



EPISODE 13: Terrified Jurors, Unprepared Witnesses and Dirty Money: Countdown To The Murder Trial

[00:00:00] **Mandy Matney:** We are just one week away from one of the biggest cases ever in South Carolina history: State versus Alex Murdaugh. It is going to be a very wild ride. Liz Farrell, Eric Bland, and I will keep you in the know with daily coverage and commentary. But first, we sat down on Friday to talk about how prepared we think the state and the defense are, whether Alex is paying for his defense with stolen money, and how Alex Murdaugh's jury will be in a very difficult position. Plus, we discussed the boat crash victim settlement with Buster Murdaugh and what Liz remembers about her former classmate, Brian Walshe, the wealthy Massachusetts man whose wife has been missing since New Year's Day. So, let's get into it.

[00:00:57] **Liz Farrell:** Hello. Hello, guys. How are you?

[00:01:00] **Eric Bland:** Hey there.

[00:01:01] **Liz Farrell:** What's new, Eric? What's new with you? It's been a while.

[00:01:05] **Eric Bland:** Well, Happy New Year to you, guys. I haven't talked to you since the new year. But, you know, we're all on pins and needles waiting to see what happens over the next week and a half. Is it really gonna happen?

[00:01:14] **Liz Farrell:** Isn't it crazy that we're this close to, like, did you realize that it's just a week away?

[00:01:21] **Eric Bland:** I see, you know, listeners saying, well, we're 10 days away and I compartmentalize it. And then when I actually sit down to think about it, like, wow, the feverish pitch that must be going on in both camps to prepare. You know, I do know like I'm trying to schedule a time for the Satterfields to get prepared and am I going to be subpoenaed and a lot of it's always predicated on what the judge is gonna do in terms of the ruling on motive or whether there's gonna be a last minute motion to continue because let's say Dick says the state hasn't produced enough for us and our



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experts can't finalize their reports. But it seems like there hasn't been anything from each side where there's gonna be someone who's gonna blink.

[00:02:11] **Liz Farrell:** Good point. So, you have not been subpoenaed or you have?

[00:02:16] **Eric Bland:** I have not. My clients have received an email notice of it and I've received an email notice of it. But we have not been served with the actual subpoena. Here's the real dilemma that the Dick and Creighton are in and that is their preparation is predicated on is Judge Newman going to rule and let this stuff in or let some out or give a hybrid type of ruling. And you want to know because you got to prepare but you don't want to be the one that writes the court 'cause if you write the court and say, "Hey, judge. Can you make a decision on that motion?" Usually, the judge says, "Okay. I'll make a decision. It's against you."

[00:02:54] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah.

[00:02:55] **Eric Bland:** So, unless Dick and Creighton jointly get together and I've done this where both sides get together and they write a letter to the judge asking him the rule and they both sign it, that way there can't be a situation where the judge is saying, "Well, he's basically telling me I'm not doing my job." If both of the parties do that, that's one thing. I don't think they're getting that kind of cooperation with each other though.

[00:03:19] **Liz Farrell:** So, what you're referring to, Eric, is the motion. I guess Creighton filed two motions. One was to exclude the polygraph and one was to prevent Dick and Jim from mentioning third-party guilt. And then he filed a response saying that the motive or the state's version of the motive is absolutely admissible and all the financial crime, etc. So, you think that — I guess my question is isn't that something that they rule on the week the trial starts? Like it's always been my experience that these like outstanding motions of what to exclude or include happen after the jury has been selected.

[00:04:02] **Eric Bland:** They cannot wait until trial. They have to get that ruling. It's not fair to the lawyers if Judge Newman doesn't give them at least a ruling



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or some kind of telegraph on what he's gonna let in. So, I suspect what happens is, Liz, either Dick or Creighton will ask for a status conference with the judge and they're gonna tell the judge, this is our concern. You know, we have a hundred witnesses. The trial can either be four weeks long if we have to get in all of this evidence — Dick is gonna say. Or if you don't let it in, judge, it'll be an easy one-week two-week trial, 10 witnesses at most. So, that's Dick's argument.

[00:04:44] **Liz Farrell:** So, hold on, Eric. Are you saying there's a hundred witnesses? Do you know this?

[00:04:48] **Eric Bland:** That's, no. I presume — well, let's do the math. You got five on the Satterfield end. You have Mark Tinsley and you have Justin and his clients. You have potentially other lawyers that we don't know about. So, right there you have 15.

[00:05:05] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. And I know of somebody who's been subpoenaed outside of that and this person, I'm not gonna say who it is, but this person has no idea what they're going into. Like they, but it's the same thing. An email has come and there's been no preparation. No — so, I think a lot of people I'm assuming are just kind of in the dark and not knowing what they're going to be asked A and B when they're going —

[00:05:39] **Eric Bland:** Yours truly, Mandy.

[00:05:40] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. You're there, too.

[00:05:42] **Eric Bland:** I have no idea. You put me up on the stand, the first thing I'm gonna turn to an attorney who's asking me a question is, one, I am not going to violate the attorney-client privilege; two, I'm not going to give up my work product; and three, there's other sources that can give this information other than me.

[00:05:59] **Liz Farrell:** So, this is really concerning what I'm hearing right now because like you said, Eric, this should be already probably done. I would assume a lot of these witnesses are very predictable in that we know who



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they're going to be. So, it seems like they could have been preparing this all along. So, now what? They have a week left. So, is it possible that they'll be preparing witnesses during the trial, like another person with the attorney general's office will be setting that up as we go? So, either this means it's gonna be very long or either — what this message is that either this trial is going to be very long and that they can take their time in preparing witnesses because they know it's gonna take weeks and weeks and weeks or they're gonna push this off, right? Those are the two takeaways.

[00:06:40] **Eric Bland:** Those are the two takeaways. And more importantly, from Dick's standpoint, he's preparing a case. If the state does a really good job, then he's gotta think to himself, I gotta put on a defense. I'm gonna have to put on these expert witnesses. I'm gonna have to bring in these kind of witnesses who could say if Alex has an alibi or whatever. If the state does a really poor job, Dick's gonna stand up and say, the defense rests. State didn't prove its case. So, he's got two cases to do. One, to prepare the cross-examination for all the state witnesses and do his dazzle and beat them up. And if he does a great job, he stands up and says they didn't prove their case. If Creighton does a great job and the witnesses weather the storm of cross-examination of the hailstorm that Dick's gonna bring, then Dick starts to scratch his head and say, my magic is gone. I better put some witnesses up there real quick.

[00:07:39] **Liz Farrell:** So, how does that work? Does that mean that like you hire experts to testify at your trial but you don't actually know if you're going to use them if you're on the defense. So, are experts retained knowing that they might have to fly out tomorrow or is this it's really like last minute like that?

[00:07:56] **Eric Bland:** The experts are paid an hourly fee, usually in the neighborhood of \$500-700 an hour. Believe it. And they get a daily rate so that once trial starts and they're on notice that they could be called, they get a daily rate of anywhere from 10 to 15 to \$20,000 regardless if they're called.

[00:08:15] **Liz Farrell:** What?



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[00:08:16] **Eric Bland:** So, Dick's gotta lay out this money so that these people can clear their calendar. Remember this is an expert witness that may have to clear their calendar for two whole weeks. So, you have Dick thinking and strategizing that but also they're doing shadow juries. And remember we talked about this a couple weeks ago. Dick is not just walking in the trial with a theory and he's gonna spout it out for the first time. It's been time-tested and road-tested. They hired a jury consultant to get together ordinary people like you two, not like me, and David and other people — different ages, whether they're teachers, whether they're in accounting or whatever. And Dick's going to give them their theme and then they're gonna get a response. And the response could be, Dick, that's horrible. It's not working. It's not resonating with the jury. Or they say, you know what? When you play up the loss of the family of Buster, and we'll get into why Mark Tinsley settled because of Buster and Maggie's estate's, the state's also doing that. The state has a shadow jury, too. And they have the resources to really be able to do it. And they have a built-in courtroom in the state attorney general's office. There's an absolute courtroom. And they bring witnesses in and they sit them down and they show them where the judge is gonna be and the jury and all that. So, it's a lot of theater. It's a theater production. Just think opening day for Cats. It is January 23rd. What's being done today to get ready for that opening day production on Broadway?

[00:09:56] **Liz Farrell:** Eric, when's the last time you went to a Broadway show?

[00:09:58] **Eric Bland:** Oh, I go all the time.

[00:10:00] **Liz Farrell:** You do?

[00:10:01] **Eric Bland:** I saw The Book of Mormon five times. We saw it I think it was last year.

[00:10:05] **Mandy Matney:** Ronnie Richter's a big show guy, isn't he?

[00:10:07] **Eric Bland:** He has every Broadway show the playbill from everywhere he sees. But yeah, we absolutely love Broadway.



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[00:10:14] **Liz Farrell:** That's so funny.

[00:10:14] **Eric Bland:** You wouldn't know that but.

[00:10:15] **Mandy Matney:** That's adorable. But it's crazy when you told me that, when you were saying that like these expert witnesses for the defense as they're waiting get paid a lot of money. There's also people for the prosecution that like the person that I talked to the other day was like, I have a job. I can't just like block off three weeks of my life and they're not getting paid for any of this. They're just summoned and they have to go. It's just really interesting that like the defense, I mean, first of all, I had no idea how much money went into these trials and now I understand the difference between a super expensive defense and it's not fair.

[00:11:05] **Eric Bland:** How unfair it is if Alex didn't have the money for private counsel. I attended a trial where it was a court-appointed attorney in Lexington yesterday and I was helping out the defense attorney. She wanted my opinion on a theme, so I sat in on the trial. She's getting paid \$70 an hour. She can't even afford they allocate about \$3,000 for expert witnesses and investigative costs. So, for \$3,000, you got to get all your experts, you gotta meet 'em, you gotta prepare 'em. You gotta have your investigators. So, we do have two systems of justice. Public defenders work with the best they can and they're really smart lawyers and they're dedicated. But they're no match for the defense that you're gonna see from Dick and Jim. I promise you that.

[00:11:54] **Liz Farrell:** What do you think Dick and Jim's next move is though? So, let's say Newman does rule and say that they can't refer to the polygraph and they can't refer to third-party guilt. What do they have other than third-party guilt? Just tear apart the evidence?

[00:12:07] **Eric Bland:** They have, they're gonna tear shreds into the evidence. There's gonna be a fertile basis to attack a lot of the blood evidence, the brain matter, the DNA, possibly even the mapping of the phones. Dick is masterful. You're gonna have a whole different opinion of Dick, I promise you. When it's game time and he's in front of a jury, he, yeah, he does his little bit of the Columbo fumbling and with the words and all, but he's cunning on



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cross-examination. He's tried almost a hundred or more murder cases. Creighton Waters, I guarantee you, has not tried a hundred murder cases.

[00:12:45] **Mandy Matney:** I don't know if he's tried one.

[00:12:47] **Eric Bland:** Well, there you go.

[00:12:48] **Mandy Matney:** I've yet to find one and that's very scary but.

[00:12:52] **Liz Farrell:** Well, it's not usual for the state attorney general's office to be handling a murder case.

[00:12:57] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah.

[00:12:57] **Liz Farrell:** So, that's one thing we should mention that this is so extraordinary that the state attorney general is doing something that they don't normally handle in the first place.

[00:13:06] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. They handle like child sexual abuse, drug cartels, corruption.

[00:13:16] **Eric Bland:** Fraud where there's —

[00:13:17] **Mandy Matney:** And it's county lines, too. It's when the attorney general handles cases that are in multiple counties, right? So.

[00:13:25] **Liz Farrell:** Right.

[00:13:27] **Mandy Matney:** So, yeah. It's just a specific and murder doesn't usually involve the cases that they —

[00:13:33] **Eric Bland:** Somebody asked me yesterday. I gave a television interview and they said, "I'm sure you want Alex convicted." And it kind of braced me. And I said, "Well, why would you say that?" And he said, "Well, you dislike him so much." And I said, "Yeah, I dislike him as a human being. I think



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he's a despicable father for what he's done to his family. I think he's a dishonorable lawyer but I don't know if he's a murderer." What I want is justice. If a jury determines that justice is Alex should be convicted, then that's justice. If they determine that the state hasn't proven their case beyond a reasonable doubt and they vote him not guilty or a few jurors decide it would, for me, it would take more than one. If four jurors say not guilty and eight jurors say guilty and it's a hung jury, I'll say justice was done. I won't say that though if there's only one juror who holds out.

[00:14:28] **Liz Farrell:** Well, that's — right, that's concerning.

[00:14:32] **Mandy Matney:** And we'll be right back.

[00:14:33] An elephant in the room as we're talking about the two systems of justice and how Alex Murdaugh is able to basically get probably one of the most expensive defense teams a murder trial has had in recent South Carolina history. I mean, this is, I don't know who, there's not many other lawyers that you could hire that are more expensive than Dick and Jim combined and their powers. But I think the question that a lot of people have is is that fair? Because we don't really know how much of his money was actually legitimate and we still don't really know how this is being paid. I mean, I guess with the — the receivers found 500 grand, 600 grand, how much was it that went towards the defense?

[00:15:23] **Liz Farrell:** But that's a really, really, really good point.

[00:15:25] **Eric Bland:** When they released his IRA, they allocated \$600,000 to the defense. Are you saying though that Sam Fried, the Bitcoin scandal, he's not entitled to a defense? I agree he should not use ill-gotten gains.

[00:15:37] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. And I mean, I —

[00:15:39] **Liz Farrell:** That's what she's saying. That's such a good point.

[00:15:42] **Mandy Matney:** We don't even know if Randolph's money's legit at this point.



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[00:15:45] **Eric Bland:** But how does he prove that this is not ill-gotten gains? Is that a burden that he should have in addition to answering the charges of murder? Should there have been a preliminary hearing to say, well, you gotta come forward and show whatever money you're paying for your defense came through W-2 income or 1099 income from the firm or from this source but not from drugs?

[00:16:07] **Liz Farrell:** I guess that we don't know how anyone pays for their defense who has a private attorney. It could come from their family. It could come from a friend. It doesn't need to come from, the money doesn't need to come from that person. But I think Mandy's point is really good because we actually do know that this man has stolen a lot of money and we don't know how far back it goes. We don't know how deep it goes. We don't know what Randolph's involvement was and everything we know about Buster Murdaugh, the grandpa, it's not good. So, it sort of does make you wonder why is he entitled to be able to pay for these high-price attorneys with, I mean, we, it seems like we've learned more about what he has allegedly stolen rather than what he actually did earn the honest way. So, I don't know. From our perspective, maybe that's just how it looks but.

[00:16:59] **Eric Bland:** In this particular case, I'm gonna give you a little dirty secret. In every federal drug conspiracy trial in our state, you'll see Pete Strom, you'll see Joe McCullough, you'll see Jack Swerling, you'll see Dick Harpootlian, you'll see Andy Savage. These are big-time lawyers. And let's say those people on trial are the Bluds. The Bluds don't have W-2 income. They don't come into court with an income tax that, they don't file income tax returns. Their whole life these, in some of these drug conspiracy trials are just people that have been in and out of prison since they were 16. They did their 10-year leg. They came out. Whatever. They've never had a tax return filed. They've never had W-2. They don't probably even have a reliable Social Security number. And there's Jack Swerling sitting there driving up in his Mercedes and his Brioni suit. And I'm not criticizing Jack because, you know, I've gotten paid by people who were criminals before. But that's the dirty secret. No one asks.

[00:17:59] **Liz Farrell:** Right.



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[00:18:00] **Eric Bland:** I don't ask where you got the money. Don't come with cash. I don't want to wheelbarrow cash.

[00:18:05] **Mandy Matney:** As we're talking about the trial and as we're talking about this is gonna be a different scenario because Dick and Jim are able to poke holes in things where a lot of defense attorney can't. This is going to be a much more difficult trial for the prosecution because of the defense. But then, it seems like we don't know how the defense is being paid for and how they're able to, how he's able to get himself into that position when we know that this, most of Alex's career was a fraud. And like if I was the Pinckney family or the Satterfield family, I would be like, I wanna make sure that my mother or son's money has nothing to do with that defense like.

[00:18:51] **Eric Bland:** It's like a brilliant thing you're raising. I'm telling you the truth. The reason it's brilliant is because none of what we know about Alex usually comes out before a trial. He's just tried on the fraud stuff, but we've had a year to learn, wow! He stole \$4 million from the Satterfields. He stole a million dollars from the Pinckneys. He stole Arthur Badger's money for 10 years of a million dollars. He stole from his law firm. And we get to know all this is theft. Okay. So, what is he actually living on? Is he just living on stolen money? Well, you pointed out that in the income tax stuff, he actually made really good money. So now, you can just get a mathematician to say, okay, if he made \$2 million in 2011 and \$1.2 in 2013 and his expenses at Moselle were this and his expenses on Holly Street were this and his kid's going to college, a forensic accountant can figure out, hey, he's living life now just on stolen money because his real money got burned away. And you raised that point. And I think it's legitimate.

[00:19:58] **Mandy Matney:** And we don't know where all the money went.

[00:20:01] **Eric Bland:** Great. That's the other question. And we never will — do you ever think we're gonna find out?

[00:20:05] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, I don't think we will. But I'm hoping that we'll find out some more. One thing I do wanna talk about though is the jury. And we were talking earlier amongst each other about the questionnaire and this sort of extensive — to me and Mandy looks extensive anyway. You said it's a



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normal type questionnaire. It's asking like what crime shows you watch, what bumper stickers you have on your car, where do you get your news? It's, those are questions you say you would ask, too, in this circumstance.

[00:20:31] **Eric Bland:** Yeah, I would ask in my specific voir dire. Now, Dick and Jim are submitting their own voir dire questions to the court. And I promise you there's 300 of them on there — their own specific voir dire, in addition to the jury questionnaire. And the state have the same thing because the more we can know about you guys, the better we can make a decision on what our juror is. Because Dick's being told by his jury consultant, he's got a jury Svengali I promise you.

[00:21:03] **Liz Farrell:** And how much does that cost?

[00:21:05] **Eric Bland:** Oh my gosh. Those, they usually charge anywhere from 20 to \$50,000 to pick you. Yeah, I'm telling you this is big money game. It's big game hunting, Mandy. Don't be shocked. And this consultant is telling Dick, this is the ideal juror. It's you, Liz. You're highly educated.

[00:21:23] **Liz Farrell:** It's okay. I promise you I'm not the ideal juror here.

[00:21:27] **Eric Bland:** But you're single right now. We see you walk a dog. Are brilliant in how you write. You have an intuitive mind. Aside if you were not a journalist in this case, that you were just a regular journal. Someone would say, hey, I want that juror on there 'cause she's gonna ask really hard questions.

[00:21:44] **Liz Farrell:** So, are they looking at that stuff? Are they going through their social media? Are they going through their —

[00:21:49] **Eric Bland:** Oh my goodness. You do not, cannot imagine. They, a good jury consultant will call Eric's friends. They'll go see what kind of country club I belong to. They're gonna go to my house. They're gonna see do I keep a neat yard or do I do my own yard work? I'm telling you this is high stakes, big game honey.



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[00:22:13] **Liz Farrell:** Okay, so that raises questions because you have somebody who's sort of in the community of Colleton County right now trying to determine who's who and what's what. Could the Murdaughs hire an independent jury consultant? Could a defendant hire somebody who's pretending to be a jury consultant who's going around trying to suss things out or perhaps put ideas in people's heads? Because from what we understand, people in Colleton County, some people anyway, are terrified since they've gotten their jury summons.

[00:22:40] **Eric Bland:** Yes.

[00:22:41] **Liz Farrell:** And that's a real thing. People don't wanna be on this jury for very real reasons. So, is it possible that that system could get corrupted in some way? A jury consultant on the defense side anyway?

[00:22:53] **Eric Bland:** We're on the prosecution side. Remember we can't make contact with prospective jurors. We cannot or it becomes an obstruction of justice charge. We can't say, hey, I know you're sitting on that Murdaugh jury next week. Hope you enjoy it. We're all watching you. You're gonna do the right thing. That becomes obstruction of justice. What jurors have, juror consultants have to operate in the dark, kind of 500 yards away in sunglasses behind the tree with binoculars. That's the process and in depth. But they cannot make contact directly or indirectly with a juror. I can't go to you, Mandy, to call Harriet on the phone. Your friend Harriet, who you know is a part of the jury venire and say, hey, I know Eric. He's one of the trial attorneys. Man, he's a great guy. You wouldn't believe what he did. My mother had a situation with her employment. He didn't charge her anything. He met with her. He drove down there. He's one of the greatest guys. You're gonna like him. I can't wait for you to see him in trial. You can't do that.

[00:23:56] **Mandy Matney:** David and I have been on this newspaper.com adventure looking up Murdaugh history recently and that rings a good bell. The OG Alex Murdaugh back in 1950-something, he was charged with that. He was charged with jury tampering, correct?

[00:24:16] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. Some sort of a, yeah, I think it was jury tampering.



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[00:24:20] **Mandy Matney:** It was talking with a juror.

[00:24:22] **Liz Farrell:** He took him out to a diner.

[00:24:23] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. OG Alex Murdaugh.

[00:24:27] **Eric Bland:** Guys, listen. I've talked to two witnesses who are under subpoena that will be testifying. They are petrified and when I tell you, petrified, they're asking me, can we get out of it? What can we do? I was consulted. I was consulted as a lawyer to give them advice and I said, no, there's nothing you can do. You can't get out of it just because you're scared. Now, we know about mafia trials where they put the screens in front of the jury; that prosecution or the defense cannot even see the jurors. I'm sure jurors in this case are very scared. We remember what happened to the OJ jury. You may not, Mandy, but definitely Liz would. When those jurors voted not guilty, they were a pariah for the rest of their life. They were followed around and mocked. These jurors are scared. I would be scared and I'm Eric Bland, a lawyer. If I had to sit on Alex's jury and I voted somehow not guilty, people are going to get pissed off at me. So, the fear, you know, Judge Newman's gotta be the one that deals with this. He's gotta have that foresight to think, okay. How do I make witnesses feel comfortable? How do I make jurors feel comfortable? You know, all these things play in because there's television cameras there.

[00:25:46] **Liz Farrell:** Everything you've just said points to a problem, right? And I guess it's the same way like you said with the mafia. But if we're talking and having these conversations about people being terrified to either testify as a witness or to sit on the jury because there is no, if they vote, if they come to the conclusion that he is not guilty or if they say he is guilty, there's, it's a no-win situation perhaps for them. Perhaps. So, isn't that the problem? Like we're having this conversation in a very normal way.

[00:26:17] **Eric Bland:** Wait a minute. What is the no-win situation if they vote guilty? What are you saying, Liz? What are you about to say? Tell me that.

[00:26:22] **Liz Farrell:** I'm just saying that in the context of Colleton County is very small. If we're gonna extrapolate from previous history in jury tampering,



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this sort of I don't know if we would call it a myth or a fable or this sort of mythology surrounding PMPED or surrounding Alex when it comes to their influence over juries. And we're, you know, again, we're talking about a man whose father was the solicitor, his grandfather's great-grandfather in an area that is people don't necessarily move from. It's multi-generational that your, if you live in Colleton County right now, your great-grandmother could have known Buster or your grandmother could have been friends with Randolph. So, I guess what I'm saying is that we're having these conversations like they're normal and it should not even be that way because if we're having this conversation, shouldn't there be very big gestures happening? I know that Judge Newman signed an order saying that nobody can talk about the jury outside of just referring to them by their number. But shouldn't there be bigger gestures than that for, so, because we have to be able to trust in that system, that jury system, right?

[00:27:31] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. Well, I just wanted to say, I think what you're concluding, Liz, is that I don't think in Colleton County there can be such thing as a fair trial with Alex Murdaugh. I think he's going to have an advantage no matter what happens. And I think through all the fear and the history of his family and everything like that, I think we have to stop pretending like all these rules that we have in place are fair because they're not. And if Alex was a, if Alex was Curtis Eddie Smith.

[00:28:06] **Liz Farrell:** Absolutely.

[00:28:07] **Mandy Matney:** It would be a totally different trial and a totally different situation. And I'm sorry, it would be way easier to convict him. And it's an uphill battle for the prosecution because of the rules that we have in the United States and.

[00:28:25] **Eric Bland:** I think, Liz, you raised a really good point. You know, if they come back guilty, do they go home and they feel safe? Alex is guilty. Does Alex have tentacles? Are there people who are gonna be upset at the jurors for convicting Alex Murdaugh? There's gonna be a significant contingent that is happy. What about that sliver?

[00:28:49] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah.



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[00:28:49] **Eric Bland:** Are they gonna be unhappy that their guy is never gonna get back on the street? Or that we got implicated in this trial and now you voted guilty? Are we gonna be charged next?

[00:29:02] **Liz Farrell:** We also don't know everything that Alex was involved in, so we don't know what industry we're talking about when we're talking about what he was involved in. So, we don't know if we're talking about drug trafficking on a large scale. We just don't know. And if it is, then Colleton County would be probably the scene of that to some extent because that's where Moselle was.

[00:29:25] We'll be right back.

[00:29:28] **Mandy Matney:** A couple people have reached out to me who have said like, I'm worried that because we don't know where the money is and because we don't know what Alex was up to, there's kind of a gap in the prosecution's entire story and entire narrative. And will that affect and will that hurt them because the jury's just kind of like, okay, that kind of makes sense but because we don't know the whole story and because, I mean, I think a small fraction of the people who have been involved in Alex Murdaugh's criminal circle have actually been charged.

[00:30:10] **Eric Bland:** That's brilliant what you just said because that's what didn't happen in this case. The way you find out where the money went, people have to roll. People have to talk. How do you make people talk? You squeeze them. You put a belt around them so they can't breathe. They should have charged a lot of different people in Alex's circle, not just Cory, not just Russ, but bank officers. Are there other lawyers involved? Are there John Q. citizens? And you start squeezing all around Alex, people talk and then we'll find out where the money went. But all they did is they went after the head of the snake and didn't kill the body yet.

[00:30:52] **Liz Farrell:** I feel like that they are charging people based on what the public knows. So, they're charging —

[00:30:58] **Mandy Matney:** When they have to.



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[00:30:59] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, exactly. They're charging when they have to. That's it. Some things have not been made public.

[00:31:04] **Eric Bland:** Yeah. Like when we got on the TV and say, why hasn't Cory been charged? Or we got on the radio and you started writing articles where all of us saying, why isn't Alex already charged on the Satterfield case? It's reactionary charges. We've been saying for nine months, why isn't he tax fraud charged? It's like you're reacting. You are 100% right about they're not charging the people that we don't know about.

[00:31:28] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. But the only person that they're doing that's not reactionary is Curtis, who is obviously a low-level dude in this. He's not a top gun. Like it almost seems like they're charging Curtis as like a we got somebody, like don't worry, we're going hard. And it's like I don't care about that guy.

[00:31:51] **Eric Bland:** Can I ask you two something? If we can tell through our intelligence who's running the show over in Gadans Europe or over in Ukraine, don't you think the FBI knows who Alex was cavorting with to get his pills or where his money was going? They know. The question is, do they want to open it up right now? Or if they open it up, then it all becomes unmanageable. Everybody's getting prosecuted. It sure seems like that the target's gonna be we're gonna take Alex down. We'll take Cory down. We'll take Russ down. And that should satisfy the public.

[00:32:32] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah and I mean, but when we're talking about witnesses and being afraid, witnesses get less and less afraid the more people are charged and the more people are actually behind bars and that that assures them that the system is on their side and the system is protecting them. When there's so few people that are involved are being charged, witnesses are naturally going to clam up and they're naturally going to be afraid to speak out against all of these very scary and powerful people. And so, again, that just speaks to Alex is getting a different trial here and because of the way that this has all been handled. And I don't like to say that and I hate to say those words, but here we are.



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[00:33:22] **Liz Farrell:** Absolutely. There's two things I wanna say. One is that this sort of goes back to the what we were saying earlier with Dick and Jim and how Alex is affording this because one theory early on was that Dick and Jim — I'll say Dick more than Jim — they were taking the case or this, or somebody like Dick Harpootlian would be interested in this case, not so much for what money he could make off of Alex and not so much because of the win. I think we've talked about that before, the thrill of the win and just to prove that he can do it. But because of the people that might be protected or getting protected in this; that there's a bigger picture here that Dick might be fighting for, protecting whatever this secret is or whatever this, wherever the money went secret, whoever's involved secret. But the second thing I wanna say is that it is a mistake for the state attorney general's office to think that we don't know some of the people that should be charged at this point. Just because we're not saying their names, we can't say their name because we don't have the proof or the evidence in front of us, but we do have the sources that have seen the proof or the evidence and we have heard that this stuff has gone in front of the state attorney general's office. So, it would be a mistake for them if they are following our lead.

[00:34:40] **Eric Bland:** Or the ODC.

[00:34:42] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, or the ODC. So, it would be a big mistake for them to follow our lead or other media's lead when it comes to outing people that should be charged. They shouldn't wait for that anymore. They should just act on what they have because of what you said, Mandy. It's just there's safety in numbers and we don't have that safety right now, especially given the short time period between the charges and Alex's trial. There just hasn't been enough time. And I will give that to the state attorney general's office. This is unlike anything they've seen before. This is the scope of it is so much larger. But we still sense that there is a protection happening and that there is a deference being paid. And to go back to what you guys were saying, I was talking to a friend who has been subpoenaed. And I will say this that that motive, the idea that it's just sympathy, I think is gonna trip a lot of people up; that Alex killed his wife and son to get sympathy. Because it sounds pathetic, right? That sounds very dramatic. It sounds like something a six-year-old would do. It's not about sympathy as much as it is about deference. Now, it worked, like we've said many times, but deference. That is the bigger thing is



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to get people to stop asking questions. And I think that that is more understandable. You can understand how you would wanna distract granted a man killing his son to distract somebody from something bigger. It, again, it goes back to this does fit in. We can't say it's logical, but that's Alex Murdaugh. That's, we can't make logic out of his bad ideas. He's not good at this. He's not good at his second plan was terrible, too. His second shooting plan was terrible.

[00:36:26] Speaking of, the Mercedes, guys. So, we heard this week about the settlement that was, that is going to hopefully be approved between the Beach family, Miley Altman, Morgan Doughty, Connor Cook, and all the lawyers, and John Marvin, the estate of Maggie Murdaugh — I shouldn't say John Marvin — John Marvin as the PR for the estate of Maggie Murdaugh, and Buster Murdaugh. And one of the things that has happened is they're going to sign over the Mercedes to the Beach family and the Beach family is going to auction that off once all of this clears once it's out of evidence because that's where it is now. Do you guys think that that would get a lot of money? I'm really curious about that.

[00:37:12] **Eric Bland:** It could. It could be, you know, the lock of hair from Einstein or it could be Einstein's pen or something like that. There could be a real prurient investor who has a prurient interest in having the car or, you know, whether it's the Labor Day shooting car or Maggie's car or whatever. It could. It could bring more money than just its fair market value.

[00:37:35] **Liz Farrell:** You gotta leave the windows broken though, right? Like you've gotta leave those bullet holes intact and not get it fixed up and just let it get sold as is. But alright. So, speaking of that settlement, what are your thoughts when you saw that come through?

[00:37:48] **Mandy Matney:** I think that it was a great move. I think that finally — and I think it was a good move for Buster, too, to finally do something that I promise would be against Alex's will. Alex's will is take every penny. Alex wants to take every penny and every dollar for himself and hoard it away. And for Buster to essentially give up 90% of his mother's estate for the victims and to say like we're out of the — and to give the Beach family a sense of peace and for the Beach family to give Buster a sense of peace and I think that that's a



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great thing. And to put an end to this before trial is a really great thing, too, because it just, it gives peace to a lot of people I think in a very nonpeaceful time for someone like Buster. And this has really been the first time that Buster has done anything publicly for the victims and I think it's good and it's a sign of a little bit of hope here.

[00:39:05] **Eric Bland:** I totally agree. I think it's a strategically great move on Mark's part. I know we all have different feelings about Buster and his culpability and whether he's a victim or he's part of the problem and not part of the solution. And we could debate that. But from my standpoint, I see him as a sad case. He lost a mother, he lost a brother, he lost a father. His family name is distorted and tarnished forever. He's a young man. Doesn't look like he has a bright future. So, it was smart for Mark to get him out of the courtroom. It was smart to get Maggie's estate out of the courtroom because Maggie's dead. She died in this whole process. Now, we can debate whether she was callous on the 911 call with Gloria Satterfield or she was a woman that loved her state in of wealth and prominence in that county, but she was murdered flat out. No one deserves to be murdered. No one deserves to be killed. So, Mark gets her out of the courtroom. It gets the sympathetic people out of there in essence. And more lawyers. Remember the more lawyers you have in a courtroom, the more that lawyers are talking, the more that issues get confused. Now, it eliminates a lot of lawyers from asking a lot of questions 'cause remember for each witness, each set of lawyers gets to question that witness, which makes it longer and longer and longer.

[00:40:31] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, it's such a mess. So, I just wanna say we were talking about this on this, the latest Murdaugh Murders Podcast episode and it looks like the estate was about \$5 million. But it looks like the victims, at least the ones that are the main plaintiffs, are going to have to split about \$800,000. And it just shows you how you can start with this really big number and, you know, it gets whittled away by whatever. And in this case, there's a couple of things. One, I think it showed great compassion on the part of the Beach family that they left some of the money for Buster; that it wasn't just trying to take everything. It was here, we know we do think you have fault in this and that Mallory is dead in part because of your actions, but we're not cruel. We're we want you to have a life and here's some of your mother's money. And then the second thing is it shows you, too, how much bleeding



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was happening. And again, I haven't really wrapped my head around this, but the lawyers for the Maggie's estate had charged almost \$300,000 already. And I think that even just to somebody like Mandy and me we're not lawyers, but we can tell what work is, you know? It doesn't seem from the outside that they would've had a lot of work to do up until this point. It's certainly not \$300,000 worth, so it's a little annoying that that money has already been lost because, again, when we're looking at \$800,000, it's a lot of money. But we're also talking about it could have been more. And it isn't because the family was doing whatever they were doing with these lawyers. I'm not really sure what they were doing.

[00:42:21] **Eric Bland:** Settlement is never perfect. It's an imperfect resolution for answers, but it's a compromise. Somebody gets a little, you gotta give a little. My famous saying I always say to clients on should you settle or go to trial, fast quarters are better than slow dollars. If you can get some quarters now, you can use those quarters and turn them into dollars rather than waiting four years to get the dollar because at four years, you don't know where that dollar's gonna be and can you collect on it. You may end up with a paper judgment. That's the Faustian bargain that Justin Bamberg and I made. Do we settle now for this, for Gloria's case or do I just go to trial and get that whopper judgment? So, Mark has this compromise that he does. Let's get a little bit of money now. We gotta give a little bit of money to Buster. I don't know whether it was altruistic by the Beach family, but Mark said to them, look. I was told that if we don't do this, they're gonna drag this out till the 12th of never and then they're gonna appeal it for another five years. So, closure now, faster quarters rather than slower dollars makes damn good sense to me.

[00:43:41] **Liz Farrell:** And real quick about Palmetto State Bank we talked about this. They're, it looks like they're gonna be standing in line trying to take some money. Too. What are your thoughts on that, Eric? Because it seems to me like you made a really bad investment with Alex as a client. You guys gambled a lot on him. That is on you. You picked him. You allowed him to take out money or do whatever.

[00:44:01] **Eric Bland:** Look. I'm tired of hearing Palmetto State Bank stand in the victim line with their plate out, okay? They are not a victim. They tried to



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do it in Russ Laffitte's trial. They're trying to do it now. They're, you can't separate your 50 years of business between Big Russ and Alex's dad and Russ and Alex and separate all of that and all the benefits that came with being associated with this powerful law firm to all of a sudden say, well, I get to stand over here now in the victim line. To me, it's galling to me, and I'm getting tired of it.

[00:44:36] **Liz Farrell:** It's not a good look. That's for sure.

[00:44:39] **Mandy Matney:** I mean, let's just, Alex Murdaugh would've not have been able to steal and scheme to the extent that he did without Palmetto State Bank. That is, that was very 100% clear in Russell's trial. And how dare them for being like, we're in the same category as all these other people who were super vulnerable and in terrible situations and lost people and their lives crossed with Alex in very tragic ways and then they were stolen from. How dare they? It's just incredible. I just, again and again through in this story we just run across people that are just selfish, greedy, and horrific, and my God are just unable to see that their involvement was terrible and what they did was a mistake and you reap what you sow, Palmetto State Bank. And yes, you did that with Alex. You sowed there. And like Alex had a piggy bank of fun money to play with for years and years and they never, ever once stopped him from anything. And instead, they just said, let's keep playing. And so, how dare them?

[00:46:02] **Eric Bland:** It's your red wagon. You painted it. Now, you must pull it. That's exactly what you just said about PSB. They reap what they sow. They created this monster. They enabled this monster. Now, own this monster.

[00:46:18] **Mandy Matney:** And don't stand, you're not a victim of it. Liz, before we go, I wanted to ask you a question.

[00:46:24] **Liz Farrell:** Oh, yeah? What'd you wanna ask me?

[00:46:25] **Mandy Matney:** So, we've been on this weird true crime world for the last year and a half. And suddenly, you realized that you knew somebody in another giant case that is captivating the nation: the Brian Walshe case.



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How has that felt? How have you been dealing with that? Have you been, have people reached out to you in weird ways? Like what's been going on?

[00:46:52] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. It's been really weird. It's, first of all, I did not even know that this had happened. You had sent me a story. I didn't click on it. Listeners had sent me a story. I didn't click on it. You even sent me a story that had his name in the headline, Mandy, and it just didn't even occur to me. And what's really funny about this is I had a crush on Brian when I got to the Heath School. And I remember telling my dad, my dad's from Ireland or was from Ireland, and I remember telling him that his last name was Walshe and he's Irish. And my dad found out his last name was Walshe with an E at the end and he's like, he's not Irish, Liz — or Elizabeth. He called me Elizabeth. Okay. So, he was in my friend group. We went to seventh and eighth grade together. He ended up going on to a private school, a boarding school, and I can't remember which one he went to if it was Phillips Andover. It might not have been and I don't wanna slander one of those schools. But that totally fits with his personality. He was funny and he was really nice and I don't wanna say that. And so, now that I'm on that side of things and understanding how people must have felt in Hampton County when they found out that Alex, his wife and son were killed, and then finding out that people were suspecting that it might have been him. I know that most of us, you and I, Mandy, especially, were like, no, you don't say. But a lot of people did have trouble wrapping their heads around that. People who knew him and even knew that he was shady still had trouble wrapping their heads around it. And I don't know that I have trouble wrapping my head around this anymore. I at first found it very disturbing when I couldn't sleep very well after I figured it out that this was the Brian Walshe that I went to school with because it's like, god, I now know two people, in the presence of two people who might have done heinous things to their wives.

[00:48:40] **Eric Bland:** But this is closer to the bone. You know, Mandy and I, we don't experience that. Yes, Murdaugh, is so shocking to us, but I've never had a situation where a friend really committed a bad crime. Have you, Mandy?

[00:48:55] **Mandy Matney:** I'll talk about that on another episode.



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[00:48:57] **Eric Bland:** You have.

[00:48:59] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, I mean, I was really good friends with somebody who was charged with a very horrific crime later in life. But he also got into a bad car accident and like his brain, it seemed like he was never the same after that when I knew him. And so, I kind of got peace with that, but it's very, it's extremely hard. And I'm sure for you too, Liz, to just be like, how is this person that I used to laugh with, how could he be, could he have done this? But then, again, I appreciate the fact that like, you're not going on TV saying like, he couldn't have done this because I've seen people do that. I've seen people do that with crimes like this, you know? That are like, I was friends with this guy when I was 14 and he was really nice and blah. He could have never have done this I promise. What we've learned in all of this is that people can be very different, especially when stress and money is involved and they grow up to be adults and things don't work out the way that they want them to. I think Brian Walshe and Alex Murdaugh are kind of in the same boat there. Walls were closing in. It just creates a lot of stress and it — people turn into different human beings and.

[00:50:09] **Eric Bland:** Do you think that there's a lot of lawyers like Mark Tinsley or other lawyers that did business with Alex and watched him? And are they asking themselves the hard questions? Did I not see this? How did I not see it? How did I not see opioid use if there really was? How did I not see the way he was manipulating settlements? I would be asking those questions if Alex was my friend or a colleague that I was doing business with over and over. Remember there's probably 15 attorneys that are doing business with Alex in multi-party cases as plaintiffs. And the same defense lawyers. There should be defense lawyers asking themselves questions. Why didn't I see this shadiness about Alex, whether it's the people who represented him in the Gloria Satterfield matter?

[00:51:00] **Liz Farrell:** I think the problem is this and just comparing him to Brian Walshe. I don't know that Alex Murdaugh has a lot of people in his life who could say that he was nice and funny and that's it. That's all they say about him. Because I think there's always a "but" with him and there probably with people who knew Brian past 14 years old. They have a "but" there as well. So, I don't know. It's kind of funny hearing you say that like imagining people



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walking away from a friendship with Alex Murdaugh and being shocked. I get shocked that he might have killed his wife and son. That's extreme. But that he would find himself in a situation like this should not have shocked anyone, in my opinion, based on what we knew about him before this, what we knew about Alex before this.

[00:51:44] I wanted to bring up one thing that a listener has asked us just because I wanna clear it up before the trial started where we were asked why are Mandy and Liz so certain that cousin Eddie or another worker-slash-crony was not at the murder scene? I'm not saying Alex wasn't there or orchestrated everything or even pulled the trigger, but my lifelong experience with the AMs of the world tells me these men rarely get their hands dirty literally. They hire help for everything. So, to address that. One, we've been told over and over by sources who know Alex he would never trust anyone to do something of that nature. So, that's a little much you're putting, let's just subscribe to the entire Murdaugh theory that we've all said and they are and they aren't. Alex is not going to give somebody something that big to hang over his head and that's just the plain and simple of it. They trust family and that's it. So, outside of that, that's why we don't believe that Cousin Eddie was there. But we will say that obviously there's a lot of, there are a lot of questions about what Cousin Eddie's role might be outside of all of that. So, it's not, and I also would say we're not saying that we're certain he wasn't at the scene. We're saying that we believe the evidence is going to point to Alex being the person who shot and killed Maggie and Paul.

[00:53:16] **Eric Bland:** I fundamentally disagree with you. I'm not saying that Eddie was at the scene. But Alex has done stuff letting people in his inner sanctum, whether it's Cory Fleming or it's Chris Wilson.

[00:53:27] **Mandy Matney:** Those are different crimes.

[00:53:28] **Eric Bland:** Or it's Cousin Eddie to buy drugs or it's Cousin Eddie to get —

[00:53:31] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, but Cory Fleming —



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[00:53:33] **Eric Bland:** It's not murder, but he did do something on Labor Day with Cousin Eddie.

[00:53:38] **Liz Farrell:** Sure.

[00:53:39] **Eric Bland:** Whether it was a fake shooting or whatever. It's pretty, you're, there's a number of people out there that have some juice on you.

[00:53:46] **Liz Farrell:** Yes.

[00:53:46] **Eric Bland:** And I don't know a lot of criminals that would put themselves, that there would be four or five people that have real juice on you.

[00:53:52] **Liz Farrell:** But there's the kind of juice that you can control as an assistant solicitor volunteer or whatever he was. So, if Cousin Eddie ever came back and was like, you do drugs, he could be like, really? Guess what you do. But with murder, I don't think he's gonna have the same ability to hold it over. I don't think he's gonna have the recourse there to say.

[00:54:12] **Eric Bland:** I agree with that. I agree with that.

[00:54:13] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah.

[00:54:14] **Mandy Matney:** Two things I know about our system. If somebody like Eddie commits a crime, it gets solved pretty quickly. They get arrested very quickly. They're very sloppy.

[00:54:27] **Liz Farrell:** At the scene even.

[00:54:28] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. At the scene. There's a lot, people like Eddie don't really know how to cover up a crime. Not Eddie, but like.

[00:54:39] **Liz Farrell:** Political. I mean, he doesn't have any political sway. He has no agency there.



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[00:54:44] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. Powerless. Powerless, powerless people get arrested very, very quickly and it becomes very apparent in the investigation early on that they get charged a lot quicker. Let's just put it that way.

[00:55:00] **Eric Bland:** You know what I learned? And I didn't have to learn it by reading Dostoevsky and *Crime and Punishment*. I'd just watch what's happening on the news. You cannot commit the perfect crime. You cannot do it. You look at the Idaho guy. He's a PhD. He's a PhD student. He studies criminology, so he studies crimes. Look at all the stupid mistakes: leaving the sheath of the knife.

[00:55:25] **Mandy Matney:** Technology.

[00:55:25] **Eric Bland:** Driving back and forth knowing that there's got to be cameras. Leaves his phone on with him. If you're gonna do it, don't bring your phone that you can be tracked. You can't commit the perfect crime. Alex couldn't commit the perfect crime if he indeed is the murderer.

[00:55:40] **Liz Farrell:** Brian Walshe apparently bought \$450 worth of cleaning supplies and is on camera. He tried to —

[00:55:47] **Eric Bland:** And did a search on the internet that said how do I dispose of 115-pound woman?

[00:55:51] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah.

[00:55:52] **Liz Farrell:** I mean, it's, I feel like we could serve as advisors at this point to how to at least commit a non-stupid crime. I mean, these criminals really are dumb. This is it before the trial guys. So, I guess get your rest.

[00:56:07] **Eric Bland:** Can't wait to get my thumbs working. And Twitter fans, we're gonna give our opinions. It's gonna be a wild time. I mean, we'll never forget it. We'll never, ever forget this time ever.

[00:56:19] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, we are gonna do a lot of talking on the during the trial with our MMP Premium members, so we're excited.



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[00:56:35] **Outro:** This Cup of Justice bonus episode of the Murdaugh Murders Podcast is created and hosted by me, Mandy Matney, with co-host Liz Farrell, our executive editor, and Eric Bland, attorney-at-law, AKA The Jackhammer of Justice. From Luna Shark Productions.

**CUP OF
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