



EPISODE 50: Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Three

Operator 00:05

Hello, this is an AmTel operator calling from Alvin S Glenn Detention Center with a prepaid collect call from Alex to accept his prepaid collect call press one. All phone calls are subject to monitoring and recording. Thank you for using AmTel.

Mandy Matney 00:29

I don't know if the Murdaughs did anything illegal when it comes to Buster Murdaugh's readmission into the University of South Carolina School of Law. However, a series of jailhouse phone calls reveal some questionable dealings between the Murdaugh family and their good ole boy connections at the public university and the public deserves to know what is going on here. My name is Mandy Matney. I've been investigating the Murdaugh family for more than three years now. This is the 50th episode of the Murdaugh Murders Podcast with David Moses and Liz Farrell. So let's start out with some positive news. Today marks the one year anniversary of the Murdaugh Murders Podcast and also our 50th episode. I just have to say that I'm so proud of our whole team for making it here. I know I've said this before, but when David and Liz finally convinced me to go for it and start a podcast, I went into it thinking at best we would make it to 10 episodes. A year ago, I started this podcast with a very simple mission to be a voice for the victims to get the story straight and to expose the truth wherever it leads. A lot of people don't know this, as I was debating whether or not to start a podcast about the Murdaugh murders last June. I remember one particular moment, I was watching a YouTube video of some national talking head discussing the case and I was furious just how wrong she was about so many things. It was very clear to me in that moment that



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national media was getting this story so wrong from the get go. TV talking heads were spewing off nonsense theories about how the murders could have something to do with the Beach family or the boat crash victims, which I knew was so absurd. At that point, Liz and I had more than two years of research on the Murdaugh family stored up. And as these false narratives kept appearing in the national media, I knew we needed to take our reporting of this very complicated saga and make it much easier for people to understand. Unlike the legacy news outlets, we knew the story was about systemic corruption that needed to be exposed for the masses. So a year ago today we released a very rough first episode called South Carolina's Chappaquiddick - we had no idea what we were doing, and it sounds like it. But you know what? I'm so glad that it sounds imperfect. And I love the fact that as more and more people discover the podcast, they can hear our progress through every week, you the listener can hear me grow and change as a person. And as a reporter, too. You can hear the exhaustion in my voice in those first few months. As news was breaking at every turn. You can hear the sadness in my voice as we encountered so many evil forces while doing our investigation. And you can hear Luna barking in the background sometimes. And you know what, I think all of those imperfections made our podcasts something really special because in just nine episodes, we climbed the charts to number one on Apple and Amazon podcasts. And we were able to hire my best friend and former coworker Liz Farrell, a move that was absolutely essential for the growth of our show. And now here we are more than 30 million downloads later on episode 50. I say all of this because if I could do this, you can too. Large media companies want journalists to believe that they need corporate support to survive. This podcast is a testament of how well



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independent journalism can work. And there is absolutely a future for this type of investigative reporting that anyone who is willing to do the legwork can start a podcast from their kitchen table. They will be heard by millions around the world. So thank you to all the MMP fans out there. Thank you for supporting us. Thank you for believing in our mission. And thank you for sticking with us week after week. We obviously don't know what will happen to this case or what's next for brass, but at the end of the day, we are proud of what we built in the last year. So thank you. So for Episode 50, or going back to the tapes in the last episode because we got the tapes less than two days before a deadline to publish, we didn't have the opportunity to do a deep dive into some of the bigger themes that we noticed while listening to more than 100 conversations between Murdaugh and his family members. In the first round of tapes that we reported on back in February, we talked about how Alex and Buster had a lot of interesting conversations about his possible readmission into law school. Remember, the Wall Street Journal reported last year that Buster was asked to leave the University of South Carolina law school in 2019 following a cheating scandal. USC Law is what people around here call it but it's not to be confused with the other USC on the West Coast. That also happened to have a major cheating scandal involving privileged students. Anyways, we couldn't figure out what happened with Buster's law school status, just from the first round of phone calls that we got. As a reminder, what we gathered was it seemed like Alex had paid well known political attorney Butch Powers \$60,000, to do something in connection with Buster's readmittance into law school, but there was a lot of things that just weren't clear here.



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Liz Farrell 06:28

Now that we've listened to more than 100 calls and done background research about the players at USC School of Law, who are allegedly involved, we seem to have a clearer idea of what was going on. So first, let's talk about Buster. We've said this before, but we have complicated thoughts about him, especially as it relates to these calls and choosing what to publish and what to hold back. The calls we're sharing with you today are important to the story, the ones where you're choosing not to publish are personal and would not serve a news purpose. It's really hard not to have empathy for Buster after seeing his relationship with his father. Alex clearly loves Buster and wants the best for him. He's also clearly aware of the pressure he's putting on him and the stress his life choices have caused Buster, but he's also incredibly clueless in terms of reading the room. His love for his son comes off as bossy and nagging and badgering and presumptuous. He doesn't really ask Buster all that much about what Buster wants. Instead, he seeks reassurance that everything is okay at all times. These calls have given us insight into how Buster appears to be handling this tremendously strange, an utterly awful situation that has been forced upon him at no point and listening to these calls hasn't been lost on us how much Buster is going through. This doesn't excuse the alleged plagiarism, of course, but it's really easy to see how Buster is a casualty of this system that had the boat crash not occurred in 2019 likely would have benefited him in the same way it benefited his father, grandfather, great grandfather and great great grandfather. What we mean by this is that South Carolina is already an unusual place in that it hasn't yet fully advanced past the old way of existing, which is to say that it is always about who your family is. It's always about patronage always. And nowhere is this more evident



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than at the University of South Carolina School of Law where the tight knit incestuous inner circle is generally not accessible to those who are from somewhere else or those who had to work hard for everything they have. You might have noticed that Eric Bland is not from here. Mike Hemlock is not from here. Justin Bamberg is the son of two law enforcement officers. And Mark Tinsley. If you were to do a little research on him, you'd find out that his secret to success has been that he studied hard and worked hard. These are just some of the lawyers who have been sticking their necks out and going against the grain in this case. This is important context, though, to some people the root of this evil when it comes to attorneys like Alex Murdaugh. And when it comes to that inner circle of attorneys in this state either starts with or is made worse by the university and the law schools politics. To give you a little taste of this, we wanted to introduce you to Dr. Eddie Floyd, who is the longest serving member of the University is powerful and very controversial and very insular and very ethically challenged in some cases Board of Trustees. So Dr. Floyd is 87 years old. He's been in a bunch of trouble with the legislature because of his role in the hiring of a really controversial university president who we will not go into in this episode, but highly recommend you Google we also recommend you Google Dr. Eddie Floyd and Adolf Hitler painting and watch the video that was done by the state newspaper. Anyway, in March of this year, Dr. Floyd was one of several unopposed board members seeking reelection for another four years during that hearing state senator Dick Harpootlian, yes that Dick Harpootlian, grilled Floyd on his role as a board member. Now see Floyd and others are notorious for interfering in the daily operations of the school and putting department heads in



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precarious situations by insinuating their opinion on them or hinting at the need for favors. So here Floyd is explaining to Dick how that works.

Dick Harpootlian 10:26

I mean, do you talk to Ray Tanner from time to time, you call him or he calls you? That he is a department head right, right. You call the head of the chemistry department? I would if I thought what is necessary? What would what would make calling the head of the chemistry department necessary?

Dr. Eddie Floyd 10:45

Okay. Let me give you a good example. One, we've got a really, we've got a really good law in Florida. And his daddy was a que with me, and you had to university. He called me and said, My son has been turned down in law school. This has been years ago. And this guy, guy smartest, had been president of Boys Nation, all kinds of credentials, and I called the Dean of the Law School.

Dick Harpootlian 11:20

William Hubbard. Nope. Prior to William?

Dr. Eddie Floyd 11:24

Much prior to William. And I got a call back from the Dean in about two weeks and he said Dr. Roy, a really made a big mistake to let him in.

Mandy Matney 11:35

Okay, so we need to pause here and talk about Kappa Alpha fraternity or KA for short because it comes up a lot when we talk about the good



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ole boy power circles of South Carolina. Alex Murdaugh was a KA our current Governor Henry McMaster was a KA. The fraternity's quote spiritual founder was Robert E Lee. And it has deep roots and racism and ties to the KKK. Anyways by Floyd saying his daddy was a KA to the South Carolina Senate he's signaling to the good ol boys he's one of us. So of course he pulled strings to get them into law school. Also notice Dr. Floyd doesn't mention anything about the students LSAT scores or GPA. Floyd clearly values the KA legacy more than that, otherwise, he wouldn't have mentioned it. Anyways, Harpootlian and, I know Harpootlian of all people, reacted in the same way most of us did to Floyd's example. What?

Dick Harpootlian 12:34

And so, and this was a personal friend of yours. Yes. And you call the Dean of the Law School to help his son out? You do that a lot. Find that?

Dr. Eddie Floyd 12:42

Well, I feel like if you Alext me, as board trustees, I'm a representative for the University of South Carolina with the 16th Judicial Circuit. And I feel like anybody has a complaint and want me to help their kids and the way I feel like it's my responsibility to help help them the best,

Dick Harpootlian 13:04

Even if they objective we couldn't get in you use your influence to get them in.

Dr. Eddie Floyd 13:09

I would if I thought they were qualified to do



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Dick Harpootlian 13:13

Even though their SATs scores and rankings in their high school class didn't qualify him. If you felt that they should get in. They should get in, correct.

Dr. Eddie Floyd 13:21

Well, I found out first thing, first thing is, you got to check to find out what they tell you is truth. Well, parents, good parents call you majority of time. It's not exactly what the facts are. But I've got a secretary hire full time. That university thing.

Dick Harpootlian 13:47

So does...what university what thing?

Dr. Eddie Floyd 13:50

I mean, yeah, no, yeah. Okay.

Dick Harpootlian 13:52

I guess what I'm saying is you get a call from somebody, you know, the family. Good family comes from a good background. The kid got turned down by USC law school or undergraduate school. You do what you can to get them in?

Dr. Eddie Floyd 14:03

I do what...yes, yes. Okay.

Dick Harpootlian 14:05

That's all. Thank you.



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Liz Farrell 14:06

So there's your taste of how things seem to work at the University of South Carolina. Which brings us to one more person you need to know about. And that's William Hubbard, FITS News, founding editor, Will Folks once described Hubbard this way, he's a guy so corrupt. South Carolina lawmakers have previously had to draft legislation in an effort to contain his unethical, self serving behavior. So Hubbard became president of the law school in August of 2020. Less than three months after that he was already in the news because he had accidentally emailed the entire law school. The confidential scores from that year's bar exam results, including the names of those who flunked it major snafu. Now, from what we've been told Randolph Murdaugh, the third tried to get Buster readmitted into the law school, but the Interim Dean The school was like now which is frankly surprising.

Mandy Matney 15:06

And we'll be right back. We have had former University of South Carolina law students reach out to us and tell us the busters punishment was lighter than anyone else would have likely have gotten all because of his connections last year was asked to leave the school but apparently with the understanding that he could return at some point like we have said the boat crash complicated things because it came with a huge spotlight on the Murdaugh family, who they are and what they allegedly get away with. According to the jailhouse calls, Buster was readmitted to the school and from October through the end of December, he and Alex were trying to figure out a way to get the terms of his remittance adjusted more to their liking. We're gonna give you the whole story here because it'll be easier to follow along. But here



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is what you need to know before we start the calls as a part of bussers agreement to return to the law school in the spring of 2022. There were four or five contingencies. One of them was that he'd had to retain the GPA that he had when he was ejected from the school in 2019. Another is that he can never run for office with the student bar and another is that he has to meet with an advisor every week to get help with his homework now Alex and Buster want to change the GPA requirement Buster wants to start fresh in the fall. He's especially concerned because if he can't work a PMPED, which obviously he can't, because that's not a thing anymore. He's gonna have to get a high GPA. That is literally something that he says and he considers anyway, Alex pushes Buster to get with Butch Bowers and ask Butch to talk with the dean and get him to amend the agreement for the readmittance here is one of the first calls Alex made from the Richland County Detention Center soon after he got arrested in October 2021.

Alex Murdaugh 17:07

Have you reached out to law school? I haven't. Will you think about doing it?

Buster Murdaugh 17:12

I'm gonna do it. It's just you know, I got I got a lot of stuff going on.

Alex Murdaugh 17:18

I just don't want you to wait till it's not as effective if you wait till right up till you know, a couple of weeks before school starts.



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Buster Murdaugh 17:26

Not may not go. You know, at the very least I was not supposed to do it in November. earlier rather than later. I just I gotta

Alex Murdaugh 17:37

I understand, I think that'd be a good plan. B that'd be a good plan.

Liz Farrell 17:41

Well it's not exactly clear what Butch Bowers did for \$60,000. In this November 16 2021 Call with John Marvin Alex tells us how he regards Butch which is as a political operative. This is obviously a clue into why Alex might have hired him to handle Buster's. readmittance.

John Marvin Murdaugh 18:00

So this is a strange topic to you before there, there will be some people that want to pay for books or or or interviews and things of that nature. And do you know attorney did like a media style attorney semi they just did handle it in the proper manner so that it's not exploited by anybody or?

Alex Murdaugh 18:29

I have no idea. Absolutely. I got Butch on the show, right person, you know.

John Marvin Murdaugh 18:40

don't want to reach out to the normal normal guys that I've talked to but I see somebody that it would be



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Alex Murdaugh 18:47

I just don't know John. I don't think that's what he does. He's more of a political operative is what he really is.

Mandy Matney 18:59

On November 18 2021. Alex gets a little tense with Buster.

Alex Murdaugh 19:04

Buster, did you reschedule with law school?

Buster Murdaugh 19:08

Nah, I needed to I needed to reach back out and I got stopped. But I'm gonna get in touch with him and I'm going up there to talk to him at some point.

Alex Murdaugh 19:15

Well try to do it sooner rather than later. Okay. All right.

Liz Farrell 19:19

Five hours later Alex calls Buster to clarify the situation and explain his earlier attitude.

Alex Murdaugh 19:24

Buster I just thought about it and I was being short with you today. I mean, I'm asking you to make an appointment at law school or I just don't want to bug you if you don't want to do it is all I was trying to say.



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Buster Murdaugh 19:41

No, I mean, I mean, that's fine. I mean, I'm gonna do it. I just it just hasn't worked out and probably with the holiday come out probably will. Well, I mean, I can definitely call Blanca but I might not be able to get set sit down with Hubbard, prior to that.

Alex Murdaugh 19:56

And I understand that but just remember it's important even if You don't set the meeting until the week after Thanksgiving. Get back in touch with them. Don't wait. Write the follow up plan. Yeah. Because I really am telling you, I think it's important that you have that meeting sooner rather than later. Okay. Maybe we're in good shape in November. I think you're still in good shape. But I think you will have if you don't have to the beginning of next week because of thanksgiving. You want to get that first week of December? Yeah.

Buster Murdaugh 20:30

I don't disagree.

Mandy Matney 20:32

On November 30. Alex tells Buster that this is it. He has one chance at this law school thing. Now. Obviously, Alex is aware that his political capital in the state is draining. He is spending his very last Murdaugh money on this. We are not sure of the significance of this call in terms of what might have changed for Buster. Did he NOT have the go ahead to re-enroll before and now he has it at no point before this call did Buster or Alex mention the conditions but after this call, it's something they talk about regularly.



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Alex Murdaugh 21:10

Okay. And Buster, you need to get ready for this law school now. Okay. Understand, I mean, you got to really buckle down and you got to I mean, you got to treat it like a job. You're gonna have to read these cases two or three times if you don't fully understand them. I mean, you're gonna have to treat it like a job. I promise. Yes. Because you know, there's not going to be another chance. I mean, the way is in no way shape or form, is there going to be another chance? You do truly understand that. Yes.

Liz Farrell 21:48

This next call from December 1 2021 is one of our favorites because of Alex's advice on how to write a nice note to the dean. We definitely feel Buster's pain in this call. You might remember it from Episode 33, our first episode about the jailhouse calls, we're replaying part of it now. So you can see where it fits into the timeline of the mission to get busta back into school.

Buster Murdaugh 22:12

If I don't like it, you can call them and say that I've been trying to get in touch with his birth date all the money that he was, yes.

Alex Murdaugh 22:25

It was upfront. And it was 30 grand up front and 30. Contingency on if it was excessive, I'm sure I don't want to call on the guy I have. This guy he has is supposed to have. No he. He knows he totally paid me would he be willing to do something like that? Absolutely. But I would do it yourself. First, I just say hey, just following up, you know, the holidays. If



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Buster Murdaugh 22:54

If you got to get back into this week, and we get into the middle of next week. And so

Alex Murdaugh 23:00

That's what I'm saying when your classes start. January the fifth? Fifth? Yeah, that's why it really you need to send it tomorrow. And if you haven't heard from him by Friday, and I'd say something real nice. Just like, hey, just following up on my email. I know, this is a busy time of year but was hoping we could meet to just like that.

Mandy Matney 23:21

Remember that phone call we do. The next day Buster updates Alex on his conversation with Butch. Notice Buster brings up terms when it comes to his law school readmission status.

Buster Murdaugh 23:34

I was just saying was that him? No, it wasn't. But I ended up getting in touch with him anyway.

Alex Murdaugh 23:37

Okay, what'd he say?

Buster Murdaugh 23:39

He said that he didn't tell you that the terms are going to be changed.



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Alex Murdaugh 23:43

I mean, that's just not true. He and Jim are on the phone. So what's he saying? If you started the fall?

Buster Murdaugh 23:51

Well I started thinking about it. And he said that he didn't specifically said to terms with becomes. But then I thought about it more. And I was like, Well, if I if I do do it in the fall, then they would have to change because you can't make someone take count. But, you know, if I were to take it, then what I would do in there would have to now that's what we've made it.

Alex Murdaugh 24:08

He said he didn't tell me that you would get he thought you could start fresh in the fall. Well, no.

Buster Murdaugh 24:14

He said I could start in the fall. But he said that he wasn't aware of any amendments. He didn't change to the agreed upon terms. But since you've already taken that semester, how would they count it? Yeah, that's I agree. I thought about that, too. But I talked to him and he's gonna reach back out to them and say like, Hey, you know, if he's willing to, you know, to pull off his aspirations for another length of time we think it'd be, we think it'd be good to go ahead and just let him you know, start from zero.

Alex Murdaugh 24:42

I'm telling you Buster, do a three way and get him on the phone.



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Liz Farrell 24:46

Quick note here. We've read the jail handbook several times three way calls are against the rules. We will talk about that in another episode.

Alex Murdaugh 24:55

I want to see if I'm crazy or that's what he told us. Jim's in a meeting.

Buster Murdaugh 24:59

I can't do it. I was texting him, I wouldn't do anything else.

Alex Murdaugh 25:02

That's what that's what he told us.

Buster Murdaugh 25:04

Oh I mean, there's obviously just a lapse in communication. Or maybe you assumed it. I don't know, which I think it's easy to assume now because

Alex Murdaugh 25:11

No man, I'm telling you, because it made no sense to me. And I was like, just telling you, that's what he said, telling you. Let me let you go, I'm gonna try to call you back a little later. It sounds like you're busy.

Buster Murdaugh 25:25

I just want more I mean.



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Alex Murdaugh 25:29

I'm put on you and how much pressure there is on you. And I just want whatever's best for you.

Mandy Matney 25:34

This is one of the few times Alex acknowledges and awareness of what Buster might be experiencing as his son, it seems to energize Buster, because he begins to talk more about what he wants to do.

Buster Murdaugh 25:48

I can go ahead and tell you that if if the terms are changed, and if...

Alex Murdaugh 25:55

You don't have that extra high GPA?

Buster Murdaugh 25:56

Yeah, then I see myself probably going with that. But if the terms are not changed, then I'm gonna do it now. Because there's no point.

Alex Murdaugh 26:04

I don't disagree with that and I think that's logical thinking. And I think you can go there and do real good. But it's going to be hard for you to get a higher GPA because, you know, like, because of how low the one. That's right. So even if you make four point those for the first five semesters, guys, still the highest you could get up to would be a lot of three.



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Mandy Matney 26:29

Math is hard sometimes. But Alex continues.

Alex Murdaugh 26:33

You know, I'm just using that as an example. Sitting on right now. What? Nothing? I'm listening. Alright, I can tell you busy. I'll call you a little bit later. I love you. Is virtual good, you detailed options. But

Buster Murdaugh 26:53

Hang one minute. Yeah, I mean, he's got my cell now as his cell and he said he'd be he'd be in communication with me whenever he hears anything. Is he gonna reach out to them to find out? Yeah, I told him, you know, what I told him is I told him what you said on the phone. And I was like, listen, I just got off the phone with dad, he said to get in touch with you Dad said that. He thought that Hubbard said that. If I were to wait and go into falls, and all of my, you know, repercussions as far as GPA and everything would be amended. And I could start from scratch. And then he said, Well, that's not really he had a different understanding. But then I asked him, I was like, well hit your head just asked him say if I'm willing to lay off and cover the fall, can I start from scratch so that I don't have this deadline looming over my head.

Mandy Matney 27:36

Okay, so it's kind of hard to tell what's going on here. But after listening to this phone call several times, it sounds like Buster was getting back into law school, but not the way that he wanted. He wanted to be able to start fresh with a new GPA, unlikely he failed all or most of his classes due to the alleged cheating scandal back in 2019. It sounds like Buster



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not only once Butch Bowers, the powerful attorney to get him back in, he wants Butch to get him back in with a clean slate. We're pointing this out because it seems lost on them that he should feel so lucky just to get back into school. In the next call from December 5, Buster and Elek are even more explicit about the stipulations from the school and how Dean Hubbard seemed willing to change them. For him. This is the call where Buster mentions the firm and the need to have a high GPA if he isn't going to work there

Buster Murdaugh 28:33

A couple times on Friday, and he was supposed to be getting in touch with Hubbard, he had gotten in touch with Hubbard and Hubbard seems to you know, he just had apparently Hubbard had to run it via like the admissions and, and all this other stuff, I guess to be able to set the record clean or whatever, but I haven't much butchers probably going to call me this week.

Alex Murdaugh 28:51

I would assume that they were gonna do that. Hubbard was, Hubbard to sound unwilling to do that. Yeah, but she's, what seven he was, you know.

Buster Murdaugh 29:00

He says that he's cautiously optimistic about taking the restrictions off.

Alex Murdaugh 29:05

You making a 2.55? Yeah, correct.



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Buster Murdaugh 29:08

Just to do that. It seems you're happy because they can't they can't offer me to come back in the fall. And then I do everything in the fall. And they're like, Well, I know what you did. But this is still your grade.

Alex Murdaugh 29:20

Yeah you can say you go make a three, two. And they say, Well, you still got this. If they offer you that budget to start fresh, do you think that's the thing to do?

Buster Murdaugh 29:31

I didn't. I do think that's the thing too.

Alex Murdaugh 29:32

They definitely think it's the thing to do.

Buster Murdaugh 29:36

It was a scenario you know, not knowing if I'm gonna go back and work for the law firm. I need my grades need to be as high as possible so that I want a different job. I can get one.

Alex Murdaugh 29:45

No doubt. And that will allow you to do that. Don't make up your mind to you know the details, but I think that's a good thing.



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Mandy Matney 29:53

We know some of these calls might sound a little repetitive, but we want to share as much as we can. Have these calls with you so you can get the full picture of our reporting. Generally speaking, the conclusions we are drawing are based on more than what we can pack into these episodes. But when it comes to these phone calls, you can hear Alex and Buster, in their own words, repeating the same language over and over. And we think it's really important for you to listen and decide for yourself for the next few days. Alex continues to check in with Buster on December 9.

Alex Murdaugh 30:30

How are you? Good, how are you? I'm okay. I'm okay. You hear from Butch?

Buster Murdaugh 30:36

No, I texted him today. And I've called him once and I haven't heard from him.

Mandy Matney 30:42

Them on December 12th.

Alex Murdaugh 30:45

You ever hear anything from Butch?

Buster Murdaugh 30:47

I spoke to him last week and he said he hadn't yet and he said, No. I'm thrilled to hear from him this week. Okay.



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Mandy Matney 30:57

On December 14th.

Alex Murdaugh 30:59

Have you heard from Butch?

Buster Murdaugh 31:01

Now I sent a text message today and I haven't heard from him. But tomorrow I'll probably start to bother and I try not to bother him too much.

Liz Farrell 31:12

On December 22nd, Buster starts to get a little indignant about the situation. Now we want to mention here that we're not entirely sure who is dropping the ball here. Is it Butch? Is it Hubbard? Does the law school not want the bad press if they readmit Buster? Is it Buster? And if it is Buster, does this mean he has simply been appeasing Alex this whole time and isn't actually interested in going back to law school?

Alex Murdaugh 31:34

Everything okay?

Buster Murdaugh 31:36

Yeah, everything's fine.

Alex Murdaugh 31:37

Have you talked to Butch?



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Buster Murdaugh 31:40

Yeah, I talked to Butch on Monday, and he said that he's working to get in touch with Hubbard

Alex Murdaugh 31:46

I mean, shit. You know, you're two weeks out?

Buster Murdaugh 31:48

Well, I mean, I'm just gonna Yeah. I mean, I've told both sides like we live in. It's not like, exactly, I can be told on the 31st that I hit a school in the fifth. And he's like, understand that he, he seems to think due to the delay that the the situation is gonna work out. Yeah. I mean, because I'll just still have to put this all up. I can't come to school with four days notice. Telling, right like that will mean that you can't you can't tell me up. You know, I mean, I understand you need to be on a good side. But push comes to shove, I've got to get a letter that says I've been accepted. And they don't want that PR going out there. And I got valid, you know, hard copy proof.

Alex Murdaugh 32:25

No, no. It was some. I will tell you this. I think Butch is good at it. I think he's as good as anybody at this.

Mandy Matney 32:37

So we don't know what he's saying about valid hard copy proof. Or they don't want that PR going out there. But it seems important and figuring out what is going on here with Buster and what exactly is



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Butch good at and why won't he just say it the next day Buster finally snaps back at Alex.

Alex Murdaugh 32:59

Buster, have you talked to Butch?

Buster Murdaugh 33:00

I haven't been able to. He hasn't responded to me.

Alex Murdaugh 33:05

You need to send him a text. Hey, but getting into a pitch here. Do you think we can find out something today classes are supposed to start or just you know something? Something along those lines? Are you comfortable doing that or not? Yeah. Well, you need to hang up and do that. So he has time to call you back today being Friday. Monday is secondary for the class to start with. When best me to send him a text today telling him that.

Buster Murdaugh 33:38

I'd be remiss to say that pretty sure he knows.

Alex Murdaugh 33:43

Well, I mean, Buster, baby, I'm not trying to put pressure on you that you just can't. I mean, you got to take a little bit more of the sort of thing and put a little bit of, you know, polite pressure.



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Buster Murdaugh 33:55

Don't assume what I do. You got no idea how many times or whatnot, the extent that I've taken to get in touch.

Alex Murdaugh 34:01

I don't mean to say that. I'm just saying he's coming up Wednesday. They know you've been putting pressure on him.

Buster Murdaugh 34:08

I mean, the time pressure, I've been trying to get in touch with them. Even ask them say like, Hey, if you don't, if you don't respond, I'm gonna be test.

Alex Murdaugh 34:15

I mean, I wouldn't I definitely wouldn't say that. But I would I would text him if you haven't, say the classes start on the fifth or you know, heybridge just following up again, you know that what he say Just following up again, classes start on the fifth getting into real pitch. Could you please give me a call?

Mandy Matney 34:38

On December 29th, Alex gives Buster one of his fatherly don't be bashful talks. And he again talks about how much Butch has been paid to do this for them, whatever this is. Are they paying Butch to be his official Law School readmission advocate or is the money just to make phone calls to the special connected people at the top or is it something else altogether? Again, these calls are showing us that Alex



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still thinks he has enough power to work the system in his favor, even from jail.

Alex Murdaugh 35:14

Have you heard from Butch?

Buster Murdaugh 35:18

No, I sent him a text.

Alex Murdaugh 35:21

You need to calling him and bugging.

Buster Murdaugh 35:24

Well, I can't exactly call them because, you know...

Alex Murdaugh 35:30

No, listen, he's already been paid to do this. Yeah, well, this was really part of sure it was. This is absolutely he's been paid for this. You don't worry about this. He's been paid very well for all of this. I mean, this is part of that same thing. And, you know, until they tell you, they're gonna let you come in the fall. You need to be planning on starting, we're doing sharks. Me now. He said, Do you need to be planning on starting with advisors.

Buster Murdaugh 36:04

He should know that. Hubbard should know that.



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Alex Murdaugh 36:09

I don't know that he'll care. They can try to come up with don't be bashful about it. I mean, honestly.

Buster Murdaugh 36:17

Like, I got to start in the Fall because I'm in no mental place...

Alex Murdaugh 36:26

Definitely understand. I mean, this is either the more pressure the longer they wait. If you aren't ready, did you know then they it's easier for them not to do it. So you need to at least act like you're ready when you tell Butch. You know? Hey, man, I gotta be finishing. I gotta be getting ready for this. I need to know you need to put a little bit of nice pressure on him tomorrow. Do you want me to get him...to call him?

Mandy Matney 36:56

Ah, the nice pressure, an interesting term to describe influence and manipulation. Also, we noticed Jim Griffin is mentioned a lot when it comes to getting Buster back into law school. I have to wonder if Alex is paying Jim for that work, too, with the money he allegedly doesn't have. But anyways, we'll talk about that more in another episode. Then on December 31st Alex delivers the bad news to Buster.

Alex Murdaugh 37:24

He was supposed to give you a call. You sure you don't have a missed call? You need to try to call him. But he said that Hubbard's been out of the country just got back, he just talked to him and that they met and that they have decided that they're going to delay your admission. Now,



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I'm not sure they, I mean, not sure what they can do that, but I'm not sure what we can do about it. You know, if you find it, and when they say it's not in your best interest to start law school this semester, that it is unfair for you to start in the Fall.

Mandy Matney 38:05

So here last year, said that he didn't want to go to law school in the spring, which makes that Butch payment an even bigger mystery.

Alex Murdaugh 38:14

So they're delaying you to the Spring, next year. But I mean, this just got sprung on Butch and Jim and trying to figure out what we can do to get you started in the path. You weren't planning on starting in the spring anyway. Well, try to call Butch he can give you a few more details. I mean, Buster I don't even know what to say, man. I'm just sorry. But I seem to think that they can negotiate you starting in the fall, but maybe as an audit or something like that, just as he gets back into the swing of things. Hello, I'm here. Alright. Are your friends there yet? Yeah. You know, I'm not. Would you rather talk about this when they're not around? Now? I just don't know what I mean. I don't know how I don't know how they revoke an admission. But here's the thing. Do you want to pressure them for you to start this spring? In five days? Without a doubt, yes. Because I think he might can do that. Now. I'm not sure that's in your best interest. Because if you force them to make sure

Buster Murdaugh 39:48

I'm not I'm not mentally, not mentally prepared. I'm not ready to get an out there. They switched all that up for me.



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Alex Murdaugh 39:54

What now? Would did you say?

Buster Murdaugh 39:57

I said I'm nervous. I'm not mentally prepared for that and they've messed that all up now I don't want to do that anymore. Hello?

Alex Murdaugh 40:08

I'm here I know you're frustrated and I mean I feel like it's all my fault. No, it's my fault.

Mandy Matney 40:14

Alex Murdaugh saying he feels like this is his fault is like a category five hurricane returning to the island it just destroyed for some reassurance that we don't hate it Buster, however, redeems himself slightly here.

Buster Murdaugh 40:29

No, not entirely. I share some blame in this.

Alex Murdaugh 40:32

I mean, I'll let you go go try to have a good weekend. That's fine. I'll get in touch with him after the week. He's gonna call you so try to look for a call. Night I love you. Sorry this has happened.

Mandy Matney 40:45

After this call Alex immediately calls John Marvin and asked him to keep an eye on Buster pay close attention to this call because it's very telling this call shows us exactly how the Murdaughs think the system is



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supposed to work for them because Alex actually considers taking the school to court for rescinding on Busters possibly ill gotten reacceptance letter.

John Marvin Murdaugh 41:11

What Buster told me was it they were they thought they were offering to start in the spring. I mean, in the fall.

Alex Murdaugh 41:13

Well, that's what we've been trying to do. But now it's gotten down to the last minute. They haven't done anything less is not prepared to go. It's probably not in his best interest to go anyway. But if he bites there, see what they're saying is they're gonna delay him until the following spring. Right? And in our books, and Jim are gonna try to negotiate him doing something in the fall, but you know, he will have any leverage, you know what I'm saying? It's gonna be right when they say it's just a silly thing. And I mean, all this is because of me. What can I do to help? Is it anything? Do I need to communicate with him? Boy? I mean, is there anything you can do? I mean, let's just say he could, he could force them to honor the eviction, who originally and go this coming semester? Yeah, I mean, with all this pressure on him, and that's gonna piss off the administration. And, you know, they go grading extra hard. I mean, who knows what might happen? Right now, it's either spring next year, or we do something to fight their decision. They're saying, Okay, we're delaying his admission one year, it's in his best interest, it's in our best interest. And we're delaying him one year, we thought about the fall. But it's not fair to other students, for him to get to come in and start over. Right. So now, hopefully, we can work something out maybe



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where he audits classes, you know, all the classes, you go to the class that degree doesn't count, not to know that. But in that way, maybe he could get back into swing and in the fall, and do you know, go to school, get back into swing, redo those classes that he did poorly in, even though it wouldn't change his grade. It would change his knowledge base and make it better for him starting a second semester, maybe. Right. But the bottom line is, the only choice right now is on a Friday, New Year's Eve classes start on Wednesday. So somehow, Friday, New Year's Eve, get prepared to Monday, file something, get a court to get the court to enjoin the law school from denying his admission that they've given him which I don't even know if you can do and I don't know that that's in his best interest.

Mandy Matney 43:47

On January 5th, the first day of the spring semester at USC Law School, Alex calls John Marvin's wife, Liz Murdaugh, and talks about where he thinks all of this went wrong.

Alex Murdaugh 44:01

Good. I should have told y'all but I didn't really think about it, but I got flustered when all that shit went on with Buster. Did they change at the last minute on that Friday, but basically off, you know, they were on lockdown, because people were off, you know, the weekend and beginning us all during Christmas in New Year's.

Liz Murdaugh 44:25

I gotcha. What do you mean you got plus you're with us or with what?



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Alex Murdaugh 44:31

In law school, they threw the round and waited to the last minute. Anyway, I might not think it's probably not in his best interest to go right now. But I was hoping for the fall but they're still working on it. Anyway, I was dealing with that on Friday afternoon when I could use the phone and then we went on lockdown. For me, we've been on lockdown a lot, but we went on lockdown for New Years and I couldn't get to the phone to call.

Liz Farrell 45:00

We fought to get these phone calls because we knew how important it was to shine a light on Alex and what he was up to in jail over and over the Murdaughs. And their legal team have told the public that they're just regular people that Alex wasn't rich, and that the notion they're powerful, or part of a quote unquote dynasty is just not true. Once again, these calls are fact checking their narrative. These calls are further proof that the Murdaughs are not just regular people, and they are very aware of their power and how to leverage it. They just don't know or they refuse to acknowledge out loud that most of South Carolina does not have the same privileges like in this phone call with Liz Murdaugh.

Alex Murdaugh 45:44

How rich we are and how powerful we are. And it's just, I mean, taking life for me, I wish it was half true.



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Liz Farrell 46:00

Alex clearly doesn't get that everything he's been doing with Buster and Butch and Hubbard and Jim is exactly why and one of the many reasons why people say they're powerful, he really doesn't seem to get it.

Mandy Matney 46:14

Well this is a story about the Murdaugh's. This is not just the Murdaugh story. Buster Murdaugh is not the only grandson or great grandson and South Carolina, who was born into a system that was especially built for him. In the end, at least right now. Things didn't work out in bussers favor, but there are so many things wrong with what we heard in those calls. We question why Butch Bauer's fee was \$60,000. What did he do for that money? Make a few phone calls. And what about all of the kids that cannot afford a \$60,000 lawyer to advocate for them. We also questioned why the university would entertain any such conversation with Butch about Buster's Law School readmittance. Liz reached out to the law school on Tuesday and told them exactly what was in the calls. We asked them for an explanation or a statement. All that they would say is that Buster is not currently enrolled in this school and that he was enrolled only for the Fall of 2018 and Spring 2018 semesters this sort of access in this sort of high price negotiating opportunity does not exist for most of South Carolina's aspiring attorneys. It is so hard for the people in this inner circle to see how different the world works for them in this state that law school is in an incredible debt. It has a very low endowment because it's alumni aren't donating a lot of money to the school. The University of South Carolina law school scholarship program is nothing to write home about and at \$24,000 a year. The school's



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tuition is out of reach for so many students. The school also lacks diversity. These are the problems Dean Hubbard said he wanted to fix when he took over in 2020, Buster Murdaugh was given an opportunity that a lot of young people would drop everything for and he blew it in looking at everything that Alex Murdaugh has allegedly done and at the system that allowed him to get away with it for so long. At the heart of it is privilege and lack of consequence. Every time Alex failed growing up Randolph was there to fix it in this is what Alex wanted to do for buster. If the bo crash hadn't happened, he likely would have succeeded in a lot earlier. By the way, did you notice how at no time did Alex or Buster discuss trying for another law school in a different state besides USC law, they never did because to them. There is no other law school and no other state where their name would carry any weight for the justice system to change in this state. The University of South Carolina law school one of two law schools in the state has got to start recognizing this. We say this because the law school seems to be at the epicenter of where this corruption and unethical behavior begins. And it needs to be where it ends.

Liz Farrell 49:22

We will be right back.

Mandy Matney 49:30

On Thursday, June 16 attorneys Eric Bland and Ronnie Richter hosted a beautiful event to celebrate Gloria's Gifts, a new foundation in Gloria Satterfield's honor that will bring joy and hope to Hampton County for so many years to come. I was honored to speak at the event. So before the event got started, Eric led me into a room off stage filled with



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glorious warm and welcoming family members that mold went backstage hugging them and hearing them thank me in the team at FITS News for our dedication to glorious story that alone was worth every headache and heartache we've all endured in the last year. It was a beautiful reminder that the work we do on this podcast is so important. Out of all the speeches, I want to share the inspiring and sincere words from Ginger Harriet Gloria sister.

Ginger Harriet 50:28

So on behalf of my sister Gloria and our family, I am proud to join them in announcing a nonprofit foundation to honor glory Harriet Satterfield, most of you don't know the struggle story of faced during her life and the hard work she endured not only to provide for her boys and herself, she had a full, pure heart of kindness and love for everyone she met, she was so much more than just a housekeeper for the merlocks as she has been portrayed in the news. She was grounded by her Christian faith, which called upon her to live in the service of others. While we mourn her still today, of course, you can see, we will honor her with this foundation to help others. And see met her legacy as a person whose enduring faith inspired her to love and help others. a giving heart is the loving heart. And it's time we all focus on healing and sharing love. Our family has shed so many tears this past year. And to be certain we have been betrayed, let down and very sad and after having fought the good fight for justice, we choose now to shift on the focus to making sure that glorious lasting legacy will not be that of a victim, but will indeed that be of a champion of love and charity. As we stand here today, we envision glorious smiling down on us. As we form Gloria's Gift Foundation in her memory, of love and kindness. I will now share with



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you a few words that people share with me about their memories of Gloria. Gloria came from a large family. They filled nearly two pews with our family alone. They were simple family with strong spiritual roots, and were taught the meaning of dedication, loyalty, commitment and responsibility. She was humble, and she was a southern lady filled with gratitude and grace. She enjoyed talking to others, and we're always in with a hug and a smile. I remember her tone of voice filled with care and genuine concerns for everyone. I will miss running into her and catching up. And of course, those special hugs, glorious legacy will continue through her family.

Mandy Matney 52:59

Ginger brought Gloria's legacy to life in a way that really no one else has done. I really love this part of her speech.

Ginger Harriet 53:07

I could talk about Gloria all day. She was my best friend. She was honest. She was kind she was caring and a true friend. She was a hard worker and always saw the good in everyone. Gloria was a person of her word. If she told you she was going to do something, she did it. Glorious struggles, but always kept going. Well, I would either call her up or she would call me up and we'd say Bo, let's go somewhere. She would say well, I don't have the money. Or I would say I don't have the money. But that didn't stop us. Because whoever had the money at the time would pay for both of us. We were always there for each other through thick and thin. I miss her dearly and will never have another friend as loving and giving as Gloria, a true sister. And a true friend always. Gloria loved the Lord with all the heart, mind, body and spirit. Gloria also loved



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Christmas. I think she loved Christmas because she recognized that love itself is a gift. And we want one another to give to one another.

Mandy Matney 54:13

The foundation will provide Christmas gifts for Hampton County families who have struggled like Gloria to donate visit gloriasgifts.com and the link is in the description. So after leaving the event, I couldn't stop thinking about the Satterfield family, how generous and grateful and truly kind they are. It's not surprising at all that they are using the lawsuit money to help their own community. That is what good people do. But meaning glorious family also made me realize how horrific this crime really was. How could Alex Murdaugh steal from people like that? You know, every time we air some of the jailhouse phone calls, we get a little pushback. Like in the last week, a few people have messaged me that we should just stick to reporting the facts and leave him alone. So without even considering all the other crimes Alex is accused of strip that away and think about the one that He is admitted to stealing millions of dollars from the family of Gloria Satterfield as they were grieving the loss of Gloria. After meeting them. I have never been so certain that our coverage and treatment of the Murdaugh family was not only spot on, it was necessary if you treat other human beings the way Alex Murdaugh treated people such as glorious family, you deserve every bit of scrutiny coming at you, you do not deserve privacy, you do not deserve the benefit of the doubt. You do not deserve sympathy, and you certainly do not deserve special treatment. And that goes for anyone who knew about this and helped him too. And speaking of that, just hours after the event celebrating Gloria Satterfield's new foundation, the Supreme Court of South Carolina issued an order to



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disbar Alex Murdaugh pending a hearing that was ultimately canceled. Now, to most of us the Supreme Court ruling is anything but shocking Alex is accused of and has admitted to some terrible crimes. He faces more than 700 years in prison and there's a good chance he will never be a free man again. Of course the court should take his law license away, however, to a lot of South Carolina lawyers we spoke with over the past few days. The decision is shocking because the Supreme Court did this on its own without a recommendation from its office of disciplinary Council, which really doesn't happen ever. The order pretty much states that the Supreme Court has seen enough misconduct from Alex Murdaugh, and they don't need to waste any taxpayer time on an investigation. It appears like the confession of judgment in the Satterfield case, which is officially signed in May was the nail in the coffin for Alex's legal career. However, attorney Eric Bland is concerned about this for a few reasons. We spoke with him on Tuesday about why he's worried that this expedited decision is going to skip over a lot of discovery, which could be a slippery slope for the process.

Eric Bland 57:15

The question then is is the public and is the bar entitled to a full explanation of what Alex did to lose his law license. And it's not just one matter, it's not the Satterfield matter, it's not just the Plyler matter, it's not the take the matter. It's not the Badger matter, not the Janks matter. It's everything. It's you know, all the different things that he's done. And there's a lot that we don't know about, you know, the star chamber of the ODC. We have no idea what they're focusing on or what they've uncovered. We also don't know about whether they've uncovered things in his firm that other lawyers may have done Mandy, I



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get it that we want action. We want things to happen. They seem obvious to us that he shouldn't have a law license. But the Supreme Court made these rules to apply to everybody, even to the worst of the worst lawyers, or those lawyers that may have tripped and fell and had a substance abuse problem and may have missed the statute of limitations and it doesn't warn a full suspension, maybe a public warning or something like that. So anytime we deviate from rules, it scares me as a lawyer and I get it. I'm not really sticking up for Alex here. I'm more sticking up for the process.

Mandy Matney 58:35

Look there really is not a whole lot of public trust in the South Carolina bar or the supreme court right now for legitimate reasons. However, as Eric Bland pointed out, the courts have ruled against Alex and nearly every turn of the saga and as a matter of public trust, we need to know that the buck just doesn't stop here. This just isn't the Supreme Court going after Alex to make an example out of him while failing to investigate all the other lawyers and judges who knew about this and either helped him or did nothing to stop him. As Eric Bland said this is a pivotal time for restoring faith in our legal system. And we hope the Supreme Court does the right thing.

Eric Bland 59:19

Hey man listen, one of my favorite movies is Godfather and Clemenza says matter of factly as he's you know, dividend spoon in the spaghetti CES and Michael we're going to war. We got to do it every 10 years. We go to the mattresses and clean it out. Well, this is an opportunity that the Supreme Court in the ODC could go to the mattresses. Let's clean it



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out. Why stop with Alex? Don't make him the scapegoat and publicly execute him and say see we cleaned up the system. No, let's nurture Alex, let's put some plant food on him and water him. Get him excited to start naming names. Because he didn't do this alone. He couldn't have done So how long has the system been rigged? Are there lawyers that are working together to fabricate cases or make them bigger than they are? Or are there judges that are given a wink and a nod? You know, are there legislatures that are doing certain things? You know, I'm just a dirt ball from Philadelphia. Nobody tells me what's going on in the state house or in the court system. I mean, I gotta get it from punch in and fight but evidently, he had access to people and the, the cigar smoke filled rooms, and I never had, I want to know what the hell is going on in our state. And this is an opportunity to do it. Somebody you cracked open the can with that can opener, and you and I and Liz, and will folks and we're gonna blow the lid off. We're not stopping. I'm not gonna stop. You want to shut me up. You better throw a sock in my mouth.

Mandy Matney 1:00:51

But on Tuesday afternoon, as we were finishing up this podcast, we found out that the South Carolina Supreme Court canceled the hearing after Alex Murdaugh admitted to the allegations, it did not contest the disbarment. But like Eric said, No one is stopping until we get answers. And this is not going away anytime soon. And we will keep asking questions and making noise until the South Carolina Supreme Court gives us answers about Judge Carmen Mullen, Chris Wilson, Cory Fleming, Butch Powers and every other person with a South Carolina law license connected to this mess. Stay tuned. The Murdaugh Murders



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Podcast is created by me, Mandy Matney, and my fiance David Moses.
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