



EPISODE 34: The Quest for Fame in the True Crime World

[00:00:05] **Mandy Matney:** Hello and happy Tuesday. Before these past two years, I was definitely a big fan of true crime shows and especially documentaries. I love a good documentary. But as it turns out, there's a whole world that comes along with true crime fandom that I knew next to nothing about. Let's just say now I have been educated, sometimes the hard way. On today's episode, Liz, Eric and I discuss Peacock's new Dark Comedy *Based on a True Story* starring Kaley Cuoco and Chris Messina. We are so thankful that Peacock is sponsoring Cup of Justice to get the word out about this new series. The show takes on the true crime industry and imagines a world in which a couple in a quest for fame and fortune thinks that creating a podcast with a serial killer is somehow their best option. It's really funny, and it really makes you think. Also on today's show, we talk about Bland Richter's response last week to Alex Murdaugh's nonsense and the Satterfield case, and we discussed the mystery of Buster Murdaugh as portrayed in a new profile about him. So let's get into it.

[00:01:29] **Liz Farrell:** Good morning guys.

[00:01:31] **Eric Bland:** Cups up.

[00:01:32] **Mandy Matney:** Cups up.

[00:01:32] **Eric Bland:** What you got in that mason jar, Mandy?

[00:01:33] **Mandy Matney:** An iced coffee.

[00:01:36] **Eric Bland:** Okay, okay. Okay.

[00:01:37] **Mandy Matney:** With a straw.

[00:01:39] **Eric Bland:** Liz, what are you drinking?



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[00:01:40] **Liz Farrell:** Water.

[00:01:41] **Eric Bland:** Water, okay.

[00:01:42] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, just water.

[00:01:43] **Eric Bland:** Yup, I see it.

[00:01:44] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, so a really exciting morning.

[00:01:46] **Eric Bland:** Do you love black Liz? You love black?

[00:01:49] **Liz Farrell:** I do.

[00:01:49] **Eric Bland:** You look so good in black.

[00:01:50] **Liz Farrell:** Thank you, I'm from Boston.

[00:01:51] **Eric Bland:** You always wear black shirts, or a black, and it looks good on you.

[00:01:55] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, we're real dark in Boston. We don't have very joyful clothing, I guess. But I brought that to the south because everyone likes Lilly Pulitzer down where we are and no, thank you for me. That's a pass.

[00:02:12] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. Especially because they're like \$500 for a dress. It's crazy.

[00:02:18] **Liz Farrell:** Right.



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[00:02:18] **Eric Bland:** Did you guys have a good weekend? David had his birthday, 39. Renee turned 58. And we had a little bad news this weekend. But there was some uplifting stuff.

[00:02:28] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, how are you? How are you guys doing?

[00:02:30] **Eric Bland:** It's hard. You know, you, when you love animals and you try to raise a dog that's a special needs dog it's hard. And she she had bone issues. And so we would have her on a lot of pain pills, Gabapentin, and then, you know, it changed her personality, and they put her on Lexapro and you could tell that she was always hurting when she would get up and her personality changed, and you know, we didn't really tell anybody and it was really strange because she would attack us and not friends or visitors. She would just love visitors and rollover or whatever, but she got very defiant with us and it then became resource guarding with her food or her toys. And then she would, you know, if you walk by her crate and the crate door was open she she'd come and attack you and, you know, Renee and I would, we knew it was, it would set her off and we would stay away from it. But when the kids came home, they didn't know all of her triggers. You know, when you fail at something that hurts and you know, it's just the dogs are a part of your family and so I'm hurting right now but I'll get over it. I have a beautiful eight year old and there's plenty of other dogs out there that need a rescue and saving a life and so I'm going to get up, dust myself off like you have to when you fail at something and it's just hard you know, it's just she's part of family. I'm talking to dog lovers here and everybody who's listening in our, in our small little world's dog lovers and that's the way it is. Thank you for asking.

[00:04:05] **Mandy Matney:** I just want to, I just want to say that you didn't fail. I think you gave Coco the best life that she could have possibly have had and do not consider it to be a failure. Like...



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[00:04:16] **Eric Bland:** Right it just leaves a hole in your heart.

[00:04:18] **Mandy Matney:** Right.

[00:04:18] **Eric Bland:** You know.

[00:04:19] **Mandy Matney:** I know.

[00:04:20] **Eric Bland:** And we only get so many holes in our heart you know you can't fill all, you you create a new hole and you dig you know you fill it up and a new hole starts and but yeah, thank you. We did not fail her, you're right.

[00:04:34] **Mandy Matney:** You didn't and yeah, she was very lucky to have you guys give her a lot of love. And I'm just so sorry.

[00:04:41] **Eric Bland:** Thanks sweetheart.

[00:04:49] **Liz Farrell:** Well, speaking of stuff we did this weekend, I started watching that new show called *Based on a True Story* on Peacock. Have you guys started watching that?

[00:04:58] **Eric Bland:** I'm gonna start tonight.

[00:04:59] **Liz Farrell:** Did you, you watched it Mandy? All of it?

[00:05:02] **Mandy Matney:** Yes.

[00:05:03] **Liz Farrell:** Me too, watched all eight episodes.

[00:05:05] **Mandy Matney:** Yes, yes.



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[00:05:08] **Eric Bland:** You bingers, you guys are bingers.

[00:05:09] **Liz Farrell:** It was hard not to.

[00:05:10] **Mandy Matney:** It goes by really fast.

[00:05:12] **Liz Farrell:** It does. They're only like 29 minutes. But it was interesting because when I saw the preview to it, I knew immediately that I had to watch it because obviously it's about true crime podcasters. The plot is really super perverse. And I kind of love it like, it's, they're basically taking how this world looks at true crime is entertainment, right? And they're saying, like, what if a serial killer helps make a podcast? And just like, there's Eric, you're gonna love it, because it's just, it's so strange. But there's a part where the serial killer is having like a Zoom call with other serial killers or murderers. And it's just it's, it's such a just, I don't know, that idea just sort of tickled me.

[00:05:58] **Eric Bland:** Oh god.

[00:05:59] **Liz Farrell:** Did you like it, Mandy?

[00:06:01] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, um, and I was thinking about it like, *Only Murders in the Building* was like kind of the first one to do this, to talk about true crime podcasts in a funny way and really have true crime podcasts as like the, the main thing of a show. But this, what I did like about it was it made fun of like, the evilness and the, like, just insanity around the true crime world right now. And just how crazy and desperate for fame people are and how like, I mean, I'm sure people who aren't in that world are like, there's no way that there would be like people that would team up with a serial killer to get famous and to get a true crime podcast, but I have met like 50 of them in the last year.



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[00:06:52] **Eric Bland:** I have walked, I've met a lot of people and who talk about, oh, it must be so easy to podcast. And then I have friends now that started their own podcast and, you know, think everybody thinks that all you got to do is get in front of a microphone and talk. And it's not that simple. It takes a lot of planning. You know, obviously Liz does outlines and you and David give up topics and you got to have a gel personality with you, if you have a co host with you. And you have to have an audience, you have to have a hook. It just, I don't think you can just get in front of a microphone and do it and get 300,000 people like we have.

[00:07:32] **Liz Farrell:** So you're saying if we wanted to do a podcast with Alex Murdaugh, like if we if this is this is the show, Eric. It's like if we had done a podcast with Alex Murdaugh as the secret anonymous, like third host, you know what I'm saying? And allowed Alex, which basically is what I'm going to assume...I mean, there's, let's be honest, there's some podcasts out there that about the Murdaugh stuff that I almost think that Alex is the secret third host, the anonymous. Because they're just pushing his message. So, you know, it's not that far fetched.

[00:08:07] **Mandy Matney:** Might as well be.

[00:08:09] **Eric Bland:** I'd rather it be like, *Silence of the Lambs*. You know, Hannibal Lecter. I'd rather be like the psychiatrist and have the, Alex Murdaugh on the couch so that I could just constantly ask questions and compare him to other serial killers. I mean, you remember Hannibal, he, all of his patients were these wacky crazy criminals or deviants and it kind of shaped his personality. I'd rather, I'd love if Alex was a patient, I was a psychiatrist, to really dig deep into his childhood and what he thought, what he was told by his father, his grandfather, you know, was his path preordained? The same way that Buster thought he was just going to



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become a lawyer and settle in the Hampton. I'd really love to dig in deep. Is that what it does, it tells you into the serial killer's mind?

[00:08:56] **Liz Farrell:** No.

[00:08:56] **Eric Bland:** No?

[00:08:57] **Liz Farrell:** No but here...

[00:08:58] **Mandy Matney:** It just kind of makes fun of it.

[00:09:01] **Liz Farrell:** Here's a question for you, since you want to talk about the psychological aspect of this. So the serial killer sort of posed a question because obviously, the idea of a serial killer hosting a podcast is disgusting, and you know, people making money off of that it's even worse, because when I was watching, I said to my friend, it's like, it's like they got a pet shark. Like they have this pet shark now because you know, this guy is gonna bite somebody and he's gonna, he's gonna cause mayhem. Like, you might think right now, like, it's cool, I'm the only one with a pet shark. But eventually, somebody's gonna get hurt. And obviously, that bears out but...

[00:09:36] **Eric Bland:** Is he making more silly serial killers? Or he's just telling you his recipe?

[00:09:39] **Liz Farrell:** I think that's season two.

[00:09:40] **Mandy Matney:** Well, that's the funny thing, he calls it creating new content when he's gonna kill somebody else and he's like "the people really need new content. They're sick of the old murders."

[00:09:55] **Eric Bland:** Did you guys watch *Dexter*?



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[00:09:57] **Liz Farrell:** Yes.

[00:09:57] **Eric Bland:** Loved it.

[00:09:59] **Mandy Matney:** Loved it. That's one of my favorite all time shows.

[00:10:02] **Eric Bland:** Totally agree.

[00:10:02] **Liz Farrell:** It actually reminds me more of *Killing Eve* to be honest with you, because it sort of makes, it's not making fun of but it like presents you this idea of like, how far are you willing to take the entertainment aspect of killing because when we look at true crime, obviously, these are real people, real victims and real just very traumatic situations. But we still, there's an entertainment aspect to it, obviously, that makes big bucks, you know, and just all sorts of mediums. But the serial killer in the show, he asked the question: who's worse? The person who puts the bullet in the cow's skull? Or the people who eat the cow? So he's saying, is it worse to be a serial killer, or a murderer than to be entertained? Or, you know, receiving his, like Mandy said, fresh content as entertainment. So Eric, which is worse?

[00:10:57] **Eric Bland:** I think we have a tendency to be hypocritical, like, we were driving down the road last night, after Renee's dinner, and I told my daughter that the farm up the street killed White Face and White Face was the cow and we used to go up and give him carrots and everything, and we humanized them. And the owner, you know, obviously sent him to the slaughterhouse and you know, he's eating steak for a year, and we just left the steak house. And so I said, this guy is an asshole for killing White Face, he was a pet. He knew we fed him and everybody brought carrots and whatever. And, and my daughter just said dad, you just had a steak. I mean, what are you



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crazy? You, you know, you're gonna let somebody else kill, you know, kill the cow and you're just gonna eat them? You might as well kill them yourself.

[00:11:39] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, you just your your your steak was somebody else's White Face. Something to think about. Yeah I get it. Yeah, I don't know which is worse. I think the person who kills has to be, obviously, but it is, it is a really fine line that we all walk in true crime, and especially the three of us here who are so close to so many victims. I mean, it's not, we laugh sometimes because we have to, but like, I laugh a lot of times because I'm on the phone with victims. Like Sandy Smith laughs all the time about this stuff, because it makes her feel better. And it makes her, you have to find laughter and you have to find, but there is like a, there is a line that you shouldn't cross. And I think that the show really exploits the fact and makes fun of the fact that like people will cross that line just to get famous or just to get a hot podcast. But what I did think was funny about it was they like did all this, they decided like we're gonna, we're gonna dance with the devil, like, we're just gonna go all in, and we're gonna make this podcast and it's gonna be a huge hit and I can't wait. And then the next morning, they have like, seven downloads.

[00:13:04] **Eric Bland:** Is he a retired serial killer, or is he just taking a break and just telling you his business?

[00:13:09] **Mandy Matney:** Fresh content.

[00:13:12] **Eric Bland:** Fresh content. Wow.

[00:13:14] **Liz Farrell:** No, literally active.

[00:13:14] **Eric Bland:** Pet shark and we're dealing with the devil. No question. You guys aptly described it.



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[00:13:20] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah.

[00:13:21] **Liz Farrell:** Pet shark.

[00:13:22] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. And I think it's really interesting. But it's almost like too close to home because of, you know, we have just met so many people and been close with so many people in the last few years that like, you wouldn't believe the stuff that they do for attention or to get like the next scoop of the story. All of the like weird underworld of all the Facebook groups and the Reddit groups and how they all like compete with each other to be the best. A lot of these people would totally team up with Alex Murdaugh if they had the opportunity to do a true crime podcast. Like 1,000,000% and I think I'm sure people watching it being like, no, no way people will do that. Yeah, they would, unfortunately. Oh, yeah, the Netflix guy emailed Alex.

[00:14:15] **Eric Bland:** I said Alex was a serial criminal. He checks all the boxes of, you know, theft, murder, betrayal, everything. And I said the only thing he isn't is a killer, you know, a serial killer, but I said he actually is a serial killer because he killed two people and Dick reported me to the bar for comparing him to a serial killer. I think Alex could have those tendencies, not that he killed more than two people that we know of at this time, but the way that he was a psychopath to be able to rationalize and live with what he did and you know, not have that guilt that normal people would have had over time to watch people who are exploited. Do you guys think that he has, not saying he's a serial killer where he's killed millions of people, but he has those tendencies or you see the way that he's able to spin out of stuff like a serial killer would? What are your thoughts?



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[00:15:15] **Liz Farrell:** I guess the question is if he gets pleasure out of killing, so that there's sort of a, I mean obviously, I think there's some sort of sexual issue with serial killers, if that's, you know, sort of how they, they get their jollies. And I think in the show, too, the they sort of explore that too. Meaning like, they're sort of was this like sexual undertone of like, sexual frustration or what have you, but I don't I don't know. I don't know what Alex got out of that. I think he was solving, my personal opinion is he's just a problem solver who sees murder as on the table. Something that you might have to do in desperate circumstances, not necessarily that he's out there like, who's you know, planning his next kill or what have you. But one of the...

[00:16:01] **Eric Bland:** What about his, his alternative life of thief or, you know, what he did after hours that we've heard rumors going?

[00:16:10] **Liz Farrell:** I don't think that was his alternate life, Eric, I think that was his real life. I think that was his whole life. I don't think that was a separate personality. I don't think that he had two personalities. I think he had one personality that people feel like they have to act like that was two personalities, like we got so fooled by him. You knew exactly who he was, you just didn't think that he would go this far. That's all. That's in my opinion. So yeah.

[00:16:34] **Eric Bland:** What do you think, Mandy?

[00:16:36] **Mandy Matney:** But question, and I was just thinking about this as Eric was talking, do we think, so the the serial killer in the show like loves the attention and he gets upset when like there's not enough people listening to this podcast. And he's like, do I do more? Do we think Alex loves the media circus that was created around him? And do you think that he would be offended if the numbers stopped and people stopped paying attention to him?



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[00:17:03] **Liz Farrell:** Yes.

[00:17:04] **Eric Bland:** I definitely do Mandy. I think he walked in like, like the cock of the walk in court. And I think he, it's a way of him getting you know, the this acknowledgment from everybody, this whole world like they're so into the Murdaugh family and Murdaugh name I think I do. I think life would be very boring for him if if the microphone and the speakers got quiet.

[00:17:30] **Mandy Matney:** And I think his his attorneys love it, too. I think that they think that they love to use it like oh, poor this guy he has to, poor Alex like he's got to parade in front of cameras, and whatever their stupid language that they used. But I think Dick and Jim love it as much or more than Alex.

[00:17:52] **Liz Farrell:** One more thing I just wanted to say about the TV show was that there was this line that actually made me laugh for a while afterward, where the husband of the couple, the main protagonist, makes a comment to his wife's friend about a story that she put on Instagram. And he's like, hey, you were looking good. And she's like, creeper. Like she responds to him like, you're not supposed to comment on people's posts on Instagram or like on social media. So his wife is like, everyone knows that you don't comment on your friends' fake lives. You, you don't make a comment about it, you just sort of pretend it doesn't exist. Like it's almost like we have disassociated as a group of people where we have the way we live online, and then the way we live in real life. And so going back to what you're saying with Alex, does he like the attention and all of that? I do think that that that is true. He was asking Buster on those jailhouse calls, like, you know about that stuff. And he almost seemed, when when Buster told him that he got recognized at the casino in Vegas, he was almost like a well I'll be darned response, you know, like, I didn't believe that he was like angry about it. I believe that he was



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sort of impressed with himself that like his family is now widely known. So I do think that there is, I think the whole Alex Murdaugh trial has created several careers, right, so ours included. Just in the sense of like there's there's jobs to be done, and there's *inaudible* to be filled. And it's amazing to me that we're still seeing jobs being created by this one man's misdeeds when it comes to online stuff. So whether it's YouTube channels, other podcasts, or the special that apparently Jim and Dick are working on with Buster, whatever it is, it's still going, it's still out there. So that's, just for what it's worth.

[00:19:52] **Eric Bland:** Why aren't there more, maybe there are but, why aren't there more female serial killers?

[00:19:58] **Mandy Matney:** We don't have problems like men do. I think it's just...

[00:20:05] **Eric Bland:** I'm curious, I don't know, were there any female serial killers?

[00:20:10] **Mandy Matney:** Yes. The, there's a Netflix story about one. There's a couple, but in in the same way of like, why aren't, a majority of school shooters are white male between the ages of 18 and 25. And time is, I think it just has a lot. I think it has a lot to it...well, yeah, I mean, toxic masculinity and they're, the structure that men are raised with is a lot of times just very, very unhealthy. And it's about, it's bottling up feelings until you get to the point where you have to kill somebody, apparently, and you don't feel like you have any other options. And that's horrible. But yeah, I mean...

[00:20:58] **Eric Bland:** Maybe the women serial killers may be like somebody who marries somebody and then they poison them or they poison three or four people. But the men serial killers, they go out. They go riding in the car and they'll find somebody that, no connection to them whatsoever. It's,



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women it seems to be a relationship thing. The men serial killer is just going out to just find somebody and going to do what they do.

[00:21:22] **Liz Farrell:** Well it's a power thing. It's, that's power and control. Ultimately, what it comes down to. I was when I was watching, *Based on a True Story*, and they were, let's just say there was a body they needed to get rid of. I was thinking about Brian Walshe in Boston, the kid that I went to junior high with, and just how he like panicked and Googled how to do it and went to Home Depot or wherever he went to get his little tools to like disassemble his wife's body or allegedly. It was amazing to me just thinking about how complicated he made that situation. Maybe they, maybe it's easier on TV, I don't know. But...

[00:22:02] **Mandy Matney:** That guy did like the list of things not to do. He made it really, really, really easy to figure out what he was doing. Like if there's a list of like...

[00:22:14] **Eric Bland:** Our guest on the podcast today, what did you, why did you do this? You know, how about this? You shouldn't have done this. What's your thought process? You know?

[00:22:22] **Mandy Matney:** Well, he was, Brian Walshe was literally like bread crumbs, here's a digital bread crumb. Here's this, here's that. I'm gonna make this real easy for the cops.

[00:22:32] **Liz Farrell:** Right. He could have, yeah.

[00:22:34] **Eric Bland:** It's like *Dexter*. *Dexter* was so good in the beginning. You know, he, he was methodical. He had the polyethylene all on the rooms, and he got it up, and he got rid of it. But then, you know, it's like, Dostoyevsky, you know, *Crime and Punishment*, the breadcrumb thing. I'm getting away



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with it, I shouldn't be getting away with it. Then he did this, you know, always did the slides. And then, you know, he was he didn't take the bodies out as far or he waited, you know, he started having discussions with the victims and that created more time for people and a little sloppy. It's hard to keep that that exactness, that perfection I guess where you don't start slipping. What do you think?

[00:23:16] **Liz Farrell:** Did you guys see that a woman in South Korea the other day, I guess it was a week ago or so, she was a true crime fan, she was obsessed with the books and the podcasts and the shows and such. And she was curious, I guess, like after she graduated high school, she didn't do anything but do the thing. Like read the books, watch the movies, watch the documentaries, completely obsessed with true crime. So she wanted to know what it was like to kill somebody so she did. And she dismembered the body and left it in the woods. And she just, she got arrested I think it was on June 4 or June 3 or something like that. But a friend sent that to me just because you know as much as like, I have so many friends who are true crime fans, and obviously a lot of our listeners are too, like just true true crime fans and I just never was and I think you know, journalism sort of tainted me in that regard. So she sent me that like, maybe I shouldn't be watching so many documentaries. But yeah, apparently apparently there are people who yeah, who get obsessed.

[00:24:16] **Eric Bland:** Is that Kohberger, do you think he would? Do you think Kohberger, Mandy, just wanted to test his knowledge because he was a PhD student in criminology and hey, I've learned all these things, I've seen the mistakes that people make. Can I get away with it? What do you think caused him to do what he did?

[00:24:35] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, well, we'll say the word allegedly because he has not been convicted yet. But I think that it does seem, with him, and I



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haven't really done a deep dive into him just know bits and pieces, it seems again, like a power move. Like I think that he thought that he was smarter than everybody else. And I think that he wanted to test the waters and that was his sick little challenge. And it's disgusting. And it's like, this obsession that it really there's another line in the show that was like I would never, what is it, Liz? I would never bet against America's fascination with true crime and murder or something like that. And it's unfortunately just extremely true and I mean, even, it's even changed from when we started the podcast in 2021—which I thought we were on the tail end of the true crime podcast phenomenon. I thought that that that was kind of the end of it. But it's even exploded since then, and the true crime genre has even gotten more popular since then. And it can just get really dangerous. And I think it's good to have discussions of like, how far is too far? What is the line not to cross? How can we still be respectful to victims, and...but *Based on a True Story* is funny to me, because it shows just how, I don't know, desperate people are to get into that world. And to, and I was watching it too, like, I wished at the very beginning they would have just made a podcast, I wish they would have just gone to police and made a podcast about everything they knew, like our plumber was a serial killer and we turned him in. That would be a great podcast. Like you don't have to do all, you don't have to, like, necessarily team up with evil to get popular in this thing. You just have to be a little different, which is what we've done. But yeah, I was like a little flattered watching it being like, do people really think that you have to in order to break through in the true crime world you have to do something as extreme of teaming up with a serial killer? I don't know.

[00:26:47] **Eric Bland:** Do you think we'll ever see Alex sitting in prison with, you know, somebody like Anderson Cooper in front of him or somebody like that, you know, an Erin Burnett or whoever you want to say whether it's George Stephanopoulos, or, you know, interviewing him at, you know, for



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three hours just to hear what he had to say, like when OJ was, you know, given comments, or we're never going to hear that until his appeals are over?

[00:27:18] **Mandy Matney:** We need to look at the laws with that, because I have heard that there's laws in South Carolina preventing, SCDC is pretty strict when it comes to access to prisoners and how much you can use them. But I would be interested in looking at the laws and seeing if the laws change within the next year or so magically, because I could see that happening. But what I've heard is that SCDC, like it just depends on the state like some some state prison systems, kind of like an all access, like you want to have them here. And SCDC is not like that right now.

[00:27:57] **Liz Farrell:** So he probably got transferred out of state.

[00:28:01] **Eric Bland:** You remember the Iceman killer in New Jersey, Liz? He's the big guy that was the killer for the mafia. He was not really Italian, but they used him to kill people. And he killed like 63 people, he would put them in caves. They like, the mafia would say, I want this guy to suffer so he'll put a camera up and he put rats in there and put food on the guy and, you know, film them getting eaten. And he was a normal guy. I mean, just a normal insurance salesman, and he ended up killing 63 people. His family didn't know. It's called The Iceman. And they interviewed him in prison and it was chilling. I mean, on the one hand, he was coaching baseball, he loved his daughters, took them to recitals. They never knew and then they interview the daughters. It's really, that's an interesting documentary.

[00:28:46] **Liz Farrell:** Well, that's gross Eric, it's gross. But yeah, isn't there a possibility that Alex could in the future be moved out of state too? so it wouldn't surprise me if they tried to work around that law in that way too just to get him on camera. But I mean, we've talked ad nauseam about wanting, you know, what we would do if we ever had the chance to interview him but



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at this point, I mean, it's going to happen. Somebody's going to do it. Probably be Jim, it'll probably be you know, Jim will be the interviewer and that'll be the...that's, Jim's podcast will be based on a true story.

[00:29:21] **Eric Bland:** Like Russell TV, it'll be like a Russell TV they'll have a little mirror on the jailhouse wall.

[00:29:26] **Liz Farrell:** Can you imagine getting Russell's cousin in too? To interview Alex then we can see who the journalist is. Like...

[00:29:36] **Eric Bland:** Yeah and really, just really really insightful.

[00:29:46] **Eric Bland:** We'll be right back

COMMERCIAL

[00:29:56] **Eric Bland:** Had an exciting week with a lot of different developments in the Murdaugh-saga matter last week. We had, at the end of the week, I'll start at the end, Judge Hall just in a very Form 4, which is without stating his reasons, denied outright Dick and Jim's motion to reconsider his denial of them getting \$160,000 of attorneys fees for Alex's appeal. And I think it was surprising because, you know, they basically in their motion, said Judge Hall, you are so wrong on the law, the law is crystal clear that this is not a forfeiture situation. It hasn't reached that level, yet. They haven't brought forfeiture proceedings, the government, to get his ill gotten gains, and these are lawful funds. They went into an IRA, they were, they had to be earned properly, and the fact that he's admitted to stealing other stuff, that doesn't mean that these lawful funds become ill gotten gains. And I think they thought they would get some kind of hearing on this, but Judge Hall ruled against them. And what you're seeing is a consistent pattern of judges not, if it's even the benefit of a doubt that it's on the fence, it always



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falls against Alex. This is the pattern that we are seeing, and I believe it will continue to go unchanged. And Dick and Jim, it's getting to the point where it's like, thank you, sir may I have another. Gets slammed in the head, give it to me again, give it to me again. And so I think that ruling was telling, I think it's, it portends to other judges that may hear other things regarding Alex. I don't think we're going to see a judge that's going to step out into the abyss and give a ruling to Alex where the public is going to, you know, either be aghast or outraged. And that that was the last ruling.

[00:31:57] **Liz Farrell:** Yes I think I agree with you that Judge Hall, and maybe that does portend what the future is going to be for Alex in terms of judges just not going for it, but I also think that they were, their argument was apples and oranges. So to us people on the outside it looks like they're saying because they're arguing the constitutionality of it. That was not what Judge Hall's original decision was based on. It was based on the fact that that was a deal that was made between Dick and Jim, Alex and then the receivership. That's all it is, it's, the question of whether or not those were ill gotten gains was never the issue. Am I right about that?

[00:32:34] **Eric Bland:** I totally agree that it was, you can make an agreement that you don't have to make, that the law doesn't require you to make. But just like in our situation where he agreed to the confession of judgment because he wanted to use that to his advantage to go before a judge and say, look, I've I've made restitution or I'm trying to do right, I'm showing contrition. He didn't have to do this, but he wanted to do it so Buster can end up with money so that the Beach family would get money, that he would be able to get attorneys' fee money. All these were to his benefit and when it didn't work out the way that he wanted to, like when he trafficked the confession of judgment in front of Judge Lee and Judge Lee said \$7 million no 10% and Dick Harpootlian was incredulous, you can't do that. It's unreasonable, he's entitled to, you know, look, he's made restitution to the Satterfields by giving



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them a judgment. When it doesn't work out the way that they wanted it to, then they want to unwind it and undo it.

[00:33:38] **Liz Farrell:** So that's the real pattern there, I think. I think yes, I think that Dick and Jim have lost so many of their cockamamie ideas that they've put forth in front of judges but I do think that Judge Hall's ruling was sound. I think that he basically flicked them off like a flea because it's, you're making an argument that has nothing to do with the original proposition. It's not what I based my decision on to begin with. It has nothing to do with anything, you can come behind, it's a no backsies situation. So I think that yeah, you see that pattern and then you see it with what you're talking about which you guys, you'll get into that, but once again, like it didn't work out in your favor, so now you want to now you want to go back and say oh, actually.

[00:34:24] **Eric Bland:** I want a do over

[00:34:25] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, do over.

[00:34:26] **Mandy Matney:** Well, and I think that this ruling was also pretty big because a majority of the rulings against them were Newman and so team Murdaugh and their little camp of trolls online was always anti-Newman like, Newman will just rule against him no matter what. It's just Newman, blah blah blah blah. And now Hall comes along and is like no, you can't do that here either. That's a big deal because it is showing them that, like, and that gets my wheels spinning of like have, have they not been this good at lawyering all along? Or have are they're just used to like kind of bullying judges into agreeing with them?

[00:35:09] **Eric Bland:** And winning. Bullying and winning.



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[00:35:11] **Mandy Matney:** And winning, right. And it, was it really lawyering all along, or was it just this good old boy backdoor power moves that has made them successful so far?

[00:35:23] **Eric Bland:** Well, it's a tilt. So if there's anything on the fence 10 percent this way 10 percent that way, it would always fall Dick's way, fall Dick's way, because he was the senator because he was a solicitor, because he's a well known attorney. It all falls Dick's way, but nobody's willing to let it fall Alex's way. That's where we are.

[00:35:41] **Liz Farrell:** So two things. One is that Judge Hall, his experience is largely in criminal law. So that is his area, if he has an area of expertise, that's, that's his area of expertise. So if anyone I would say is going to understand the constitutionality of or even just, you know, what is tainted funds and what's not tainted funds? I understand that that's a civil issue, but, he just he has, I'm just saying that's his background. So it's not like he came at this without being very knowledgeable in it. But the second thing is, is that the same people and I know that Eric, you were one of these people for a second, but who told me and Mandy that Dick and Jim, particularly Dick, are chess players. Are the ones who would, when I brought up could the Jeroid Price case have something to do with the Alex Murdaugh case, in the sense that it's a test case to see if you can shorten the length of a murderer's sentence, using this 2010 law. People were like, you're crazy. That sounds crazy. It sounds like conspiracy thinking. And it's like, no, it actually sounds like a chess game. It sounds like if you lose A, and you lose B, what's our plan C? What's our plan D? What's our plan E? If I'm playing chess, I'm looking at how to how to test the law, or how to change the law to get this man out, the ultimate goal is to get him out of prison. So that's what always bothers me with that whole thing of like Dick and Jim being geniuses or whatever, that the same people who want to say that they're playing chess can't recognize the game of chess



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when they see it. And I'm not not including you and that statement there, but.

[00:37:14] **Eric Bland:** I believe that, just before Mandy you get into that, I believed that up until they made the motion against the Satterfields. And to me, that was a bridge too far. It was lawyers who didn't really think out how the long game is going to be, what downstream damage could happen. It was like they were giggling when they were typing the motion. That's what I see, like I see Phil or Jim, giggling when they're typing the motion, oh, we'll do this. We'll say this without really seeing it. And that's why I said in the motion, Ronnie softened my language. I said, we're playing chess and they're playing checkers. Ronnie softened the language and said they don't see the chessboard, that's what he said. So I, I take back what I said. I think they're winging it at this point, to be honest with you.

[00:37:58] **Mandy Matney:** I think that they just play a different game. And I was thinking about this the other day, I was talking to an attorney from California, a female attorney from California and she was just talking about how utterly appalled she was by Dick's overall behavior in the courtroom. But especially it came to a peak when he pointed the gun at the prosecution and joked, "tempting." And that was his move of just, and that's how he behaves all the time. It's, I can get away with anything and usually it works. And I think the very disturbing part of that is that there's really been nothing, besides the fact that he's losing in court, he's not facing repercussions otherwise. Which showing like this behavior can't be tolerated on a like he was his behavior was embarrassing on behalf of lawyers in South Carolina. And I just, I look back on that moment and I'm really really bothered by it because it's like, we all just moved on and we all just and we knew like and everybody's like haha, Dick Harpootlian will be Dick Harpootlian. The courtroom laughed. They laughed with him. That's how this man always behaves. I'm not laughing either.



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[00:39:14] **Eric Bland:** That's why I'm seeking sanctions against him. If you noticed our motion wasn't just a memorandum in response. It's an offensive move, seeking Rule 11 sanctions under our rules of procedure, I put them on notice and gave them an opportunity, withdrawal this motion. It's it's it's not grounded in fact, it's not meritorious. It's nonsensical. It's not novel. It's, you have no basis in fact for what you're saying. You're trying to advance the interest of people that you don't have standing advanced interests of whether its victims or its people, other parties that paid money, and defiantly they say no, they're not going to do it. So I'm going to we're seeking sanctions at them and they're wasting the court's time. They're causing a lengthening of this process, they are traumatizing the Satterfields over and over again and it's got to stop. And I've gotten sanctions before against lawyers and law firms and I'm confident that if this judge looks at it the right way that they should be sanctioned.

[00:40:18] **Liz Farrell:** So this response of yours, Eric, and that, that Ronnie and you put together has gotten a lot of attention over the last week because it was so fiery. And that was the word that we repeatedly use to describe it, because there's really no other word. And for you, what has that reaction been from the public?

[00:40:37] **Eric Bland:** Totally positive. You know, I've gotten some letters and emails from lawyers across the country that are appellate lawyers that they really liked the use, the analogy that we did towards golf, you know, and obviously, they were golfers and understood it. But really, it was designed to once and for all stop these guys from filing motions that are frivolous, that, you know, again, it goes back to just because you can make an argument or file a motion doesn't mean you should. And again, I see that that they've made this personal with me, you you cannot avoid if you read their motion it's they're not hammering Ronnie they're hammering Eric Bland, and to use the legal process to extract some embarrassment against me for the positions I've



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taken over the past two years, courts cannot countenance that. That is against the rules. That's vexatious, *inaudible*, protracted type of matters that lawyers are not allowed to do. And that's what Rule 11 is designed for and lawyers have been sanctioned for abusing the system. And they better win this motion because if they don't, they're gonna get nailed for abusive process, frivolous preceding Sanctions Act and malicious prosecution, or wrongful use of the judicial proceedings. I'm coming after them.

[00:41:58] **Liz Farrell:** I love the word vexatious. I think that's perfect. It perfectly describes it.

[00:42:03] **Mandy Matney:** What judge would rule on that?

[00:42:05] **Eric Bland:** Well, that's the thing.

[00:42:07] **Liz Farrell:** Gergel.

[00:42:07] **Eric Bland:** Well, no. Judge Hall, we believe, is the proper judge to hear this because the motion was made to accept the confession of judgment by the receiver, not by us. We were not parties to it, it was in the Mallory Beach case, the appointment of the receiver happened in the Mallory Beach case. We made it in our case and we, you know, we withdrew the motion because it was appointed, John T. Lay were appointed John T. Lay and Peter McCoy in the Mallory Beach case, and he's the judge that ruled on the joint motion of the receiver and Dick and Jim. So to file this in the Satterfield case, I understood, I understand why they tried to file it in the Satterfield case, but it's Judge Hall that needs to hear this. And I sent it to Judge Hall. I sent him a copy of our response and Dick's motion and said, look, I think this was filed in the wrong court. We're asking you to hear it and we haven't heard back yet.



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[00:43:06] **Liz Farrell:** So just to clarify that, Dick and Jim filed it in federal court as part of the Nautilus case, correct?

John T. Lay

[00:43:12] **Eric Bland:** No, they filed their answer, the amended answer in the Nautilus case in front of Judge Gergel. And that's where they sent off the you know, a smoke bomb. Well, they need to go after Eric Bland, they need to be added to the case. But they didn't make a motion for us to be added to that case. They filed it in the Satterfield, Hampton County case, the original case where we sued Alex and we sued Bank of American and we sued Cory Fleming and his law firm, we never sued PMPED, we settled with them without having to file a lawsuit. But I think that Judge Gergel is never going to entertain any type of request. And remember, the the parties that we settled from have not made a motion to intervene and add us to parties to the case, they don't want to be parties. And so nobody has actually made a motion to name the Satterfields as a party. Now, what he's trying to do is get the confession of judgment vacated and then be able to take that ruling in front of Judge Gergel. But we all know how Judge Gergel feels about Alex Murdaugh. He already said that in his order for Russell Laffitte's motion for a new trial, his second motion, where he said Alex is a serial liar, I'm not going to take his word.

[00:44:29] **Liz Farrell:** And one thing I want to note about your response is just how you basically say I think it was one, Ronnie wrote this correct? Like the bulk of it and you added language, and I want to put it out there, I did not write any part of that. I did not see a draft of it. Nothing. I was just as new to it as everyone else. So anyone who's detecting Ronnie sarcasm that is Ronnie, it's not me.

[00:44:53] **Eric Bland:** It's Ronnie.



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[00:44:54] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. I mean, I endorse it. I thought it was brilliant. And even though I hate sports analogies because I can't always follow them, but I got it. I got it with the golf. And I thought that was really smart and memorable. That was a way to keep it sticky, right? That the public would remember it and all of that. But yeah, I the the wording that you guys used in this was probably the strongest wording I would say that I've seen in any of these filings yet. Do you typically file responses like this, Eric?

[00:45:27] **Eric Bland:** No, no, it did, because it got in got personal. You know, I said like, you know, spoiled child or their brief is, you know, their motion was undisciplined, and, you know, didn't have the wherewithal to even be filed. So I would never say that about another lawyer. But in this case, they made it personal with their motion, and they've made it personal against me, which is fine. And that's what I said. But they went that extra step and went after the Satterfields. And so when they went after the Satterfields, that is a bridge too far for me and so it's similar to Will Folks, you know, when Will Folks last week made a statement that Ronnie and I are hustlers and that we're less than principal. I don't mind him saying that about me. I don't believe I am. But when he said it about Ronnie Richter, who is, you know, intellectual, is kind is he's not as aggressive as I am. You know, that's a bridge too far for me. And I spoke up and, you know, we'll see where that goes. So I know that Will is saying that we were right now about the Smith case, that is another development that happened last week that we know that there is now a grand jury. And it appears that things are really speeding up regarding Steven Smith. So he is giving me props for that because I made that statement early on that there was a grand jury. And but, you know, it is what it is. But I'm happy that the Steven Smith thing is moving forward and I believe we will know something before Labor Day.

[00:47:04] **Mandy Matney:** Me too. I really, I think it's great that that's moving forward. But I just want to say that like, I don't think we should give anybody



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props for, how do I say this? Liz, do you know what I mean? Do you know what I'm thinking right now? I get annoyed, I get annoyed that he is like giving himself props for just saying that you were right with something that you were right about. Like we should just, of course, he should have admitted that you were right. When somebody's right, they're right. When they're wrong, they're wrong. There, it shouldn't have anything to do with if you have beef with that person or not or if you have tried that person to the mud, that just drives me crazy. But...

[00:47:47] **Eric Bland:** So we are waiting to hear if Judge Hall is going to grab this or if he's going to write back and say no, it's going to be heard before the Hampton County Court, which means it will drop into Judge Price's lap or somebody that is traveling through the circuit because Carmen Mullen has recused herself from ever hearing any motion that we make, based on the fact that we've had some dealings and I reported her to the judicial ODC. So we're waiting to have this motion heard. We're also I guess, waiting to see what Judge Gergel is going to do in the federal court if anything with the Nautilus case. So that's really it. And you know, Mark's case is proceeding to trial. Obviously, he's full speed ahead. And they're, you know, they're working him to death. And you know, he's in full trial mode right now, full preparation mode. And don't give Mark Tinsley two months to get prepared for trial because it's, it's a war you don't want to go into I promise you.

[00:48:49] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, I talk to him pretty regularly. He's on he is a man on fire right now. So if I'm a certain gas station owner, I would be sweating through my linen pants, that's for sure.

[00:49:03] **Eric Bland:** And Alex Murdaugh, Richard Alex Murdaugh is sitting at the the defense table with Parker. How do you, how do you separate yourself? They're, you can't create enough distance to get away from him.



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[00:49:15] **Liz Farrell:** No, they'll probably kiss each other on both cheeks when they see each other for the first time in public.

[00:49:22] **Mandy Matney:** And we'll be right back.

COMMERCIAL

[00:49:36] **Liz Farrell:** So one more thing that I want to talk about today is a profile that was written by a reporter at *The State Newspaper* and it ran in the *Island Packet Newspaper* about Buster Murdaugh. Yes. And did you read that Eric?

[00:49:49] **Eric Bland:** Oh, I sure did. That was the third thing I was going to talk about. Yeah, Buster's profile, so we're starting to see Buster, you know, stepping out. That was definitely a puff piece trying to, you know, get sympathy back to Buster's way, you know, separating him a little bit from the father, you know, with some of the jailhouse calls that they set forth in the article that Buster was like no dad, you know, I have not gone back to Moselle and no dad, you know, I don't, I don't know why people are, you know, coming after me. Camera people, you know, being trailed, it was definitely a puff piece that I can see Buster selling his story and sitting in front of George Stephanopoulos or some journalist, really, really talking about how he, you know, has been unfairly tarred and feathered in this, victimized, so that he can have a life because according to the article, his fiancée is working in a law firm but nobody knows what he's doing. And...

[00:50:57] **Liz Farrell:** Are we calling her his fiancée? Are they engaged?

[00:51:00] **Eric Bland:** I don't know, I thought they were.

[00:51:02] **Liz Farrell:** I mean, I would hope so. Not that I know of, but maybe they are.



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[00:51:06] **Eric Bland:** They bought a house together.

[00:51:09] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah so that, the story didn't mention that, that they bought a house, I won't say where. And they didn't mention that, like where we live, there are a lot of gated communities for a reason and he chose one that was not, which I found to be an interesting choice given his security concerns. But yeah, the neighborhood he chose to live in is very, like, it's just a very open and right there type of neighborhood, so.

[00:51:36] **Eric Bland:** Mandy, would you think about it? Did you read it?

[00:51:39] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. And I didn't, it was kind of a puff piece. But the thing with a profile is that, like, you should have sources that's very, that are very close with this person, showing who this person really is. And that story did not get there. They quoted like a florist? Like that didn't there was no...

[00:52:02] **Liz Farrell:** They quoted a florist that didn't want to be quoted, she was just like, let's just leave it be, huh?

[00:52:09] **Eric Bland:** You don't get an insight into who he is. Like, they don't say he's a guy that, you know, he exercises or he goes to church or, you know, he, his friends are these people or he belongs to this organization. He's, he's like a phantom. You don't know what's inside him.

[00:52:27] **Liz Farrell:** Right. So do you guys think that this was, now first of all, I just want to preface that I thought, actually, I thought it was pretty well written. But you know, absent of those things that Mandy mentioned, but I wondered too, if like, because Buster is considered the maybe final enigma in all of this, he's the person that nobody knows what to make of, right, because



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of how he conducted himself during the trial. And then that quote, as the profile mentions, that was in the *Daily Mail* where he said, don't presume to know what my support for my father is. And don't, I don't want to see in writing that I'm supporting my father. But then it sure did seem like he was supporting his father. So that confusion, that sort of public interest, I think in finding out who Buster is, is obviously a hot commodity, right? And that hot commodity is getting sold and has been sold from what we understand. And there is a project in process, so do you think that this was a piece that was pitched to reporters to get the hype up? Because because it is a piece and this isn't, again, this is not a knock on the reporter because it's I'm not saying that this occurred; but it is funny to me. I'm, I have two thoughts. One, it's I think it's natural to want to write a profile of Buster Murdaugh, of course, but two, I think the timing is interesting given the project that's in the works and what this does for that project, right? Who is Buster? Well, we can't answer in this story. What, where are we going to find the answer? Oh, look, here's a TV special, right?

[00:54:04] **Eric Bland:** It created more questions because the first part of the article said he was cloned like his dad, he was growing up like his daddy: went to Wofford, he was going to go to law school. He used that Buster name, that Buster had so much cachet to it—the name Buster. He was going to migrate into the law firm. He was going to be the next generation. The second half of the article seems to be no no, no, no, no. I don't want to have anything to do with my father. I'm not like my father. I don't support my father. I was going in a different direction. He wanted me to go back to law school, I cut the cord and said no, I don't want that second chance. So I think the article created more questions than answers. What do you think, Mandy?

[00:54:49] **Mandy Matney:** That's creating the hype that's that's just making it more mysterious. And I just want to say I don't think Buster is that mysterious of a person. I do think in the last few years I do, I thought that Paul was a lot



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more similar to Alex than Buster. But now I think Buster is a lot more similar to Alex. I do think that he, I think that he wanted to live the same way. I think he he wanted that be a lawyer, do this, do that. And I mean, listen, I read his blog word for word and back in 2019 and it was very clear, he was very proud of the fact that he, his grandfather, great grandfather, great, great grandfather, all their photos were all their paintings were in the Hampton County courthouse where he planned on practicing law one day. And I think and I also just want to say that like, we're not monsters for not, everybody has a part in their heart for like, what has happened to Buster is horrible—but it's his father's fault. And I just wish that Buster, it should not be that big of a mystery whether or not he's supporting his father or not at this point. And I think his silence is supporting him and a lot of ways and it has been.

[00:56:17] **Eric Bland:** He's hedging his bet. He's trying to see as this goes on, if the murder case gets resolved, he supports his father. If the murder case on appeal is affirmed, then he's going to separate. He has to separate if he's going to have a life, he's going to have to come out and say, and take a firm stand. My dad was a thief. My dad was a murderer. He destroyed my family. He destroyed me. I am not Alex Murdaugh. My name is Buster Murdaugh. I am my own man. I've never been arrested. I've never done anything wrong. So he's hedging his bets because if his father's murder conviction is reversed he can't come out now. So I think he's he's a little juggling a ball right now. What do you guys think?

[00:57:02] **Liz Farrell:** I think it's kind of hard to be taken seriously when your name is Buster. But that's just me.

[00:57:07] **Mandy Matney:** And I think that speaks to the fact that he has not felt backed into a corner to come out against his father, I think that that shows the amount of power and like this underworld that still exists supporting the Murdaughs. I think Buster does feel a whole lot of support and



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I think he feels support from people supporting his father, starting with Jim Griffin and Dick Harpootlian. And I think that he doesn't feel backed up against a wall because he's hearing from people like Dick and Jim, like, support your father. Like there's still all these other people. You know what I mean? Does that make sense?

[00:57:47] **Eric Bland:** Yeah, he has an audience of like minded people. He his audience, the people that he's, in his orbit are the people who feel that Alex was wrongfully railroaded, that Alex isn't as bad as he should, that the state's making an example of him and the Murdaughs are virtuous people, but for Alex stealing money from clients, that's it. And I don't think he's hearing the other side that says, you know what, maybe you need to take a step back. Don't listen to Dick and Jim. They're too thick into the bramble. They're too deep in it. Look at it objectively, what has happened to your family? And like you said, Mandy, it's Alex who caused this problem.

[00:58:26] **Mandy Matney:** Right. And I just want to say one more thing. The, I spoke up for myself on Twitter, because again, I was getting tagged in like, because that article came out, people saying Buster should be left alone and this is all Mandy's fault because Buster should be left alone. And I stood up for myself, because I want to be clear one more time. I have never accused Buster of anything. I've never accused him of killing Steven Smith. I've never accused him of doing anything besides like kind of supporting his father, but I mean, can we stop blaming women for the problems of men? Like Buster is in Buster's place because of everything that his father does. And the more that people make excuses about that and blame everybody else besides Alex, the problem just continues. Alex is Buster's biggest problem and always has been.

[00:59:18] **Eric Bland:** Buster is 26 years old. He's a grown ass man. He should have objectively looked at his family and said, gee, it's great when it works, I



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get out of these tickets. It's great when it works when my dad can walk into a court and get a settlement for \$5 million and then we get to go away for six weeks or we he gets the Moselle farm in 2014. It's great when it works. But when it doesn't work, that's when you have to stand up and objectively look at it and say, you know what, this wasn't right. You know what, we we used our father's name or our grandfather's name in the wrong way and we got to a place that wasn't healthy and I have not been able to develop my own adulthood, my own manhood in my own way. It's being forced down my throat.

[01:00:09] **Liz Farrell:** So I have a friend who needed a lawyer back in the day; it's not me. Like 20 years ago, she had a DUI. And she fully admitted to drinking and driving. She was not trying to get out of it. And the lawyer kept trying to guide her narratively. So he went through her medications, he went through different things that went on that day and he would state to her what he thought the narrative was, without saying, this is going to be the truth. He'd say, oh, well, I just, you know, I looked up this medication, and it causes dizziness and slurring, you know, so maybe that, you know, and she kept saying, no, no. And I'm only bringing this up, because I feel like the Murdaugh family has been traditionally very good at that kind of narrative building within its own, you know, three walls or whatever they live in. They they're good at recasting the truth in a way that absolves them, right. So that's just been what Alex and his brothers were raised with and what Buster and his brother were raised with. It's just this sort of recasting the narrative. So I see, once again, we are in a situation where a narrative has been recast and I think that my opinion of Buster is that he is willing to take that narrative because the prize is still too good. There's still money in that family. There is still connectedness in that family. But I do know that there are people who care about Buster very much and then, very much because they feel an allegiance to Maggie, and they don't know what to make of his connection to his family. And so they don't know whether what line they if there's a line that



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they're going to cross because they themselves believe that Alex did this. So it's hurting, it's hurting Buster's opportunity at meaningful relationships, that, you know, if we do believe in an afterlife that maybe Maggie herself is trying to guide because she wants Buster to have a chance. But because the Murdaughs have circled their wagons around him—or at least that's the appearance of it—because he's still playing their game he's sort of inaccessible on that level. So that's what, that's his, that to me is what makes Buster interesting. But none of that, none of those questions are going to be answered in any, you know, documentary special or profile because it's always going to be controlled by that narrative that the Murdaughs have offered up to each other as the truth.

[01:02:24] **Mandy Matney:** It's also really sad because Buster is not going to be able to properly mourn his mother and brother's loss and deal with it in a healthy way until he confronts actually what happened. And I feel like he is surrounded by just so many people who do not want Buster to reach to the truth of what happened. And it's just really sad.

[01:02:51] **Eric Bland:** Well, that will require him to decompartmentalize the murders from the theft and lifestyle that he lived in deception to his clients and others from 2010 forward. I think he's trying to say, well, I'm not going to ever address the financial stuff, you know, my dad stole money or whatever, but he didn't commit murder. But I think it's all part of a pattern that led up to the murder and he has to look at the entire pantheon of Alex's legal life to see the the theft led to the murders, the theft, the natural evolution of how he stole money and deceived clients and maybe had the the assistance of Cory Fleming and other lawyers and judges if possible, if judges were involved, that the entire pantheon of how it progressed would lead to the murders. That's what he has to confront. He's been compartmentalizing and saying, oh my dad's a thief. But that doesn't mean he's a murderer, and he didn't commit



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these murders. I think it all progresses the same way. What do you guys think?

[01:03:58] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, it's a lack of a moral code. And I think it's a lack of a moral code that they taught their children in the Murdaugh family that you can lie, you can get away, the rules do not apply to you. And I think that that's a very dangerous thing to teach children. And the sad thing is, I don't think that they've learned it yet. I don't think that they have come to terms with the fact that they've, the way that they teach their children, the moral code that they've all been brought up with, produces somebody like Alex Murdaugh and that's a very dangerous thing to do.

[01:04:32] **Liz Farrell:** I think it's a challenge right now for them. The challenge right now for the Murdaugh family is to get back as much of what they had before the murders, to put all those pieces into place for themselves. And I think part of that is believing on some level, or at least saying that you believe that Alex didn't commit these murders, and maybe even that the thefts weren't what they look like so.

[01:04:59] **Eric Bland:** I don't think it'll ever, you can't put it together. I was listening to the last *Murdaugh Murders Podcast* this weekend and Mandy pulled a an interview that she had with me where I said, I think it was in late September, early October of 2021 where I said, look, the law firm is going to never be the same. The Murdaugh name is going to be taken off the law firm. And sure enough, it did. I don't think you can ever put the Murdaugh egg back together, that they can walk down the street without thinking that people are looking at them and they're the cock of the walk. I think they're going to walk with their heads down by and large, keeping a low profile. It's just, it's in too many pieces. It can't be put back together. We're not going to let it, we're not going to let it. The listeners aren't going to it.



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[01:05:48] **Liz Farrell:** No, I don't think they're going to keep a low profile. I'm sorry, Eric. They don't keep a low profile. John Marvin is still out there acting like nothing happened.

[01:05:56] **Eric Bland:** He's nobody, okay. John Marvin is nobody; he can't control the legal system. Sure, he's a businessman and he's got his hunting buddy friends. But he isn't up at the Statehouse. He will not be able to do what Alex was able to do up at the Statehouse or on the State Bar level. He's not a lawyer. There's no more lawyers in the family that have that power. Randy Murdaugh doesn't want it. He isn't grabbing the mantle. It's not like *Succession* where somebody's fighting, a brother's fighting to grab the mantle from Logan Ray [sic]. It's not happening. So Randy is going to be keeping it low, he will end up not being with this law firm I guarantee you within three years, they'll break up, something will happen. But the Murdaugh name, I believe, is done.

[01:06:47] **Mandy Matney:** It's never up with them. Like there's all, they always have a new something in their pockets. And I think the newest thing is them doing whatever documentary special with Buster. They're always trying to spin the narrative. And they're always trying to do new projects to spin the narrative when one way doesn't work they keep trying and they keep trying and there's no reckoning with them. There's no moment of like, even when Randy had that profile in the *New York Times*, which was a great moment for him to be like to really say things like he was actually going to come to terms with the fact that his brother did it and come to terms of the fact that his family was really messed up and that like he, he could change this narrative. He didn't really say that. He just kind of touted the line just like they all do, of maybe he did. But they've all had opportunity, they all and they all have kept spinning. So I have no hope for that unfortunately.



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[01:07:52] **Eric Bland:** But we got in this. Mandy, Liz and Eric got in this to change the legal system. We didn't get in this to bury the Murdaugh family. Let's be clear to our listeners. We don't want them dead and gone and the name never to be spoken again. That's not who we are. We got in this to show sunlight on a justice system that wasn't working because of the Murdaugh's participation in that justice system. That is our singular focus. It is with Steven Smith. It has been with the Satterfields, it is with the murders, all your reporting, all your podcasting, we're not trying to erase the Murdaugh name as a family, being citizens in our country. What our goal was, is to show sunlight on our justice system and that's what we're going to do. We're determined that no Murdaugh is going to take over that Hampton County justice system again. There may be other lawyers that come that we're going to have to watch or you're going to have to watch or other judges or whatever and relationships are going to be built. But as far as I'm concerned, and I believe I speak for you two, we're concerned with the Murdaugh influence on the justice system. Am I wrong? Or am I right?

[01:09:05] **Mandy Matney:** You're absolutely right. And the I mean, bringing it full circle when we were talking earlier about if Alex really likes all this attention, and like what a circus this, not a, I mean, it's there's been an entire economy built off of there's been people's careers being made based off of this case and all these other things. And I have to admit that I have been a part of that. I don't know and I know and we all three of us have. But we, I also just want to be very clear that we wanted, we wanted this to get as big as it did because it had to and we wanted all of these eyes on this case because we felt that there was no other way for the system to change. Not for popularity, not for ratings or whatever. We really wanted it to change and and that's why we're still doing this because there's still lots to be done.

[01:10:05] **Eric Bland:** We are vigilant to change it and make sure that the change ends with Alex. That's why we keep our foot on Alex's throat. We're



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watching him here, we're watching him in right field, left field, what is being done in these different cases? Because we know if we can have Alex go away to prison forever, he can't become a lawyer, he can't influence the justice system, he can't convince his son to go back to law school. If we take care of Alex, if we sew him up, button him up, put him in a straitjacket, the justice system can never be perverted again by Alex Murdaugh or the Murdaugh family. That's it. It's that simple. But if Alex gets a little bit of the talisman thread and can start pulling the thread, and then different things happen where this case gets reversed and maybe he goes to federal court, then we start to worry, uh oh, uh oh, they're having an influence on the justice system. But if we can keep our foot on Alex's throat, keep Dick and Jim in check, they can never influence the justice system again.

[01:11:10] **Liz Farrell:** Well, speaking of breadcrumbs, I really do feel like Dick and Jim are giving plenty of bread crumbs for us when it comes to keeping that foot on his throat because they're fighting, they're continuing to fight in a way that's showing us exactly where they're hoping the system is weak and where the hope they're hoping that the system will acquiesce to their demands, because that's where they're used to getting that acquiescence. So we have a *Cup of Justice* question of the day. Eric, we want to talk about statute of limitations and what they mean. So can you just give us a quick synopsis of how statute of limitations affect cases both civil and criminal?

[01:11:57] **Eric Bland:** Sure. So in the civil realm, most statute of limitations for breach of contract if you have a contract with another party, or another party commits a tort, whether it's an automobile accident, or a medical malpractice against you, or they defame you, the statute of limitations is in South Carolina three years. Three years from the date you should have known that you have a claim, not the entire claim, not the entire forecast of damages, but a claim. You knew or you should have known through reasonable diligence that you had a claim the clock starts, and you would have three years from that day to



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bring a case. It used to be for defamation, it was two years, and they've made everything three years so that, you know, everybody knows. And the first thing a lawyer does when a client comes in with an automobile accident or a med malpractice, medical malpractice case is we do a statute of limitations analysis, because we know we have that three year period. Sometimes when it's governmental claims, you have to put them on notice within the first year, which gets you three years, otherwise it's a two year claim against the government. So there still is some analysis that has to be done. And that's a civil statute of limitations. Criminal, depending on federal or state, there's different statute of limitations regarding tax returns, that they go back a six year period of time, or there's no statute of limitations for murder, and different things like that on the state level. But federal level does have statute of limitations for different things of bank fraud and wire fraud and conspiracy and all these things. And that may be why the federal government decided to bring those charges two weeks ago against Alex and Cory, because there may have been a statute of limitations analysis that they were worried about. So it's merely whether you're the government or you're a party suing, you must sue within a certain period of time of the incident happening. So if I get a surgery today, and the surgeon botches it up and I don't know it, like he leaves a sponge in or she leaves a sponge in or she nicks my bladder and it's it I may not know today, but somewhere down the line in three months when I go to a doctor who's and I say god, I have horrible stomach pain and he does an X-ray or, or an MRI or or an EKG or something and he says, man, you got a sponge left ya, that clock just started then because I was put on notice of a claim and I must sue within three years. Same thing with the government. When did the government find out that Alex had started stealing money or Cory was part of a conspiracy? The clock starts, so that's what statute limitations means.

[01:14:47] **Liz Farrell:** Meaning the clock starts for people who are victims of Alex?



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[01:14:51] **Eric Bland:** Yeah.

[01:14:51] **Liz Farrell:** Okay.

[01:14:52] **Eric Bland:** Well, the victims are from a plaintiff standpoint, me suing on behalf the Satterfields, me suing on behalf of the Plyler sisters, Mark Tinsley suing on behalf of Mallory Beach—he filed his suit right away. Justin was able to settle his cases without filing suit. But yeah, that would be the victims of Alex, the victims of Alex's criminal deeds are the government of the United States and the state of South Carolina. They are the victim, not the victims they're championing for, the actual victim the plaintiff is the United States Government or the State of South Carolina.

[01:15:30] **Liz Farrell:** Gotcha.

[01:15:30] **Mandy Matney:** With the Steven Smith case, so if you find out that some obstruction of justice occurred if if and, and if there are charges pressed, does the clock start then when you find out?

[01:15:46] **Eric Bland:** Yeah, the state would and if we like if we have a civil case that, right now we have no civil case. We, Sandy Smith can't sue anybody right now for the wrongful death of Steven. But if it comes out through a grand jury, that you know, "Jerry Poindexter" just killed Steven, and he was the guy, Sandy would have the right to sue "Jerry Poindexter" and that the clock would have started when the grand jury returns that name. And "Jerry Poindexter" is just the name I made up by the way. He wasn't involved.

[01:16:21] **Liz Farrell:** Okay, guys, great show. Eric, check out *Based on a True Story*. I promise you'll find it really entertaining. Yep. All right, cups down guys, have a great day



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[01:16:33] **Eric Bland:** Cups down.

[1:16:34] **Mandy Matney:** Cups down.

[01:16:34] **Eric Bland:** Fresh content, I love that Mandy.

[1:16:53] **Mandy Matney:** This *Cup of Justice* episode 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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