



## EPISODE 21: Randy Murdaugh Hits the Reset Button and Russell Laffitte Has Bills to Pay

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[00:00:00] **Eric Bland:** Cups up.

[00:00:03] **Liz Farrell:** Cups up, Eric. How are you doing?

[00:00:10] **Eric Bland:** Doing good. Cups up, girls. Cups up, ladies.

[00:00:15] **Mandy Matney:** Should we talk about that?

[00:00:16] **Liz Farrell:** That was quite the debate. Yeah, let's talk about it. What are your thoughts, Mandy?

[00:00:21] **Mandy Matney:** I do not care if you call me a girl. I think it's fine. I don't take any offense to it. For the record, if you called me young lady, I would have a problem with that. That's like that's my cringey thing but I didn't realize other people cringed at "girls" as much as they do. What do you think, Liz?

[00:00:41] **Liz Farrell:** It didn't even occur to me to be bothered by it because there are so many more important things. Also, the intent of the speaker is always important and I know that Eric's intent is not to diminish us in any way or to be reductive in any way. So, yeah. You're absolved, Eric.

[00:00:59] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, that's okay.

[00:00:59] **Eric Bland:** Well, I removed it from my lexicon and I strike that from the record, so to speak.

[00:01:06] **Mandy Matney:** I don't know what you're supposed to say though. Like "Cups up, women?" That sounds — it's different. I don't know.

[00:01:13] **Eric Bland:** Is "Cups up, ladies" okay?

[00:01:15] **Liz Farrell:** I don't know. That feels like a —



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[00:01:16] **Mandy Matney:** I don't like that as much. I don't like it.

[00:01:20] **Eric Bland:** Cups up, friends.

[00:01:22] **Liz Farrell:** Oh, that's good.

[00:01:23] **Mandy Matney:** There we go.

[00:01:23] **Liz Farrell:** You know, I've been trying to stop myself from saying the word "guys" because I know that can be another point of contention among people but it's just it's been it's too hard. I don't have room in my brain right now but I will work on it. I'm trying to get better every day with things like that. But we have a lot to talk about. How's your week been without Murdaugh, Mandy? Without the trial, I should say. How's your week been?

[00:01:45] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. Like is it really without Murdaugh? Is it ever? It's been good. I think it's been really weird like waking up and not having like to rush around before 9:30 and then not having to be on this schedule of — yeah, it's just been it's been hard to readjust though. What do you guys think? How has it been for you?

[00:02:09] **Eric Bland:** I've been trying to process it, you know? I kind of did I just see Evel Knievel jump the Snake River Canyon and make it? That's kind of I feel like what we just did. I know he's guilty but every morning I wake up I have to remind myself did that really happen or was that just a dream? And so, I'm processing really what took place the last seven weeks and I'm now focusing on what does the landscape look like ahead.

[00:02:34] **Liz Farrell:** Well, let's talk about that. So, one of the things that struck me in the past few days, I saw online that people were talking about James the Juror, who — I've never been good at saying the word juror. I think southern people have a great way of saying.

[00:02:48] **Mandy Matney:** I like the way Newman says "juror." Juror.

[00:02:52] **Liz Farrell:** Juror is what I hear down here a lot. Yeah. How do you say juror?



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[00:02:56] **Eric Bland:** Juror.

[00:02:58] **Liz Farrell:** Juror. Same. So, James the juror is the 22-year-old. His name is James McDowell, I believe. And he is the guy — I wanna say kid — but he's the guy who wore a Constitution tie and I believe he appeared on the *Today* show amongst other TV appearances. And people are sort of freaking out because he is related to Chad McDowell, who is the guy that was the he was the Colleton County Sheriff's Office deputy who was the second to arrive on the scene at Moselle. Now, I was in the room when the jury went through its voir dire and this was brought up. Judge Newman read through the list of witnesses and people would have to stand if they had any sort of relationship with any of those witnesses. They'd have to explain what that relationship was and then both sides would note it. So, they'd be asked if they could be impartial. That was one of the questions. So, James was asked this during that and he said he could remain impartial and the defense said that they wanted to bring him back for inquiry and they did. And so, when his number came up and they chose him as an alternate, he started as an alternate and became juror number four I believe toward the end. But Eric, what happens during inquiry? What is that? And because a lot of people are questioning Dick and Jim's decision to keep James on the jury panel or on the jury.

[00:04:19] **Eric Bland:** What happens is the you raise your hand everybody hopefully answers truthfully. Obviously, in the questionnaires they have to answer truthfully and that reveals a lot of information about their background. But when they read the witness lists off and the judge would've asked, "Does anybody know anybody directly or indirectly?" the judge says, "Notwithstanding your relationship with your brother, can you be seated as a juror and be objective, fair, and impartial to both sides and not make a decision based on the relationship you have with your brother?" And he obviously answered "I can."

[00:04:55] **Liz Farrell:** Well, they asked that out in the public so we got to hear that part. But then, Dick and Jim asked for him to be taken back into the judge's chambers along with a number of other jurors, you know, through each of the panels. So, I was just sort of wondering what the further inquiry would be. Does the defense get to ask questions or —



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[00:05:12] **Eric Bland:** Yes, but the — of it was Dick said, "I didn't believe you." That's the only thing that would've happened. Dick would've said, "I don't believe that you could be fair and impartial. How could you be fair and impartial if your brother is a police officer who arrived on the scene and we're gonna criticize most likely the crime scene and what the officers did? How can you be fair and impartial?" So, it would probably be questioning his answer.

[00:05:39] **Mandy Matney:** But they ultimately said yes to him. So, they ultimately must have just —

[00:05:45] **Eric Bland:** They waived anyway.

[00:05:46] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. So, I think a couple things. I think that behind the scenes, the pro-defense people Murdaugh people, whatever we wanna call them, are using this as an example of Alex not getting a fair trial. But his defense attorneys did. Like his defense attorneys could have struck this juror and they didn't. They seated him. So, I took the whole thing as Dick and Jim thought there was enough police officers who were Good Ole Boys who were on their side and that is what makes this different than any other case where you would just be attacking the police and everything. I think that Dick and Jim thought the Good Ole Boys of Colleton County would be on their side and this juror would rule in their favor and he did not.

[00:06:36] **Liz Farrell:** So, one of the interesting things from Chad McDowell's body camera is he is the one I believe who said, "Do you know about this family?" and "I'll fill you in later." So, that's another thing that's interesting to me because personally I'm not obviously an attorney but if I were, I think that would weigh heavily on my mind. Like, well, what does he have to say that he doesn't wanna say on body camera? So, Eric, what do you make of that? What do you make of them doing allowing this guy to sit continue on the jury and not fighting it?

[00:07:06] **Eric Bland:** Well, I think that Dick and Jim felt all along that they're in the forum that they want to be on. They're in the venue where they wanted to be, you know? We were positing why didn't the state make a motion to change venue in a couple of our episodes or we set it at a different time? I think Jim and Dick believed all they want to get was one juror and they felt



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that they were gonna be — to a lot of Murdaugh people who some have been the beneficiary of some good things that the Murdaughs have done over the years and some people who have fond feelings of their family. I don't think Dick and Jim were trying to get 12 but I think that they thought they could seat one or two that would really benefit them. And what they never envisioned and we didn't either is that they started falling off like ducks, you know? At the carnival, when you shoot the duck and he flops over and you now you're seven instead of eight. We started losing jurors and they may have lost good jurors.

[00:08:01] **Liz Farrell:** So, what are some of the things, Mandy, that have happened in the last few days or the last week or so that about the trial that have surprised you or horrified you or even brought you joy?

[00:08:13] **Mandy Matney:** Let's think. Where do we start? Should we start with Randy? Let's start with Randy. Liz, I think you were the first one to see it. I can't even remember. But what — so, Randy spoke to the *New York Times* and he broke his silence. He hasn't talked to press in over a year. And what did you make of what he had to say? Because I find it interesting because a lot of my different sources had different thoughts on it and what they took from it. What did you think, Liz?

[00:08:45] **Liz Farrell:** Well, I treated this but I think that there's a clear pattern of whenever PMPED or the former PMPED is in trouble, they sort of get a *New York Times* story afterward and I guess that's the way I view it. It just seems like Randy was super careful in the way he worded his responses. He clearly wants to give off the impression that he is so disgusted and upset at his brother while also not saying that his brother's guilty, which I don't know. It feels disingenuous but then again, he really didn't show up for trial. He said he hasn't spoken to Alex in over a year and I know you and I were trying to piece together whether that was true based on what we know about the jailhouse calls. Eric, did you read that story?

[00:09:30] **Eric Bland:** I did. And a little bit of what you said but I also think it was more professional preservation for him as a lawyer with the PMPED law firm; that I think the firm is really starting to feel a backlash of the Murdaugh name. Now, you have a lot of bad things that have come out about this family. Now, he's a murderer in addition to being a thief and a liar. And I think that



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he's trying to disassociate himself from the Murdaugh-negative things that have taken place over the last seven weeks and preserve his legal career. It wouldn't surprise me if, you know, sooner or later that he may have to make a decision or the firm makes a decision. Is it in the firm's best interest that he be a partner in that firm or should he separate?

[00:10:17] **Liz Farrell:** What do you think? Do you think he should separate?

[00:10:20] **Eric Bland:** I do. I think if you're and, of course, it's not for me to speak for the firm or, you know, how they do business, but they he probably can separate two things but I think having a Murdaugh at this point is — the name is caustic. The name is troubling. The name evokes emotion and that's just not what you want in your law firm. You want peace and quiet and serenity and be able to do your job. And I've talked to a lot of lawyers, one that you and I know well, Liz, today and they feel the same way — that he will probably have to make a decision about his future career somewhere down the line.

[00:11:01] **Liz Farrell:** How is Johnny Parker doing? I'm just kidding. I don't know him. Mandy, what do you think? What are your sources saying about the story?

[00:11:09] **Mandy Matney:** You know, some sources considered it to be like a monumental moment of like this is a Murdaugh going against another. Like he's saying he's finally admitting he's a thief and a liar and he knows more about the murders than he's saying. That said, I more agree with what you guys are saying, which like I think it's about his career and I think it's about PMPED. I think that like it just doesn't mean as much now. And I also was thinking back to the witness list and Randy was on both. Randy was on the prosecution and defense and I always kind of wanted like John Marvin was on just the defense list and I wondered if Randy said something to Dick and Jim that made them nervous or I don't know. And then, other people other sources I was talking to you was saying Randy it's like signaling to John Marvin like it's time that we part ways with Alex. I don't know if it's that much. I just think that he knows that Alex is entirely bad news and a lot of people hate him and he wants to separate himself from this as clean as possible.



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[00:12:28] **Eric Bland:** Isn't it too little, too late? And I say that in a kind kind of way, not sarcastic. But if he knew that Alex didn't show any interest in the inquiries that everybody was making after the murder for the next month and all the phone calls and he didn't care to find out what was being found out or asked or didn't have any inquisitive mind and then he knows that he's been a thief, shouldn't he have spoken out sooner? Shouldn't he have maybe separated himself sooner? To me, it seems like, well, yeah, you know? The result was bad. Would he have done this if there was a not guilty verdict? That's kind of what I asked myself.

[00:13:12] **Mandy Matney:** Right. And the thing that I go back to is I was remembering the jailhouse phone calls in the month right after he filed a lawsuit for money that he loaned to Alex that Alex owed him. And Randy did not speak to Alex like a sibling who had to sue him because they couldn't resolve an issue. Like they were just like, "Hey, Bo, what's going on with this game? Blah, blah, blah." And also, this was at the point where, I mean, he was talking to him very friendly after everything came out about the Satterfield case. And so, he knew. Randy knew at that point that Alex had used his position as a lawyer to totally steal and lie to people. And you would think as a lawyer himself and as a member of his firm that is suffering all the consequences of Alex, he wouldn't have been so friendly. So, I don't know. Randy is Randy like the rest of the family is still a mystery to me as far as who he is and what he stands for.

[00:14:23] **Liz Farrell:** I think the thing that's notable here is that Randy was one of two people that went to confront Alex after he was found out allegedly at PMPED on that September 2nd date. He is one that basically got his resignation and that Alex tried to lobby to not be fired, you know, that there might just be a cooling off period and he could come back. So, Randy would've been privy as a partner and not just as a partner. They call them shareholders in PMPED. As a shareholder, he would've been privy to what they knew at that time. I totally understand the idea that Randy might wanna wait until after the evidence until after he sees it. I personally don't believe that the family didn't know all the evidence going into this trial so I don't know necessarily why you would have to wait for the trial. But additionally, he would've been privy to all the financial stuff. And let's not forget what came out during the trial, which is that Alex stole Randy's shareholder check. And not only that, asked for a duplicate and then stole the original one as well. So, Randy has been done dirty by this guy for so long. I'm just not really sure what



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evidence he was waiting for. And again, I mean, the *New York Times* is obviously the top tier newspaper in the country and bravo to him for being able to get space in it. But I just, yeah. I question it and it's insulting in my opinion to Maggie's name and Paul's name that now, when it benefits this guy, he's speaking out against Alex in the least way possible frankly.

[00:15:59] **Eric Bland:** Is Randy Fredo?

[00:16:00] **Liz Farrell:** I don't know 'cause I've never seen that movie.

[00:16:03] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, I don't know who how that is.

[00:16:05] **Eric Bland:** He's the older brother.

[00:16:08] **Liz Farrell:** Oh, from *White Lotus*.

[00:16:10] **Eric Bland:** Is he the older brother that really isn't the controlling person in the family? I got the feeling from the trial that Alex was the more dynamic of the two, the more outgoing of the two, and that Randy was passed over the same way Fredo was passed over in *The Godfather* for Sonny and Michael, the younger brothers. And Fredo kept saying, "I'm the older brother." You know, you should treat me with respect. Is he that is he the passed-over brother or is he the controlling factor in that family?

[00:16:42] **Liz Farrell:** I honestly think he's the passed-over brother because whatever Randolph was into, assuming he was into something, he and Alex were pretty close and pretty tight in that regard. And Randy Murdaugh is not just a mystery to us but he's a mystery to a lot of people who knew Randolph and Alex pretty well. So, it's I think he sort of existed in that enigmatic space where you just don't know who he is. I would have to agree. But *White Lotus* season two. Is Fredo the one who got blown up or was that his girlfriend?

[00:17:13] **Eric Bland:** I don't know. I'm talking about it from Fredo the *Godfather* so.

[00:17:18] **Liz Farrell:** No, I know. It's it plays a role. Mandy —



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[00:17:21] **Mandy Matney:** Our only reference to Godfather is from White Lotus 'cause neither of us have seen the movie. And there's a huge like Godfather theme in season two of White Lotus.

[00:17:35] **Liz Farrell:** You should watch it, Eric. It's really good.

[00:17:37] **Eric Bland:** I will.

[00:17:38] **Mandy Matney:** You would really like it and we'll watch The Godfather and come back to you.

[00:17:42] **Eric Bland:** Renee just finished season one and she says it's good and we heard season two is really, really good. I've just been so busy, you know, for the last seven weeks like you friends have that I just haven't had time to watch. And we'll be right back.

[00:18:03] **Liz Farrell:** Speaking of people who have been busy for the past seven weeks, you guys heard Dick Harpootlian's rant on the state Senate floor the other day, correct?

[00:18:15] **Eric Bland:** I did.

[00:18:16] **Mandy Matney:** Yes.

[00:18:16] **Liz Farrell:** What'd you think about it, Eric?

[00:18:19] **Eric Bland:** Watching the difference between Jim and Dick post-trial has been really interesting. You can see Jim is very, very troubled and he's pained at the verdict because of he was so personally invested and he's talking constantly about Alex and the case. Dick since the verdict is talking only about Dick and the effect it is had on Dick. Dick's getting hate mail. He's being mocked, notwithstanding the fact that he's the best at doing that when you put a microphone in his face and for 30 years has mocked people or used sarcasm to his advantage. He is being personally attacked. And so, the difference between the way Jim and Dick have acted since the verdict has been striking.



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[00:19:09] **Liz Farrell:** So, Mandy, tell us just a little bit of the some of the highlights there. It started off with state Senator Gerald Malloy, who had a point of interest he wanted to introduce, which was basically that he believed that we all needed to recognize Judge Clifton Newman for his accomplishments during that six-week trial. And he spoke highly — even said that Judge Newman had trouble walking around at a basketball game because of all the people following him and we've seen lots of photos online of people stopping him for a selfies, which is really cool. But after that, Dick Harpootlian stood up to talk about, like Eric said, Dick. Do you wanna give some of the highlights from that — things that stood out for you?

[00:19:53] **Mandy Matney:** Okay. So, somebody messaged me on Twitter and was like Mandy, check out what's going on in the state house floor right now. Judge Newman's being honored and it's great. And I was like, oh, that's wonderful. Gotta click. And by the time I get there, it's Dick Harpootlian and ranting about himself. And I'm like, what — how did he manage to hijack this, too? So, I go back and watch. We talked about this a little bit, Liz, is that like all these guys end up using everything to their advantage in one way or another. The Clifton Newman speech was about how we should let judges who are we should not force judges to retire past the age of 72 because that Newman is going to retire this year and what a great judge he is. He is a fantastic judge. But I think there's a lot of problematic judges that probably should retire at 72. So, but then the next guy who I believe is related to Russell Laffitte. Did you guys catch that?

[00:20:56] **Eric Bland:** I did not but I —

[00:20:57] **Liz Farrell:** They're related?

[00:20:58] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. Did you know that, Eric?

[00:20:59] **Liz Farrell:** I didn't know that.

[00:21:00] **Mandy Matney:** He's related to Russell somehow. His wife is Russell's cousin. Anyways, he used it to ask Dick Harpootlian if he believed that the if like — Hey, Dick, you're a lawmaker and do you think that the judge sided with you in that case? Like he used it for his advantage. I don't know if



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I'm explaining this right but. And then, Dick got the floor 'cause a lot of people were like, how did he even get the floor? How did this even happen?

[00:21:31] **Dick Harpootlian:** Now, I disagree with Judge Newman on some of the rulings he made. We he ruled, we objected. It's in the record. The court Supreme Court Court of Appeals have a chance to look at it and maybe even federal court. But that's not based on bias or he just had a view of the law different than I had. Now, the third thing I wanna say is this. There are and of course unfortunately, people feel compelled to express their opinion on things through the internet. Somehow, they got a hold of my — I guess it's on my website — my email. I really wanted that big case you had but that's not what they chose to send me. Most of it was very positive.

[00:22:16] **Mandy Matney:** And he was also highly criticized because in his press conference right after the verdict, he or very long delayed after the verdict actually, he said that he would not mix his role as a lawmaker and an attorney. And then, there he was a couple days later on the state house floor talking about his job in this case so that was crazy, too. But I think ultimately, it just showed to me Dick was going — he was laughing, he was making fun of people that camped out and stood in line in the morning. He said that they needed help. He was making fun of people from Germany watching the trial and said they needed more to do, you know?

[00:23:06] **Dick Harpootlian:** A lot of it were people that were watching this in Germany or England or the Netherlands or, I mean, wacky. I don't know. They don't have anything else to do in those countries. But a bunch of people here also gave me suggestions on a daily basis what we should do or how we screwed up yesterday.

[00:23:21] **Mandy Matney:** Just constant. And then, he went into if you're criticizing me, you don't understand the system. And that's where I have a problem.

[00:23:30] **Dick Harpootlian:** But trust me. There are literally hundreds if not thousands that me and my co-counsel we got emails. Not all of them wished rectal cancer on me but most of them are fairly critical. And so, those are people that don't understand the Constitution.



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[00:23:45] **Eric Bland:** He also, in his post-sentencing press conference, used an incredibly insensitive and derogatory term to describe some of Alex's victims and was corrected but proceeded to say it again anyways and tried to justify making that statement because I'm just an old man. And that was just one in another litany of offensive things that he said during the last seven weeks.

[00:24:12] **Dick Harpootlian:** Monster that stole from children and crippled people and — is crippled not? That's not a politically correct word? I'm sorry. I'm an old guy — crippled people who had just done horrible, despicable things and he had to try to push back on that.

[00:24:32] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. People were horrified by that, rightfully so. And it's, I mean, how old is Dick? What's your age difference? And I know that you, Eric, you look 30 years younger than Dick so but I know I know that. What's your age difference?

[00:24:45] **Eric Bland:** 13 years. Look.

[00:24:47] **Mandy Matney:** 13 years. Okay.

[00:24:48] **Eric Bland:** We're 13. And you've heard me say that lawyers should expire like milk and judges should expire like milk. I don't agree with Article III of our Constitution that federal judges should serve for life. I don't agree that Supreme Court justices should serve for life. People lose a lot of their mental acuity as they get older. I feel a little bit of it now and I'm only 61 years old. Look. I applauded Dick for his energy and being able to do it but, you know, for every Judge Newman though, there's a lot of other judges that it does slip, that their hearing is slipping, you know? Judge Newman doesn't have hearing issues but I have there's a lot of older judges that are constantly, excuse me, what did you say? What did you say? And they miss something. So, if they can't hear me arguing when witnesses are testifying, how much of a trial are they missing? And so, I think lawyers should look at themselves in their late sixties and early seventies. Sure. There's always gonna be the — one or the odd one but judge is the same way and that's why they put the retirement age at 72 because if you look at it over a graph, most judges are getting older quicker than they should.



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[00:26:00] **Liz Farrell:** What's interesting to me is that somebody could get that far in their career and still have an ego that is as fragile as a bird bone because some of the things that he was saying spoke more to, well, like you said, Mandy, he was mocking people that attended the trial, people that watched it while at the very same time using it for street cred among his colleagues. I just found it really grossly immature and very emblematic of the issue that I think we've had with Dick this entire time. And Eric, in a conversation earlier, you had said that Dick is just not used to this type of criticism; that he's used to wowing people and having people, even if they don't like him, compliment him on his skills. And he neither wowed us with his skills or his personality and in fact seem to be benched by Alex at some point during that trial. So, maybe this is his final hurrah. I hate to see what he's gonna try to do next to make up for this. Like I don't think this is how he wants to exit the scene.

[00:27:06] **Mandy Matney:** So, first of all, he said that people are emailing him — it's funny but it's bad — wishing him rectal cancer, which is horrible. It was funny to just to hear him say that but it's horrible. I mean, people should not be doing that. I just wanna be clear and on the record. Like there was no need to email anybody wishing them rectal cancer ever. Dick lost. There's no need to say anything to him at this point. There's a difference between holding somebody accountable and then just harassing them. But that said, I think what really bothers me is that like he's really he continues to twist just like Alex does and he continues to manipulate just like Alex does instead of taking responsibility for his actions and taking responsibility for the criticism that he's gotten. He instead says that everybody else doesn't understand the Constitution and the role of a defense attorney. And I just have to say that I have gotten this over and over and over again on Twitter that I don't understand it either. I get it. Our system pushes people and we need defense attorneys and there is nothing more honorable than a defense attorney defending a innocent client and/or guilty. They have a role to do and I understand that. But people were criticizing his behavior, not his role, and people were criticizing the way that he treated Tony Satterfield; him pointing a gun at the prosecution and giggling about it in court.

[00:28:39] **Dick Harpootlian:** So, I am not five-foot-two or five-foot-four. I think you said five-foot-three to five-foot-four. But position me. Tempting but.



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[00:28:53] **Mandy Matney:** The way that he spoke to women in particular — that is what people have a problem with.

[00:28:58] **Witness:** I was a special agent at the time that I worked this, yes.

[00:29:01] **Dick Harpootlian:** Okay. And a special agent is? What's so special about the special agent?

[00:29:08] **Witness:** That's what SLED agents are referred to as.

[00:29:10] **Mandy Matney:** And it's just sad to me that he can't he just continues to yell at everybody else and say that they don't understand instead of looking at himself. But that's that.

[00:29:23] **Liz Farrell:** Eric, do you think that there's anything that could happen to Dick as far as pointing the gun at the prosecution and saying "tempting." Is there anything that can happen to him?

[00:29:32] **Eric Bland:** If I did that, I would get a grievance for uncivilized conduct and violating my civility oath as a lawyer. The problem is that there was some laughter in the courtroom and so, a certain number of people either laughed nervous probably a nervous laugh from some and then other people with their sick sense of humor probably laughed with him. I thought it was just repugnant behavior. It was beneath a lawyer to do that. You know, guns are dangerous. We have so many gun crimes and mass killings that have taken place that the concept of misholding a gun, especially in a trial where guns played such a prominent role was I found to be utterly deplorable. The problem, like you said, is Dick did the Triple Lindy at the trial, you know? He offended, his sarcasm was flat, his performance was flat, and he got benched. So, it was like he suffered mortal blows because I've seen Dick win and win ugly. I've seen Dick win and win with, you know, sarcasm and owning the courtroom. What you saw a man who's really fighting to protect the legacy on that Senate floor. He is smart enough to recognize that a lifetime legacy that he built really suffered a mortal blow last week. And Jim Griffin, on the other hand, is trying through his interviews to rehabilitate himself and explain why he believes in Alex's innocence and still does. He gave an interview yesterday where he now posited something new and I don't know if you heard it, Mandy, where he said he thought that SLED has



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the blue shirt, the seafoam blue shirt, and that they've been lying all the time. He thinks that it was hanging up in his car because there was a blue shirt hanging up in the car when they took photos at the roadside shooting and that SLED actually has the seafoam shirt and that they have been lying about it. So, we see lawyers that are just trying to hold on and sometimes the best advice you can get is stop talking.

[00:31:39] **Mandy Matney:** I just think I just wanna say something. I think that goes to like a big lesson in this and I get it. It's really, really hard to admit that you were wrong and to admit that you believed in somebody that fooled you and that you — I think Jim Griffin has really, really, really wanted to believe Alex and I think that he's been fooled by his friend this entire time who is a manipulative, probably narcissist. I'm not a psychologist but it I think that like I just wish that he would know that there's a way out; that like if he right now would stop and say "I got fooled by my friend," I know that he can't do that but like he doesn't have to keep doing this. He and I think that he I think when you want to be right, you just try so hard to make the pieces fit. And I think that's interesting, Eric, what you said, how they're behaving differently. You can tell that like I don't think Dick ever cared if Alex did it or not.

[00:32:48] **Liz Farrell:** We'll be right back.

[00:33:00] **Eric Bland:** And I wanted to ask this question of you two and that is Dick on the floor said, look. I don't care whether Alex is guilty or innocent. My job is to make sure that the government does its job, hold them accountable, that the warrants are right and the charges are right. You know, no impropriety on the evidence gathering. And that's exactly what a lawyer should do. Jim, on the other hand, made a statement on the *Court TV* interview that I don't think we should do as lawyers. I actually agree with Dick's statement. Jim said "I would not have represented Alex if I thought he was guilty." And a lawyer should never ever ask that question because then it becomes too personal. And one of the criticism that you guys have leveled over the months is you feel that Jim may have been too close to the Murdaughs and his friendship may have blurred some of his professional judgment. I don't ever want to know did my client do it or not? If I found out that my client did it, you know, where does that put me? And I don't think you should say, well, you know, I'm not gonna represent him if I think he's guilty. Dick's doing it the right way. He's saying, look. I'm my focus is on the government, you know? Yes, I have a client to represent but I wanna make



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sure the government does everything right. And I love that. I love our system of justice. It's an amazing system. We're not Iran. We don't charge somebody and then try them the next day. We have rules of engagement and free flow of information that is either exculpatory or inculpatory that has to be provided to the defense. Our system works. It's a beautiful system. And I was a little taken back when Jim said, well, you know, I have to make the decision that he's innocent before I'm gonna represent him. It was just a strange thing to hear him say. What are your thoughts on that, Liz?

[00:34:50] **Liz Farrell:** Obviously, the ability to hire somebody like Dick and Jim, a team like that, and with the amount of work that they put into building that defense, that's a one-percenter type thing. So, the system would work I believe if everyone got the kind of defense that Dick described, which is that yes, obviously a defense attorney's job is to make sure that the government has built its case correctly and honestly. But I don't know that you know that I think that's the imbalance that bothers me. It's just that people like Alex get special consideration by the court, by the mere fact that they have a team of people who can set out these red herrings and these used sort of and the word "trickery" is probably very loaded but there was a lot of nonsense coming from Dick and Jim and the nonsense is what I take issue with. It's the using the system, well, degrading the system, first of all — all for one man. They were ready to burn down SLED and Colleton County Sheriff's Office all for Alex.

[00:35:56] **Eric Bland:** Don't forget they're gonna burn that jury down over the next two weeks because when they file their motion for a new trial, they're gonna raise they're gonna have juror affidavits. They're gonna have affidavits from friends. Yeah, they're going hard at the jury. That's a fertile ground for them.

[00:36:10] **Liz Farrell:** Whether Jim believes that Alex is innocent or not, I don't know that he needs to be the guy that said. I don't know why he would want to be the guy that says that. Obviously, Dick has the right idea about what a defense attorney should do but, again, I would say that he didn't just limit it to making sure that the state had a good case against Alex and that they were actually making their case and questioning the evidence and made, like you said, making sure the warrants are signed and making sure they're accurate. And they did that to a certain extent obviously. There was there were definitely questions that they raised. But overall, I think that Alex had put



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them in such a bind with his lies and they wanted to pretend like we didn't just hear those lies and now we're hearing new lies. So, that is their problem, that is their chief problem.

[00:36:52] And I so when they're talking to these jurors to get these affidavits and one of the things we're I think we should talk about now actually is Russell Laffitte because the obviously that trial the jury situation has ended up being a key point of contention. And on Monday, Judge Richard Gergel, federal judge, issued a 42-page order denying Russell's motion for a new trial and that was a pretty scathing order and pretty meticulous. And it had a few points of interest, one of which is that he took to calling Mark Moore, who was the attorney that was brought in to lead Russell's appellate case. This guy filed another supplemental motion for a new trial and in it, he scorched Bart Daniel and Matt Austin and said that they didn't represent Russell correctly. And now, Gergel's even more angry in this order because he's not just angry at Bart and Matt but he's angry at Mark Moore for interceding like this. And it was kind of an explosive order so. But that said, today we got another motion in this case and that is the motion to withdraw counsel because Russell apparently hasn't been paying his bills. You can't make this stuff up.

[00:38:11] **Eric Bland:** Once he decided he was gonna attack his former lawyers, it puts the lawyers in a conflict of interest because when you're attacked by the client, then you have an obligation and a right to defend yourself. And, you know, are they gonna be able to defend themselves by revealing attorney-client privilege? Because he basically questioned their competency and that puts you adverse to the client. And so, they're now in a conflict of interest and we have rules of professional conduct which govern that. And so, once you start making claims against your lawyers, the lawyers have a right to violate the attorney-client privilege and say things in defense of their own conduct. It became untenable. There's no way that they could continue to represent Russell, even if he had paid them with him now attacking their performance and their recommendations and advice.

[00:39:06] **Liz Farrell:** They haven't gotten to the sentencing hearing. So, that's something that's typically reserved for after the sentencing, correct, when you start to claim ineffective counsel. So, Mark Moore sort of jumped the gun and Judge Gergel obviously did not like that one bit. But one of the things is that the jury — I don't know if you guys read it but it reads a little like a logic puzzle because you have to keep track of who the juror is. Is this the anxiety juror? Is



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this the medication juror? Is this the juror who thought they knew better because they served on a jury before? And you start out to piece together. They, I mean, they tell you. Judge Gergel tells you who's who. But it's all about that. And that was such an unusual situation because during deliberation, the judge got four notes in quick succession. And there really — I don't know that there's no precedent for this but certainly not a lot of it, right, Eric?

[00:39:58] **Eric Bland:** You are entirely correct. It is a suicidal mission to attack your lawyers before your sentencing and then bring in new lawyers before the sentence because it tells the judge you're not accepting responsibility. You're blaming it on your lawyers when you were the one who took the stand. Remember he took that extraordinary step to take the stand. And so, usually the ineffective assistance and counsel type allegations are way down the road. You do your appeals through the state system or the federal system and then you do your habeas corpus, which is you bring your body before the court. That's exactly what habeas corpus means — bring the body before the court — and then have the court inquiry into the representation that you got and that's where they raised the ineffective assistance and counsel claims. And most times, a lot of attorneys welcome it who were part of the trial team. They know it's part of the ultimate appeal process and they know that it's coming except Russell is accelerating it right now and I think it's gonna backfire and it's another arrow that Judge Gergel's gonna shoot at him with.

[00:41:06] **Liz Farrell:** It did backfire completely because, like I said, Judge Gergel has addressed the issue of he said that your defense team is not like tag team wrestling where you can tag in a secondary team because you don't like what the first team did and you don't like the outcome of what they did.

[00:41:25] Let's just go back to this jury issue because it's important and I think because of what we saw with the Murdaugh trial, the sanctity of what happens during deliberations is a big deal, right? So, in order for lawyers I guess to ascertain whether there's misconduct or, you know, some sort of bad behavior happening during deliberations, they often try to talk to the jury, correct? Like they'll call up certain jury members and that's just a normal bit of it, right, Eric?

[00:41:57] **Eric Bland:** It is and it's something that lawyers do as a matter of course. Sometimes in a state court jury, they wait outside the courtroom and



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they have either paralegals or investigators who will talk to the jury immediately and say what was happening. In these cases, they polled the jurors. In Alex's case, they polled the jurors and they polled them in Russell's case where the judge asked the individual juror, you know, juror number X, did you make this verdict under your own volition free of any duress and coercion? Is this your vote? And each one who was polled says, yes, that's my vote. Then it becomes very problematic later on if that juror is going to change and say, well, no. Actually, I was pressured. And then, the judge says, but I asked you in open court and you gave me your answer. We don't like lawyers to invade the jury room. We have case law that says judges should not invade deliberation so Jim Griffin's been making a lot of hay about the fact that the initial juror said that it was a 9-2-1 vote, meaning that nine guilty, two not guilty, and one that was uncertain. And then, they flipped those three evidently in 45 minutes. There is no time limit for how long you should deliberate. It does, you know, this was a seven-week trial. These witnesses heard seven weeks worth of testimony. Now, Jim's gonna say try to get out of some jurors, well, you made up your minds before the judge released you and the judge charged you. They're going to get nowhere with it. We don't like lawyers starting to invade the jury room. That's arguing over sour spilled milk, and it creates a real problem. These jurors need to be free from harassment. And listen, I have had so many times a juror an alternate juror or a juror say to me, oh, we really liked you. We really liked you. But they voted against me because it's not natural for somebody to look at you in the eye and say, Hey, Eric, I really didn't like you. I thought you were arrogant or you were abusive or, you know, you were not prepared. You were disorganized. Nobody can say that to somebody's face. Very few people can, at least. So, they always say something nice and we just I think we're gonna get to the point where what you emailed me today, Liz, which is is there gonna be serious discussions about you cannot contact jurors after a trial?

[00:44:22] **Liz Farrell:** So, explain what I sent to you.

[00:44:24] **Eric Bland:** You sent me from the Federal Bar Association, which means for federal court as opposed to the state court where Alex was tried, where they will limit the ability of lawyers and their agents to contact jurors because it is a form of — can be a form of harassment. If a juror doesn't want to talk, you have to stop. The rules say that. But if you get the juror to start talking, you know, are you manipulating that juror? Are you bringing that juror along? Are you promising — nobody knows these things. So, I think we



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the more that we contact jurors, this could backfire and that we could end up with rules that say you can't touch them at all.

[00:45:02] **Liz Farrell:** Mandy, what are your thoughts on Russell Laffitte and his apparent quest to burn down the village to get out of going to prison?

[00:45:09] **Mandy Matney:** Well, can we just talk about how he — is he not paying his attorney fees? What did that say?

[00:45:15] **Liz Farrell:** I presume that he paid a big part of it. I don't think that you would put that much work in at Nelson Mullins unless you were getting some amount of money. But it seems like according to the motion that he has not finished paying his bills and that's not a good look.

[00:45:33] **Eric Bland:** Can I comment on that? What Nelson Mullins did was highly improper and I side with Russell on that. You should never reveal that in the public square. The way you file your motion to be relieved is you say that there are irreconcilable differences between the client and the attorney that would prevent us from zealously representing the client and going forward and we will go into those issues with your honor in camera, which means in chambers — not on court record. It is highly prejudicial to put your reason for being to wanting to be discharged in a motion. We cannot prejudice our clients, even though our clients may not be paying us, even though the clients may be abusive to us. We cannot say something in emotion as lawyers that would prejudice the client before the court and that is prejudicial right there.

[00:46:32] **Liz Farrell:** So, have you not have you seen that before where a lawyer would put in a motion to withdraw?

[00:46:39] **Mandy Matney:** We also have to think like Russell was a bad client, man. And I just consider, I mean, think back to Russell TV. That seems like years ago but I feel like he made their job very difficult and I took from this that Russell is just still a self-centered, egotistical maniac that thinks that he's right and.

[00:47:03] **Liz Farrell:** Bart Daniel and Matt Austin fought for Russell Laffitte in a very honorable way. Like when we think about what we were just talking



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about with Dick and Jim and sort of the difference between the two sets of lawyers because even though we, you know, they got beaten up a lot I guess in the courtroom by the government and by the judge, they still kept it to the evidence and the law and as opposed to like the drama, you know? And I just wanna say that I appreciate that part of it.

[00:47:38] **Mandy Matney:** For the most part, they did take some they took some stabs at Eric. Remember that? It's really hard to remember all these things but that wasn't cool. And I do agree with you, Liz. I mean, they — besides that, they night and day as to how Matt Austin questioned the victims and treated them and spoke to them and Dick and Jim. I mean, that was just totally different. Did you feel like this, Liz, too, watching this trial with all these people? Like I wish that they were able I wish the world could have watched Russell Laffitte's trial and it sucks that they couldn't because there's just there's so many things that are really hard to explain to people and words don't capture it and it's just impossible if people didn't see it. It's really hard to explain to people what it was like and how different they were because we all saw it and no one else did because of the fricking federal court laws and, which I hope change in our lifetime, by the way. Let's get cameras in the courtroom. Anyways, the Emily Winehouse was fantastic but so was Creighton. I mean, at the end of the day — and I did see this on Twitter, Creighton's, asking for more prosecutors to join his team, which is it's really good to see these prosecutors who work for a lot less than private attorneys most of the time, getting the praise that they deserve and doing the hard job and doing it right and I've been overall very much impressed by both teams and the way that they represented South Carolina.

[00:49:18] **Liz Farrell:** I think the way to describe it is Alex's trial was like Chuck E. Cheese and Russell's was like Halls Chophouse or Ruth's Chris Steak House. Like it was just a completely different vibe and the lawyers in both cases, you know, Dick and Jim were like waiters at Chuck E. Cheese and Bart and Matt were like maître d's at Ruth's Chris Steak House or Halls Chophouse, whichever one we wanna go with.

[00:49:56] Now, I just really quickly wanted to go back to what we were talking about with Dick on the floor of the Senate. And I was talking this week to some people about what the future of judicial reform is in South Carolina and I learned a bunch about it. It looks like because of everything that's been going on with the Murdaugh case and over the past year and a half, questions



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that have been raised about Judge Carmen Mullen, Judge Perry Buckner, other judges who might have been protecting those two, just the judicial system as a whole has come under attack and it seems like there is political will to make changes. And I guess what they're being called is common sense changes and, Mandy, you had mentioned this that there's also because of the abortion bill that they keep trying to push through or the different abortion bills that they keep trying to push through and the court striking it down, the one that was the most punitive that they had passed, now, Gov. Henry McMaster and Attorney General Allen Wilson are all in for judicial reform. But in our state, we're one of two states in the country that appoints judges through what's called the Merit Selection Committee and it's that Merit Selection Committee where we believe the problem is. And so, there's some suggestions that are floating out there to make that process better. Eric, what happens when — because Dick and Chip Campsen both tried to make it seem like, well, the system's working because look. Judge Newman did — he didn't give us any favoritism because I'm a legislator. And it was a very set up Q&A, very purposeful kind of we've gotten this criticism and it's not warranted because everything. This case is proof that the system is working. So, Eric, what happens when we have a system of where it's sort of favoritism or patronage, which is what it seems like where judges are appointed not through popular vote obviously but through the control of the few, which is just a few people on this committee?

[00:52:03] **Eric Bland:** Well, obviously, the legislators want to keep that power — make some powerful, make some movers and shakers. For me, if you have a senator that is on the judiciary committee and the appropriations committee and he's fighting to raise the salaries of judges and prosecutors and then he's appearing before the judge that he just got a \$90,000 pay raise for or he's going to a solicitor to negotiate a plea agreement on behalf of a client and he just got that solicitor of \$50,000 pay raise and he's on the most powerful committees of judicial and ways and means or judicial and appropriation, it's an inherent conflict of interest and legislators wanna hold that power. For every Judge Newman, though, we don't have an equal Judge Newman. There may be two or three that don't have his temperament; that are a little bit that can be a little bit abusive or possibly don't comport themselves the way that he did. Look. He's America's judge at this point. But like you did, you named a couple judges, whether it's Carmen Mullen or Judge Buckner. I certainly have my differences more so with Judge Mullen, not face-to-face but what happened in the Satterfield case enough that I filed



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a grievance against her but I don't know what's happened at this point with that grievance. And, you know, the judges are it's legislative committees that have to look at these judges and different committees that we know nothing about.

[00:53:35] **Liz Farrell:** So, Mandy, one of the criticisms of the popular of electing judges through popular vote is that judges then act like politicians, which then means that they can be controlled by campaign donations and that they are less likely to rule according to the law and their reason as opposed to ruling according to whether they're going to get primaried out of office or a political action group will come after them. So, who do you think is most hurt by the system that we have currently in South Carolina?

[00:54:11] **Mandy Matney:** People that who don't have any power, people that can't afford an attorney that is also a lawmaker. And I think the other thing why I push changing the way that we elect our judges is because our current system, we don't have any accountability. There is — at least with judges who are elected, at least they know that they have to go to the public in the next four years and ask them to re-elect them. And that system isn't perfect either because, you know, we — solicitors are also elected and we all know how that went in the 14th Circuit for a really long time. However, it's at least some sort of accountability down the road that the people have within their power. The current system that we have right now, there is zero accountability. The people have tried. They have tried to say can we do some — can we at least have an investigation about Judge Carmen Mullen? And the people in charge of her aren't doing anything about it so there's no accountability there. She can continue to be a judge. She can rule from the bench. And that is a perfect example of what's wrong. I mean, it's just a lack of accountability that I have the biggest problem with our system.

[00:55:37] **Liz Farrell:** The point you made though about people who can't afford to hire a legislator as their attorney, that is — Eric, as an attorney, do you notice that there is sort of a favoritism in terms of who gets hired for certain cases just based on their connections to the judges?

[00:55:54] **Eric Bland:** Yeah, definitely. People hire certain lawyers that know certain judges or lawyers that are gonna appear before a judge and they've had prior business dealings with before that judge got on the bench. Look.



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Everybody's looking to game the system. I'm trying to get the best outcome for my clients. Am I trying to game the system? No. But if I have a relationship with a judge, I'm gonna play that up when the client comes to me and say, look, you know, I've tried two or three cases with them or, you know, I've seen I can go to lunch with that judge. And I'm not saying I'm going to ever overstep my boundaries but everybody's looking to gain the system. That's the reality of it. And Dick Harpootlian is trading on relationships that he's built up over a lot of years. He's got a ton of currency. Don't forget. Some judges also have gotten into some mishaps. Some judges' children have gotten into DUIs or may have had an open container on a beach or, you know, they gotten in a fight down in Five Points in Columbia and Dick has taken care of over the years a lot of favors that way and he builds up currency so don't kid yourself. Dick when he was a lawyer before he was a politician could help out a lot of people whose children got in trouble at USC because Dick used to be the Fifth Circuit solicitor there. Everybody's trading on names. Everybody's trading on relationships. Everybody's trying to game the system. That's just what we have. I'm sorry. I mean, I know it's harsh.

[00:57:27] **Liz Farrell:** But it's not everybody. See, that's the thing where I think we're mistaken. It's the people who can afford to game the system. The people who can't afford to game the system are the 99% of us who are existing in the regular broken system that moves along slowly and there are no favors to call in so.

[00:57:44] **Eric Bland:** Are you gonna have the government pay Dick Harpootlian to —

[00:57:46] **Liz Farrell:** I'm gonna appear on two podcasts. That's my first step. Second step: tweet a lot.

[00:57:54] **Eric Bland:** No, seriously. Have the government to pay Dick Harpootlian to be a lawyer for just the normal blue-collar?

[00:58:01] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, that's a great question. You're right.

[00:58:03] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, it's hard. I think that that's a question that we should explore another day. But one thing that I do wanna say about gaming the system and I get it. Everyone's human. You're going to have relationships



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that affect the court one way or another and politics is all relationships. But what bothered me about Chip Campsen is that this guy hasn't said anything about this whole thing. There is a lot of legislative issues that they could take away from the Murdaugh case. Let's talk about corruption. Let's talk about — there's a million things but.

[00:58:44] **Liz Farrell:** Like what to do about Duffie Stone?

[00:58:45] **Mandy Matney:** What to do about Duffie Stone. Let's talk about that. Let, I mean, let's — but instead, he used the one thing that he wanted to get across to make his point, which is that like Dick in this one circumstance we found the one judge who didn't wanna play to your favors and so, let's talk about how that works for us. And it's just really, really, really frustrating with these guys, with these people that like we could have all used two years ago to make noise about the story and to use their power and their positions to say that something is really, really wrong in the 14th Circuit and we need to do something about it. And now, they're jumping on board to use it into their advantage. That's what makes me angry.

[00:59:31] **Eric Bland:** You know what's gonna happen? They're not gonna investigate Duffie Stone. They're not gonna investigate Carmen Mullen. These legislators are gonna start investigating SLED and law enforcement agencies and the job that they're doing on crime scenes. It's gonna be a whipsaw effect. But there's been so much denigration of SLED, so much criticism of their investigative techniques and what they're doing that somebody's gonna start calling Chief Keel in before some committees. You watch. You watch. That's what's gonna happen. The backlash is gonna be not against where it should be but they're gonna keep dumping all over SLED. That hasn't stopped for seven weeks.

[01:00:09] **Liz Farrell:** Well, there was a time when people told us that Alex Murdaugh would never be found guilty of killing Maggie and Paul so I would like to believe that there will be change because there are people like the three of us and other reporters and the public and now, the nation watching this little corner of the Earth to see if people will do the right thing moving forward. So, if they wanna open their investigatory committees or look into SLED, they're gonna hear probably from there's probably gonna be more



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letters about rectal cancer, I would imagine. But anyway, yeah. That's what I just have to say. I have some optimism about that.

[01:00:44] **Eric Bland:** Dick is not unique in that he got criticism. The three of us — over the last years, I've gotten emails that will blow your mind. I've had emails — Eric Bland, I can't stand you but I do appreciate you making a nice word about Creighton. Eric Bland, you're vulgar. You're uninformed. You know, go back to Philadelphia. I didn't — I say, okay, you know? If a hundred people are going to say something about me and 95 say nice things and five saying not so nice things, that's a pretty good batting average. People get in the Hall of Fame with batting 300. I'm batting 950. So, you know, Dick was really thin-skinned to think is he only gonna get nice things said about him? Even if he won, somebody's gonna say bad things about him. That's what happens. Like we're in the public spotlight. You can't please all the people all the time.

[01:01:37] **Mandy Matney:** Right. And you, Dick, you said you were honored to represent a murderer.

[01:01:42] **Eric Bland:** No, a thief.

[01:01:43] **Mandy Matney:** And you said that you were honored to — well, he was a thief at that time but now he's a murderer.

[01:01:47] **Eric Bland:** No, no. A thief at them, which is even worse because that went to our profession. I gotta tell you. Him stealing money from clients hurt me more.

[01:01:57] **Liz Farrell:** It's even worse to steal money than to kill your wife and son?

[01:02:00] **Eric Bland:** No, but at the time. At the time. I'm looking at from a profession. Alex Murdaugh hurt my profession so much more than if he just killed his wife and son.

[01:02:12] **Mandy Matney:** Great. And I mean, I got an email last year when I was on vacation that said "Go die." And I did not do what — I haven't done anything. If we're on the like bad good-bad scale, I feel like I'm on the good



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side of this. But I have gotten a ton of hate mail and I get it. Like I know it's one in a million, one in blah, blah, blah. But like Dick has to realize that like you are representing and you said that you're honored to represent this horrible person. You're gonna get backlash for that because people know right and wrong and like I think it's very different when you're really trying to do the right thing and you're really trying to change a system for the better.

[01:02:57] **Eric Bland:** Yeah. Not only did he say that, but he denigrated women throughout that trial, okay? Let's just be honest. I mean, he was misogynistic. He was, you know, the creepy Uncle Buck that everybody has that, you know, your mother said, don't go alone with Uncle Buck. You know what I'm saying? He's creepy what he said to women in that trial. I'm sorry.

[01:03:17] **Liz Farrell:** Oh, it's horrible. He looked like Bugsy Malone. I he looked like a character in Bugs Bunny that the when — do you remember when they would be the Mafia characters? That's what he looked like the whole time. That's all I can think of. So, as much as he his feelings were hurt and I'm sorry for that. I hope Alex pays his bills unlike Russell. And, yeah.

[01:03:35] So, I just real quick before we wrap up because we've talked about a lot is just what are we doing next? And I just wanna make sure that we get that on the record with people. I know that we've been saying it all along but we I think we need to make it rather clear that we are not ending anything. The murder trial was just the tip of the iceberg and we will be branching out into other stuff. Mandy, did you want to say anything about that?

[01:03:57] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. I mean, Eric, you brought up a great point. If the legislator decides to go after SLED, and that's the only thing that they decide because of Dick Harpootlians influence and everything, that's why we are here to call them out and make sure that they start investigating the right things. And you know what? As we talked about last week, people like Alan Wilson are now suddenly realizing what it feels like to do the right thing and have the world cheer you on and I hope that he's getting that message and I hope that he has that energy to continue and do investigating and putting more people away for these horrible crimes and I hope that Stephen Smith is on the top of his list.

[01:04:37] **Eric Bland:** He's on the top of our list.



## EPISODE 21: Randy Murdaugh Hits the Reset Button and Russell Laffitte Has Bills to Pay

[01:04:39] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, he's on the top of ours. So, I mean, just we can't be clear enough about this. There are so many. We knew the murder trial was never gonna be the end. As much as we all wish it was, there's no there's a million loose ends and we're not going away. So, stay tuned.

[01:04:57] **Liz Farrell:** And we hope that inspires other people to do similar things in their communities to fight against the power where corruption is preventing people from seeing justice.

[01:05:08] **Eric Bland:** Let me give you a forecast on what the next six months will look like for everybody. We're gonna have a couple financial trials probably before the fall that'll be scheduled: Satterfield, maybe Arthur Badger. We obviously have Russell's sentencing coming up. We're gonna have the post-trial motions that Alex is gonna file. That'll be fodder. We also have Cory Fleming that nobody has talked about that's still out there. The federal government they're doing their own investigation. So, this Murdaugh and it's a Murdaugh saga Murdaugh story is going on for a long time. And there's so many other interesting things that are happening out there, whether it's the Kohberger case out in Wisconsin — in Idaho, excuse me — whether it's the ice cream killer in Florida, whether it's the doomsday that's coming also out there in Idaho. There's so many different things that we'll talk about. The Walshe case that Liz is so familiar with and Mandy, our resident sleuth, who just watches till 11 o'clock to five in the morning all these true crime things. She's gonna come up with a thousand new things to talk about so you're gonna hear us for a long time. We're happy to talk to you. We're gonna educate you. We're gonna make sure that we have sunlight on the justice system. That's what we're here to do.

[01:06:29] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, and more guests. We'll bring on some guests in the future, too. There's just a there's too much to talk about as we always run into the problem of the clock just runs out and there's just too much.

[01:06:40] **Liz Farrell:** That's right. So, if you enjoy our podcast, make sure to like and review and leave us some stars, preferably five of them.

[01:06:50] **Eric Bland:** Thank you for a robust discussion today. I appreciate it. And cups down.



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[01:06:55] **Mandy Matney:** Cups down everybody.

[01:06:57] **Liz Farrell:** Cups down, guys.

[01:06:58] **Mandy Matney:** Great job.

[01:07:06] **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.

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