they were after several days, and I guess, reaching out once they got their initial case done, got their incident report generated, and they did a very thorough investigation.

Mandy Matney 16:14

And we'll be right back. As soon as Brette found out what happened, she knew her sister had a rough road ahead, not only dealing with the PTSD from the assault, but Brette knew what Orangeburg was really like. She knew that Bowen's family had power and influence as Bowen's father was an investigator for first circuit solicitor David Pasco's office.

Brette Tabatabai 16:43

I got a phone call about it, but I knew coming from that town, I knew what was coming, I knew if she proceeded to move forward, I knew what was coming as far as the bullying and the community was just 100% against her. And after this happened, she actually had to stay in school with him. And for two weeks after, while the school board decided what they were going to do once he was charged, like if they were going to expel him or what, you know, what needed to happen. But she had to walk the halls in school with him for two weeks after the fact for a whole few weeks after the fact. And thank goodness, it ended up being Christmas break, because she would have been longer. And



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you know, facing...there was kids from the school that started to hashtag you know Free Bowen in just like constant bullying is not not you know what Mandy, what is what's sad is it wasn't even just from the kids in school, it was from the teachers, it was from parents.

Mandy Matney 17:43

Over the past three years, Liz and I have talked a lot about what needs to change with the system. One of the major things that we've seen in both the murder case, and now this case is that powerful families have a large number of people who help them cover up, downplay or outright dismiss their bad behavior. This is where it happens. At this level, adults were participating in the bullying and ostracizing of Dallas and teachers. It's these everyday behaviors that contribute to the larger problem. And every one of those people is responsible for this outcome.

Karl Stoller 18:26

She was the subject of quite a bit of bullying and ridicule. And, you know, both said, young people, especially she went on to our prep here in Orangeburg, smaller, you know, not a real, real small private school, but still small by the scale versus public schools. And she, at the time she was well, was their senior class president. So she was well known in the school and in her class, and she was pushed around pretty badly by the kids that were, you know, naturally drew the line in the sand and took sides, that type of thing. And then they just had a lot of that going on. And then there was talking to community and even some adults, unfortunately, join in on the conversation. And that was pretty, pretty devastating to her as a young lady to having been going through what she went through and then have people basically say she was lying about it.



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Mandy Matney 19:24

Dallas was the person who was physically and emotionally hurt that night, and she was the person being bullied by adults for doing the right thing. And yet she is the one who showed the most compassion, most maturity and had the greatest understanding of the problem.

Brette Tabatabai 19:43

She had a big enough heart saying that he was sick and he needed to get help. She didn't want to ruin his life. Even though he ultimately ruined hers. She did not want to ruin his life because she knew he was sick and he would hurt someone out and she just wanted him to get help. They were friends, they were friends before all this, and I will never have children saying that, and I will never forget that because she was so good at, you know, trying her very hardest and being so kind to everyone and just being that bright, you know, shining star that she was

Karl Stoller 20:20

She always tried to see the best in people and she loved everybody. And I always I know, she asked me, she passed she said, Dad, I don't understand when all this was going on. And the people we're talking about are adults to other kids cetera. She said that I don't understand how I can love people so much, and they don't love me back. And that's heartbreaking to hear that as a parent, and you don't know how to respond to that, because she sincerely believed that's how I was supposed to be regardless of who you were. And I will say this, and I want this to be public for sure. That even after this happened to Dallas that she didn't. She said Bowen's my friend, I don't want him hurt. I just want him to get help, because he's got something going on. I don't want him to go to prison. I want him to get help, because he's my friend. I think that kind of maybe tells you a lot about what her character was, you know.



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Mandy Matney 21:19

And Dallas was right. Turner was dangerous and needed help. But because he paid to have a state senator on his side, all of that seems to have been ignored. His payment to a state senator served him well, though, because time and time again, he was spared the harshest consequences associated with being accused of a crime. And here again is where similarities between Bowen and Paul exist after being charged with three felony counts of boating under the influence. He had very few restrictions put on him and while awaiting trial. We heard report after report from sources that he was out boating and drinking as if nothing were different. His state senator, attorneys main strategies seem to be in part to push the case back as far as possible. This seems to have been the case with Bowen, too. Bowen was accused of rape in April 2018. We don't have a lot of details about that case, because Bowen was a juvenile and any charges he might have received would not be public information.

Liz Farrell 22:32

Six months after that accusation, though, is when he was accused of assaulting Dallas. He was reportedly being investigated by sled for the previous assault at that time. He was arrested in January 2019 and charged in Dallas his case he was released on a \$10,000 bond an order to wear an ankle monitor. Less than three months later, his attorneys Charlie Williams and Shane burrows asked to have his ankle monitor removed and the solicitor's office and judge agreed 41 days later in early June Bowen Turner was accused of rape a third time by a third girl in a third County. Her name is Chloe best so now facing two charges of first degree criminal sexual conduct but when was arrested, denied bond by the magistrate and held in the Department of Juvenile Justice, which is a very gnarly place that is poorly run fits news has covered the problems with the JJ extensively. But guess what that is where thrice accused rape suspects who are 16 go and that's where Bowen went for a few

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weeks anyway. Another bond hearing was held in mid July during that hearing, State Senator Brad Hutto, who's influenced the Turner's purchased told the court that Chloe allegedly said I felt ashamed and went on to say the following.

Brad Hutto 23:51

Afterwards what she said was, I felt ashamed. The definition of a shame is something that you regret because something that you internalize that you feel guilty about not something that somebody gives you. You don't watch it well guess what, you know, you just had sex on the ground and boy you don't. And you get up and you feel the shame. That's not right. And so these are the issues that come out in this case and that's what recent.

Mandy Matney 24:24

Hutto clearly doesn't understand the trauma endured by sexual assault survivors, how women have been told our entire lives all of the things that we should do or not do so we won't get raped as if it were our own responsibility and how society shames sexual assault victims as Hutto did in court that day. Then the paid for state senator told the court that his client doesn't belong in the DJJ. He deserves a bond.

Brad Hutto 24:59

There's no structure there. Again, Uber, just not in the right environment there and he's getting no benefit from it as far as education. His parents have made arrangements for him to continue his education so that he can graduate on time. He cannot do that. As a DJ, where they've got his house now just waiting for trial. You have live from the ladders as many years as you have to be a prosecutor. Sometimes that Hey, he is not going to be sitting there waiting on probably deserves a bar.



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Liz Farrell 25:35

In other words, DJJ is not preppy enough for Bowen to attend. After that hearing. The judge who ostensibly determined that Bowen was a danger to the community denied his bond. Lucky for Bowen, his paid for state senator attorney was there to rescue him the first week in August after Bowen 17th birthday, another judge, let Bowen free with an ankle monitor and a long list of restrictions and requirements. Then less than a year later in March 2020. Bowen's paid for state senator attorney was able to convince the court that not living with his parents was causing Bowen emotional stress, and therefore he needed to move home during this time, this dollar family was hardly updated on the status of bone, Turner's case.

Mandy Matney 26:21

Dallas' mental health was deteriorating, she got help, and her family did what they could for her. But Dallas unfortunately became a different person on that night in 2018. And the pain she was enduring daily was overwhelming, not only from the assault, but from the bullying from the people in our own hometown, who said she was lying.

Brette Tabatabai 26:48

She was so anxious that she was getting physically ill. She actually...when she started the College of Charleston, unfortunately, some of the people and I begged her and I begged her not to go there. I begged her to leave and go out of state, but she really wanted to go to College of Charleston, she loved Charleston, and they ruined it for her. Some of the people that she went to high school with that started the hashtag Free Bowen and slut shamed her so bad. Actually, one of the main ones happened to be on her hall, in her dorm. So she went there and immediately it started. She's going to school for a fresh start, and immediately it starts. So Dallas had to go to the hospital several times while she was in college. It was her freshman year while she was at



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College of Charleston, because she was growing up and so anxious and getting sick so often that she was getting stomach ulcers. She I really can't explain to you the mental impact that's had on her. She had to leave. She ended up having to leave College in Charleston. And she then fortunately, went to University of South Carolina Beaufort, one of her very good friends from high school was there. You know, she was doing better. We thought she was doing so much better. She was seeing therapists and she was getting help, but unfortunately, it wasn't enough.

Mandy Matney 28:05

Dallas Hays Stoller succumb to a self-inflicted wound on November 14 2021. She was 20-years old. Here is her obituary:

David Moses 28:18

Dallas Stoller will be remembered as an example of strength and bravery, a heart full of boundless generosity, forgiveness and kindness to others. Her ability to see the good when others couldn't add her resilience, in times of adversity will be her legacy. Her light remains in each of us who have had the blessing to be in her presence during her short time on Earth.

Mandy Matney 28:51

Brette, who lived in Pennsylvania, took the first flight home when she found out what happened to her sister.

Brette Tabatabai 28:58

She, you know, what's really sad is I looked after Dallas passed away and I flew down obviously the next day, um, next morning, after I got the phone call at night. And the first thing I wanted to do, I was like, I need to see your phone. Just like any big sister, I wanted to check your phone, you know, I wanted to make sure there's nothing on there, you know,



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upset my parents or anything like that. And I'm just sitting there I'm actually sitting in the bathtub with the empty bathtub with my best friend from high school and we're just, you know, we're going through her phone, and we're just looking we're like looking for anything like what a note, you know, something, some sort of answer. You know, you don't you don't know what you're looking for at that point. But we were looking at our pictures. And one of the things that really stood out to me is me being so far away and being gone for so long. I've been up here a little over eight years. You know, we're scrolling through your phone, we're looking at her pictures and you just see I want I watched her physically change, look, look the look in her face and look in her eyes or smile. It changed. And I think that was one of the hardest things when I'm just looking. You know, I'm just scrolling through all her pictures and time goes on. And she changed and you can see.

Mandy Matney 30:22

And we'll be right back. South Carolina's ankle monitoring system is terrible, and no one seems to be clear on who is in charge of the outcomes. Private bond companies handled the administration of a defendant's ankle monitor. And in Bowen's case, he was responsible for paying that bill. But for Bowen, his ankle monitor was basically a piece of clunky jewelry because it appears no one was actually doing the monitoring part of it. According to a motion that was filed the last week of March, Bowen seems to have done whatever he wanted. While he was under house arrest between November and February, there are more than 65 examples of him breaking the rules going golfing, leaving the state to look at a car going to Bed Bath and Beyond twice for some reason. And here is the horrible part. The victims are the ones who had to fight for authorities to even check to see what Bowen was up to while he was on house arrest.



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Brette Tabatabai 31:34

Yeah, because they were about to get he was about to get in trouble because they pulled so closely that his mom called the sled Athan and was basically like, what the hell's going on? We've heard people saying they see Bowen out. What are you guys monitoring this? No. Yeah, you know, we are. She's like, I want you to check it. I want to see, you know, it's my right to see his tracking whatever report that is. Well, sure enough, they call it March 2. And since November, they pull it from November to the end of February. They run it from them. And he is that's when he's going to play golf several times. That's when he's going to car shopping the day before Christmas. He's going to people's houses in Columbia. He's going to people's houses in Orangeburg, who are these attorneys that I'm talking about? Who are she's hanging out with all these people from the country club from the church. And they all know that they all know that you're supposed to be on house arrest and they're hanging out with him. He went to Dallas' gravesite January 4th at nine o'clock at night.

Mandy Matney 32:35

Did you hear that? Bowen went to the victim's cemetery while he was on house arrest. In our episode preview on social media we posted a photo of Dallas's grave site with a sign that says Bowen Turner you aren't welcome here. Now you understand why that sign says that in the thing is they only found that out because one of the victims mothers told SLED to start monitoring a man's ankle monitor who had already allegedly raped three girls. This is another time we have to question: do any South Carolina authorities care about our girls in this state? Here's Dallas' father Karl again:

Karl Stoller 33:24

On March 2nd of this year after Miss Beth the third victim's mother pressed and pressed and pressed and finally got the GPS lead to get



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GPS monitoring people to respond to them. That's when we found out that the since I think some short while after Dallas passed away that just in that timeframe from November to March the second or third whatever day that was they handed that document to solicitor David Miller, the Deputy Solicitor that he had violated that those terms 50 plus times.

Liz Farrell 33:59

You would think if someone violated house arrest that many times, especially someone who was accused of raping a girl while he was out on another bond, you would think that person would be immediately arrested but not in South Carolina not even after the judge who approved Bowens house arrest explicitly said:

David Moses 34:18

This entry into all violations of the conditions of home detention must be reported to the Second Circuit solicitor's office or the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office within 24 hours of the violation. Failure to comply with this notification requirement will subject the Alextronic monitoring company to potential criminal and civil sanctions for contempt of court if Turner is observed violating any term or condition of the order granting bond any law enforcement agency is authorized to immediately take him into custody and hold him in custody pending a hearing on the alleged violation of the order.

Mandy Matney 34:58

But that isn't out what happened. Bowen was not arrested. The judge wrote what he wrote in that order, because he was preemptively saying, if Bowen steps out of bounds once, go get him and put him behind bars and he can wait there until the hearing is scheduled. And again, this is not what happened. Bowen's house arrest transgressions were discovered March 2, the bond relocation hearing was scheduled for



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April 8. And nobody, not the solicitor, not the bond company, not Bowen's parents, not his own attorney, not sled. Nobody said he's in violation of a court order, go get him and put him behind bars. This is where we have yet another example of how the system seems to favor those who can afford to hire a state senator to represent them.

Karl Stoller 35:59

That's something that really angered me, because I know as an officer, that if I violated a court order, it doesn't matter if I'm wearing a badge or not, I'm going to jail.

Mandy Matney 36:09

Not only did the Solicitor's Office not follow the court order about detaining Bowen, they appear to have done something else all together.

Karl Stoller 36:20

So, in my opinion, on my mind, I wouldn't call it opinion on it. He was lawfully, David Miller was not lawfully compelled to follow the court's order, and have him immediately take though not make a call to the Senator and say, Hey, let's make a deal.

Mandy Matney 36:44

Delaying the case no longer benefited Bowen Turner because Bowen Turner got caught in the probability of a judge thinking it was fine and dandy that he violated a court order was not great. So his paid for state senator attorney had to act fast. Good thing for him. The Solicitor's Office apparently had his back.

Liz Farrell 37:13

Sarah Ford, the Stoller family's attorney got shocking news from the Second Circuit solicitor's office last week, Ford was told by Deputy



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Solicitor David Miller that they were dropping the charge in Dallas in this case and allowing Bowen to plead to a lesser charge. In Chloe's case, this was infuriating to the victim's families, as a court order clearly stated that Turner belonged in jail. Now, suddenly, a Deputy Solicitor who is paid by tax dollars to serve the public was telling them that instead of Turner going to jail for breaking the court order, he was going to get a plea deal, and he wasn't going to get prison time. And he wasn't going to have to register as a sex offender. Just five years probation. Brette and her family were stunned.

Brette Tabatabai 37:59

He needs to say that to our face. Like he needs to make a fucking efforts and she clearly has not he hasn't made any sort of effort to fight for these girls whatsoever. You need to come here and talk to us. And he said he would do a zoom call. So it resumed at 2:30. And he was saying, you know, he was sorry. And he's dropping the case. But he clearly was not sorry, his demeanor was he did not care whatsoever. Thank God, we didn't see him in person because my father, like I said, my father is extremely intelligent. He's well versed in law and he is asking him why. Why are you dropping this, and that is when he said, we're not going to waste money on something that we're not going to win. That I know we're not going to win.

Mandy Matney 38:41

Specifically, the family was told they were dropping Dallas this case because Dallas wasn't alive to testify. I want to stop right here and explain a couple facts of the case because when solicitors offices say rape cases are too difficult to prosecute, they immediately start listing all the missing pieces, no physical evidence, no witnesses, the victim isn't willing to testify, etc, etc. But that is not true here. First of all, the prosecution had physical evidence including DNA from sexual assault exams in both Dallas' and Chloe's cases, according to their attorney



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Sarah Ford, the man who said he saw Bowen towering over Dallas after the assault gave his statement and his testimony to authorities. Chloe was willing to testify in her case, but the Solicitor's Office dropped the sexual assault charge in her case as well. Chloe sat down with Will Folks, our founding editor at FITS news and Dylan Nolan, our Special Projects Editor on Tuesday afternoon and talked to them about that night. And Senator Brad Hutto.

Chloe Bess 39:59

Listen, this is the girl that you slut shamed in court. I was, you know, just with my friends trying to, you know, have a good night. You know, things like this happen all the time without bad things happening. So it can happen to anybody you know, it's one of those things where you don't think it's gonna happen till it happens to you.

Mandy Matney 40:16

Chloe was with a group of friends and her twin brother that night in June, it was a normal night, and after a miscommunication her brother and her best friend left the party they were at to go get food, Chloe stepped outside to call her best friend to see where she went.

Chloe Bess 40:31

And as I'm making this phone call, Bowen walks out, and I kind of start to feel uncomfortable, um, but he lived down the street from me, um, my dad's a pastor and his family attended our church. So there was, he was familiar to me. I didn't, I thought I thought it was weird because we weren't close friends or anything. So I was, you know, thinking to myself, like, Why is he coming out here?



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Mandy Matney 40:55

Chloe said, it's hard for her to remember certain parts that night because of all the trauma, but there are pieces that she will never forget.

Chloe Bess 41:05

So I remember him coming out. And then I was asking my friend to come pick me up or when she was coming back, I was trying to leave, like, Please don't leave, please don't leave like stay stay. And I'm looking at him. Like, I'm very transparent. And I was looking at him like, What are you talking about? And so the phone conversation ends. And then I just remember him pulling me into, like a tree line, there was a truck parked there, and we go behind the truck. The next thing I know I'm on the ground, and he's a lot bigger than me, I only weigh like 115 pounds, I'm really tiny. And so there was not much I could do at that moment in time. So I remember that and then just being on the ground. And like I said, in a different interview. It's, I remember looking at the stars, that was like the main point and I could, you know, feel what was happening. I was aware of what was going on. And I was just petrified. I was frozen. I couldn't move. I wanted to kick and scream, but I just couldn't move. I didn't know what to do. And so at that point, I'm looking at the stars, and I'm just like, okay, like, I just hope it's at least you know, quick so I can just get up and run away.

Mandy Matney 42:20

After the rape. Chloe got up and ran as fast as she could.

Chloe Bess 42:25

I remember, I ended up in the bathroom. And I was looking at myself in the mirror. And I mean, my hair was all crazy. There were leaves and twigs and my hair. My shirt was a shrew. It was like, I wasn't even looking at myself. It was very weird. And then that's when I peeked out



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the door. He was I still I thought he was asleep on the couch. So I took that as an opportunity to run out of the house. I hid behind a bush pulled my phone out. It's all cracked and shattered at this point. It's on 1% as well. So I just clicked the first person that my phone opened up to. He was one of my good girlfriends at the time. I called him and he answers. I don't even know how he understood what I was saying because I was so hysterical. But all I said was Bowen's name, and he knew, and he was like, I'm on the way like I'm coming to get you. And at this point, Bowen now walks out of the house and is like screaming my name. So if you can imagine the terror of me just hiding behind this bush, as you know, he's screaming my name. I'm aware of what just happened. And I don't even know what to make of it.

Mandy Matney 43:37

Chloe is describing something so horrifying here. I'm having a hard time putting it into words, the man that she said just violently raped her, was now looking for her. And she was hiding behind a bush. What did he want from her? It is so scary to think about.

Chloe Bess 43:58

Now I'm just waiting for my friend to come get me. So he gets on a truck and is now driving around to trying to find me screaming my name out the window, all of this stuff. So I make my way up the driveway because it's on some property. And my friend told me he was about to pull in. So I make my way up the driveway. I see his car we get in. And that was that was kind of that I you know, felt safe in that moment. Once I got in that car and then I mean the ball started rolling from there.

Mandy Matney 44:36

So the jury would have heard that horrific story at trial, and they would have seen the physical evidence from the same exam that she got. But



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remember, solicitor David Miller said that this case was not worth his time or the taxpayers money. He said there is no way he could have won makes you wonder what exactly does David Miller need to win a case. And Friday's hearing was supposed to be about Bowen, violating his bond conditions, which the court had evidence of, and didn't even need a hearing to issue an arrest. Bowen violated a court order more than 60 times. How did this turn into solicitor David Miller dropping charges and Bowen going free?

Liz Farrell 45:29

No idea. But David Miller wants to be a judge. He's been trying to get appointed for a while now according to records from the South Carolina legislature. And as you guys know, the paid for longtime state senator attorney has a say in that because in South Carolina, our most powerful attorneys get to choose the judges who rule in their cases. And the fact of the matter is regardless of the reasons Mr. Miller agreed to this outcome, regardless of where his career ambitions stand, regardless of how good his reputation is, as a prosecutor and by the way, it is good the system we have now and the circumstances of the plea deal makes it so we have to question his intentions. Here. It is May 2019 emails to me, Mr. Miller, a man I had never spoken to nor even heard of came at me hard calling my column garbage and my opinion grossly ill informed and vile. The main point of my column remember was that there appears to be two systems of justice in South Carolina, one for guys like Paul Murdaugh, who come from certain protected families and who can afford to hire certain highly connected attorneys and one for me, for you and for your children. This guy I had never met nor heard of told me that the next time I want to, quote, impugn the judicial system, I should quote, take the time to send him an email. First, he signed the email David W. Miller Aiken, South Carolina, and he included this quote at the bottom of his email:



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David Moses 46:56

We are lawyers on the side of the people. Never let us forget that the law is never settled until it is settled. Right? It is never right until it is just and it is never just until it's served society to the fullest.

Liz Farrell 47:13

Yeah, okay, David.

Mandy Matney 47:19

So on Friday, what was supposed to be a bond revocation hearing turned into a quickie plea deal, which fully benefited Bowen Turner and kept him out of jail in the short term in potentially prison in the longer term. This deal did not benefit the victims, and we failed to see where it benefited the state beyond expediency. Further, Bowen, who was almost 20, was sentenced under the youthful offenders act according to the Orangeburg times and Democrat, which is confusing because in 2019, it was determined that he would be tried as an adult. Another interesting observation, Judge Markley dentists, who was appointed in 1994, has drawn public outrage in the past over his sentencing decisions. That in itself isn't surprising. Judges have difficult decisions to make and they don't always get it right. But a look at his history was startling. In one case, he sentenced a father who pleaded guilty to raping his own daughter from age five to 14 to therapy, he sentenced him to therapy sources have told us that he's not known as being a victim's judge, also something he's not known for being in the Orangeburg County Courthouse apparently, which is where Bowens hearing was on Friday, according to his schedule. The last time he presented over General Sessions in Orangeburg was 2013. So I guess you could say that his appearance on Friday was good timing.



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Liz Farrell 48:58

David Miller and the paid for state senator attorney agreed to a deal in which Bowen Turner would admit guilt to first degree assault and battery. Three accusations of rape three different girls in three different counties and Boland Turner walks away with the same charge as if he had flashed a knife in a road rage incident. He has now admitted to harming or threatening to harm Chloe, the girl who State Senator Brad Hutto said in open court felt shame and regret for getting on the ground and having sex with a boy she didn't know. I am not sure how Brad Hutto or David Miller or Mark Lee Dennis can explain the cognitive dissonance and saying the sex was consensual. But at the same time, Bo and Turner is committing felony assault and battery. Judge Dennis sentenced Bo into five years of probation during which he must adhere to the rules of the sex offender registry. If he gets in any trouble during that time. He'll have to register as a sex offender.

Karl Stoller 49:58

100% Believe it was already decided on I think it was starting to sign on as far back as the ball got rolling on March the second or third when they saw that paper and the phone call was made from David Miller to the brand that it had to be and you don't just come up with that overnight you don't you don't do that. And he offered him a sweetheart of a deal and if there was any shatter shred of doubt in his in basado defendants attorneys mind his client was indeed in jeopardy of being convicted then obviously it was a deal when you basically get nothing is the deal worth taking right and so yeah, guilt in this third case, but I'm only gonna guilt assault battery one with non violent and and then I'm gonna get I could go to prison for 10 years, but I'm gonna send that sentence young and youthful offenders act to six years suspended to five years probation. And unless you violate your probation, you if you do not violate your probation and you won't live for those five years, you'll you won't get registered on the sex offender's list and you'll be eligible



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for full expungement of the record. So that's a pretty good deal. You know.

Mandy Matney 51:23

After Bowen's hearing Friday, several people reported that his parents threw him a party to celebrate. We wanted to share all of this with you to help give the victims in this case in their families, the voices they deserve to have in the voice that Dallas no longer gets to have. We also wanted to show you in real time how the system of legislator attorneys really works.

Liz Farrell 51:52

This system is one that continues to protect the few at the expense of the many. It's one in which certain lawyers get to choose their judges, where they get to manage the outcomes and police each other how they please, while telling the rest of us that all is the way it's supposed to be. It is a system that allowed Alex Murdaugh to become Alex Murdaugh. In South Carolina, we are discovering that some powerful attorneys become powerful not because of their mastery of the law. But because of where they sit at the table, who their friends are and what they come to the trading floor with. They probably don't like hearing this about themselves. But it is the truth as we see it. We talked to Will Folks about this. Will has been following this case since the very beginning. FITS News, by the way, is interviewing the victims in this case, and we are working on a mini documentary. So be sure to follow us on social media for updates.

Will Folks 52:44

This case is one of the most egregious examples of that, because you've got, you know, again, a powerful member of the General Assembly. Brad Hutto is the Democratic Leader of the Senate. He's the highest ranking Democrat. He's got tremendous influence in that chamber. And so no



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judge is going to go up against him. No judge is going to go up against them. So it's just indicative of the problem. This case is everything that's wrong with South Carolina's system of justice. And in fact, I've started calling it the injustice system because frankly, that's what that's what is stolen out. There's no justice in the three families whose lives whose futures whose hopes had been just permanently and irrevocably shattered. And the only thing that they went looking for was, obviously they can't replace the losses that what happened can't be undone.

Mandy Matney 53:42

So what can be done, the victims want more people to be aware of what is going on. So share this story. Share the links in our description. Donate to the South Carolina Victims Assistance Network, show support for the victims, make noise, make so much noise that it's hard for the good ol boys to ignore. Context. State Senator Brad howtos office called the Second Circuit solicitor's office called judge Markley, Dennis's office, these men work for us, the people and here's Chloe Bess.

Chloe Bess 54:22

So if they're okay representing criminals, and they can sleep at night by knowing that they, you know, gave him five years probation for assaulting three girls. I mean, I don't know how you do it. It it's very sick and twisted. And I just want this to be one more example of how their system is not working. And somebody needs a wake up call. Somebody needs a reality check because people are gonna get mad. People are already starting to turn their heads And that's a great thing. I want to continue doing that. That is what this whole thing is about right now. And hopefully we can see some change make a change, because that's all we can really do now.

Mandy Matney 55:14

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We will be posting more calls to action on our social media, so be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram. This case is just beginning. So stay tuned. The Murdaugh Murders Podcast is created by me, Mandy Matney and my fiance David Moses. Our executive editor is Liz Farrell.

David Moses 55:40

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