



EPISODE 27: 'He's in Trouble': What Happened At Alex Murdaugh's Bond Hearing This Week?

Mandy Matney 00:03

I don't know if Alex Murdaugh will be led out of jail anytime soon. But on Monday, Judge Allison Lee heard shocking arguments and testimonies from both sides of this never ending saga. Monday's hearing was a roller coaster ride and we need to talk about what went down and why it's important. My name is Mandy Matney. I've been investigating the Murdaugh family for almost three years now. And this is the Murdaugh motors podcast with David Moses and Liz Farrell. So we were going to do today's episode on the heartbreaking story of Hakeem Pinckney, which I wrote about and FITSnews last week. Pinckney was a deaf man who suffered horrific injuries and a 2009 car accident that left him a quadriplegic dependent on a ventilator to survive. He died mysteriously in 2011 after someone apparently unplugged his ventilator. According to a wrongful death lawsuit filed by PMPED, Murdaugh and his co conspirators are accused of stealing approximately \$1 million from paint nice family between 2011 and 2017, according to Attorney Justin Bamberg, but that story deserves its own week and a lot of time dedicated to it. And we will get to that soon. I promise this week we have to talk about everything that went down during Monday's bond hearing. The hearing was held in response to Alex's attorney's motion to reduce the bond that motion was filed last week. For a reminder last month judge Allison Lee the presiding judge over the state Grand Jury set Alex Murdaugh's bond at \$7 million, which is unusually high for non capital charges. During the last bond hearing. Lee did not allow media to record the proceeding and we had to have David reenact the entire thing. As much as we all loved hearing from David we receive special permission this time from the South Carolina court before the hearing to record it and that is a big deal. My boss, Will Folks at FITSNews wrote a scathing piece last month calling out the Supreme Court for their decision to ban recordings in the last volunteering. I believe that Will pressured the Supreme Court to do the right thing on Monday and let us record the hearing. During this hearing. We heard a lot of information that we hadn't heard before from the prosecution. We watched Deckard, Wheatland fall on his face again as he attempted to argue on behalf of his client and we heard from the state trooper whose powerful testimony about Alex stealing from him absolutely stole the show. There was so much to unpack. So I want to start at the beginning and take this thing blow by blow. The hearing kicked off with Murdaugh's attorney Dick Harpootlian requesting that John T. Lay Jr, who is a receiver appointed to control Murdaugh's assets, testified before the court the judge



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approved and Harpootlian started by asking simple questions about Murdaugh's finances.

Dick Harpootlian 03:11

Have you uncovered any bank accounts that Mr. Murdaugh has? Yes. And how many does he have?

03:19

He has at least three that we know of.

Dick Harpootlian 03:22

And, you know, the total amount of money contained in those assets in those accounts?

03:28

He has, I mean, it's roughly \$10,000.

Dick Harpootlian 03:32

So \$10,000 in the bank account, and does he have access to that bank account? He does not any longer. Okay, so he can't because he doesn't have access to \$10,000. I'm going to talk to you about a retirement account in just a minute. But other than that retirement account, does he have any liquid by that means? Does he have any cash anywhere?

03:55

That, you know, by that definition? No. I mean, I know the retirement account. And we know that \$10,000 is out of the state bank account.

Dick Harpootlian 04:05

Now there are pieces of real estate in which he has an interest, correct? That's right. And is he in a position to liquidate those or would the receiver object? And would the court in your opinion substantiate that objection?

04:25

I mean, the way that process works, no, he cannot liquidate, we can liquidate. And then you know, he would not be able to do that without court approval. The court. Boy has control and Dr. Hall is in charge of the process. Can he borrow on any of those assets? He cannot encumber his assets



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Dick Harpootlian 04:45

to Cannon cover me can't sell them. He can't borrow against him. And so let's talk about how he does have a retirement account for about \$2.1 million. Is that right?

04:58

That's right. Yep, two points. Maybe it depends on what the markets are doing right now. But that's roughly what it is. So we learned

Mandy Matney 05:05

here that Alex is not impecunious, as his lawyers have said, in fact, according to testimony, he has 2.2 million and a retirement account less the \$10,000 and another account plus \$360,000. From Randolph's retirement account, plus other trusts left to him by Randolph that appear to be protected from this receivership plus Maggie's estate and plus several properties that are owned by Alex and Alex LLCs. That is not someone who is in petunias.

Liz Farrell 05:40

Turns out Mr. Can't pay his phone bills with \$10,000 in the bank can actually pay all of Hampton County's phone bills if he wanted to. We'll talk more about this in a bit. But the main thing to note here is that it's kind of strange that John T Lay was called as a witness for the defense did carpool lane in an effort to make Alex out to be the Little Orphan Annie of Richland County Detention Center was clearly using the very thinnest slice of the truth, which is that Alex does have in fact, a bank account and it does in fact, have less than \$10,000 in it without mentioning the parts about how Alex is actually quite the Daddy Warbucks. So again, we're seeing evidence that the good ol boys continue to operate on the assumption that no one will have follow up questions about what they're saying.

Mandy Matney 06:24

Next up prosecutor Creighton waters with the South Carolina Attorney General's Office cross examine receiver John T. Lai,

06:32

First of all, you mentioned some of the real estate in which he may have an interest and can you very generally just describe that real estate for us? Because he has.

06:43



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I believe it's four parcels of land in Berkeley County. He's got an ownership interest in a beach house. He has some ownership and what are small islands in and around Buford County that are I don't think there can be any improvements on those pieces of property. But we're trying to understand what the value is. Have those pieces of property, but it's not very significant, that portion of it. But Berkeley County and the beach house are the primary real estate holdings that Yeah.

07:18

All right. And just without getting into figures, is it fair to say that those assets have substantial value?

07:25

We think so. Yes. All right.

07:28

And you mentioned before that he is currently the beneficiary of his wife, Maggie's estate, is that correct? Yes. And what would you say is from your review as the primary asset and Maggie's estate? All right. And Moselle that would be the family property, mostly all that's in her name, is that correct? That's right. Is the value of Moselle significant in your judgment? Substantial?

07:59

Yes, we don't have a precise appraisal yet. Because that is obviously part of Earth's day. But that will be something that we'll be working towards, but it appears to be a substantial asset. Yes. All right.

08:14

And then you mentioned the beach property, would that be the property and other stuff? Yes. And currently, half of that interest would be in Alex Murtaugh and the other half would be in the estate essentially, of Maggie Berdahl. Is that correct? That's right. And so if Mr. Murdaugh will ultimately become the beneficiary of that estate, then he would have the entirety of that interest. Is that correct?

Liz Farrell 08:40

Yes. So first, these uninhabited basically on developable islands in Beaver County that are owned by Alex and in some cases co owned with an assumed drug trafficker, who is now deceased. We're continuing to look into this, as well as other complex real estate transactions and suspicious deals involving Alex and some of his former law



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partners, Lay's testimony about how they're trying to understand the values of the islands. Well, sometimes the property's value isn't about money. Sometimes it's about what a shady boots attorney and his shady boots friends can do with that property. Like I said more on this later. Another thing that's interesting here is that Dicks witness fully backfired on him. He should have pulled my cousin Vinnie and asked the judge for permission to treat Mr. Lay, like a hostile witness because Dick star witness has just made it even more clear here. That Alex isn't broke. Dick's star witness has made it clear that Alex's assets are substantial, and his financial history is incredibly complex.

Mandy Matney 09:36

Harpootlian had a few follow up questions for Lay after clarifying that Alex can't use any of the assets discussed due to the receivership Dick asked one more question.

Dick Harpootlian 09:47

You were asked about Paul and Maggie. There was no life insurance for either one of them?

09:53

Not that we've been able to identify That's right. Okay.

Liz Farrell 09:57

Raise your hand if you think Alex agrees. Add a personal injury attorney who basically admitted to insurance fraud in September didn't have a life insurance policy on his wife. I just want to chime in real quick here and say that John T. Lay and Peter McCoy are still looking for any life insurance policies, and that if there is a life insurance policy Well, Alex and his crafty elves on the outside certainly wouldn't want that to be found, given that he's a person of interest in two homicides. And given that our sources have told us there's direct physical evidence that ties them to these double homicides. And given that, quote, All life insurance policy is literally the motive of every murderous husband on the oxygen channel, at the end

Mandy Matney 10:37

of his turn, did double down yet again on his poor poor Alex strategy.

Dick Harpootlian 10:43

Your Honor, I'm having developed those facts. I'd like to address a few more things. A few other things, if you will, in our motion for bond reduction. I would note that what



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you've heard is there's no liquid available assets for Mr. Murtaugh to post for bond. If your honor such a surety bond, it would be required to either post property he has not, or to pay a bondsman who will require two things one, approximately 10% of the face amount of the bond and then be able to secure it with assets, which again, he can't do. So any significant surety bond will be the same as no bond.

Mandy Matney 11:30

What Dick is getting out here is trying to say is that even if Alex is rich by a lot of people's standards, his money is tied up by receivers, and basically any amount of any bond would be unreasonable because he just can't pay it. But hold on bond is not determined according to affordability, otherwise, most jails in the United States wouldn't be full of poor people charged with petty crimes, who can't pay bail money, Dick Apulian should know this. And then after he made this point, things started to get really heated.

Dick Harpootlian 12:04

I would also point out that, you know, the issues here are or is he a danger to the community. There's no evidence whatsoever that he poses a physical threat to anybody. And we hear from the attorney general that this victim feels threatened or this victim has been called a rat, or, I mean, he's in the position to indict people for obstruction of justice, if in fact that's going on. These unsubstantiated rumors are not enough. By the way, my client has been sitting in jail. He hadn't been in a position to threaten anybody. Every word he says on the phone is being recorded. And certainly if they heard some recording of him threatening somebody, we'd be hearing about it today.

Mandy Matney 12:44

Whoa. So Dick is basically throwing down the gauntlet here and challenging the South Carolina Attorney General's office to file more charges against his client, which is a really brazen move by a defense attorney potentially staring down hundreds of other financial charges for his client, and he's attacking and dismissing the victims in the meantime, which is not at all normal for a defense attorney.

Dick Harpootlian 13:12

So I think that is bogus. I think this idea that he's a threat to the community, a threat to himself. We heard from a professional that he is not, he's not suicidal, not a threat to himself. But he does need to be in rehab. Deke



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Liz Farrell 13:26

is hilarious. He is literally turning purple in his little frat room of an office trying to tell us that Alex isn't a danger to the community. As Alex sits there with his hair looking like he's in a Broadway musical about gangs in the 1950s with a big old fists mark under his eyes and busted up knuckles which by the way, is the elephant in the room. This man was clearly in a fight and not a word about this from Dick. No, your honor. As you can see, it's my client that is in danger. Please release him so he'll be safe. No, none of that. Why did Alex maybe caused the fight? Or did he I don't know beat the shower sandals right off another inmate. At this point. You guys already know this. But it bears repeating. The Hampton County community is afraid of Alex Murdaugh. It is that way by design. There is no Murdaugh family empire without a community that fears them. And that's on a good day. Alex didn't get to this point because he was too honorable to live amongst the rest of us. He had plenty of space to commit his alleged crimes because of the manipulation. The plain and simple is that his alleged victims are worried enough even knowing he's behind bars, and the ones who haven't been publicly identified yet are fearful of speaking up even now, because of the exposure to potential backlash. And a few minutes later you'll hear from a state highway patrolman who testified to Judge Lee that he's worried about Alex showing up at his house to harm him. So I think we're safe and thinking Alex might be a danger to the community.

Mandy Matney 14:48

Her Boolean continued singing the same old song that we heard during other bond hearings that he is not a flight risk and that Eddie Smith was really the dangerous one during the Labor Day. antecedent and that the labor day shooting was also a son could collect insurance money. And then he made a really odd point comparing his client to Bernie Madoff.

Dick Harpootlian 15:14

Bernie Madoff stole \$6 billion 65 billion, corrected \$65 billion. His bond was \$10 million. And he made it and he made it.

Liz Farrell 15:28

Oh, geez. He's playing the Bernie Madoff card. It's not a great look, when your attorney is comparing you to the guiltiest of all guilty men and one of the worst humans in human history. I can't imagine this argument gave Judge Lee meaningful food for thought. Yes, she said Alex bonds higher than the amount of money he's



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accused of stealing so far. But I highly doubt that she's going to sit down to type up her order and think to herself, that Bernie Madoff point though.

Mandy Matney 15:54

And then it got weirder after he said that Dick started rambling. And he seemed really, really angry.

Dick Harpootlian 16:02

You know, we're gonna hear from victims in a minute, and there's no question that they lost money. The question is, is Mr. Murtaugh the soul? Does he bear sole responsibility for that? Those some issues can be fleshed out, and at a later day in the appropriate proceeding? That's not what we're here to do today. I'm sure you're going to hear some bombastic comments about what a villain he is. There's no question he's accused of taking a large amount of money. But that doesn't mean he's a flight risk or that he's a threat to the community.

Liz Farrell 16:35

bombastic comments about what a villain Alex is. I'm gonna fix this for you, Dick. I think you meant to say emotional stories of people who were hurt and in pain who needed Alex's help, and instead got allegedly robbed by him. I'm throwing that allegedly in there even though Dick can't be bothered to keep the quote innocent until proven guilty.

Dick Harpootlian 16:57

Your Honor. I don't you know, the problem with this case has been when I would call the paparazzi view

Liz Farrell 17:07

and speaking of who is Dick calling paparazzi? Certainly not us. I'm a terrible photographer. I know this has got to be an act because they can't possibly believe that the media sits around concocting Murdaugh stories. Alex Murdaugh has literally handed the media a crazy story every day. And we promise you no one no one can keep up with these twists and turns. There has not been a break since Gen seven.

Dick Harpootlian 17:30

This thing has been ginned up so much in the press, that it's denied. Mr. Murtaugh, the same kind of treatment, anybody else in his position would get for being accused of stealing this amount of money. If he were not from the apparently reputable well



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respected, affluent family in Hampton County, he's being actually punished because of his position in the community. He shouldn't be rewarded for it.

Liz Farrell 17:57

But I have to say I actually agree with Dec here. Murdaugh has definitely been treated differently from the average South Carolina defendant. For instance, the average South Carolina defendant most certainly wouldn't be given a bond reduction hearing when there are no changes in circumstance or fact. I'd also agree with Dick that Alex is being treated differently because of the position of power and affluence he held in Hampton County. But the Murdaughs are the ones who told us they were special. So we're just working with what they gave us here.

Dick Harpootlian 18:23

He and by the way, every one of these people that lost money, lost the money because he was their lawyer. He was in a position of trust, that not only cannot happen now, he can't repeat those offenses. It will never happen in the future. He's going to be disbarred. He's suspended, never to practice law again. So the ability to commit this crime again is no. Can't happen.

Liz Farrell 18:49

Back to my alleged comment before, did you guys notice that Dick admitted that Alex's former clients lost money because Alex was their lawyer. We seriously cannot get over how many times this man's own high priced attorneys have told us he's guilty. It's truly truly wild. Also, I guess his attorneys are confirming that Alex is getting disbarred. So there's that my favorite part of Dicks argument here though, is that he's again saying my client can't commit crimes anymore because they took his law license and as Money, Your Honor.

Mandy Matney 19:18

Her Polian finally concluded his argument, asking for a bond amount significantly smaller than the 7 million that he got before he asked for a five figure bond and the ability to post just 10% of that.

Dick Harpootlian 19:33

I understand that you're in a difficult position. This is a high profile situation with lots of public concern, but I'd asked you to do what you've always done. And that is to look at the facts and make a decision based on the facts. And I don't know what else I can say. Thank you so much.



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Liz Farrell 19:51

Do what you've always done. Whoa. So remember a few episodes back when we told you about the shenanigans we thought were occurring after Judge Clifton Newman originally denied Alex bond, and we seem to suddenly end up with Judge Lee. The reason that seems suspicious is because Judge Lee is known as a judge who hands out low bonds to defendants and she has been criticized for and held back from career advancement because some of those defendants committed additional terrible crimes while out on one of her low bonds. So do what you've always done. Surely Dick didn't just say that.

Mandy Matney 20:39

After her Portland's heated speech, Prosecutor Creighton Waters was up next Waters made the point that we made earlier that the law does not factor in your ability to pay when determining what is an excessive bond. And again, waters argue that Murdaugh meets the requirements of a high bond.

20:59

And we not only have flight risk, but we have danger to the community and the word I want to use that I've used before about Mr. Murdaugh is unique. And he poses a unique set of circumstances, Your Honor, that I think really justifies and supports the decision that you've already made and from which there's been no change of circumstance identified by the defendant here today.

Mandy Matney 21:20

And again, Creighton Waters said that the labor day shooting incident when he allegedly hired Eddie Smith to shoot him for insurance money on the side of the road was a perfect example of why Murdaugh was still a danger to the community.

21:37

But that scheme is just highlights what what we've been saying all along is that this unique case where we have a man from such a powerful family, from the heights of power, the heights of success in the legal profession here in South Carolina, who has come to these particular circumstances in the spacing these allegations, that tends to make one in my experience, more dangerous and more on hinge than perhaps someone who's got a lot more experience and has been in this position before. And we actually saw that actually happened here with what happened on the side of the road. So his own actions have shown that he represents that danger to the



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community. And not only that, of course, he involved others in these acts, which adds to the danger that he is. On top of that we have to add his supposed opiate addiction and not just any drug addiction, but opiate addiction. And your honor, I know that your experience as much as mine, is that opioid addiction is the most dangerous kind, it is the most powerful. And of course, anytime someone who's an opiate addict uses opiates, they are playing Russian roulette. And so just that particular addiction there is dangerous more so than the norm. And then when you add it into the surfed circumstances that he finds himself in that just how to use the danger, while her

Mandy Matney 22:54

Harpootlian argues that Murdaugh's influence has made him a target in the public square, and the media waters again reminded the judge that the victims are feeling threatened, and we can't ignore that.

23:08

But we also again, come back to his unique circumstance, the unique position of him where he was in his family power, and we cannot divorce that we cannot pretend like it doesn't exist, we can't pretend like that influence in the Canadian community doesn't matter, and that it's not there. And we've seen that over and over again, it's still very strong. It's very palpable, for those who live there. And you know, Mr. Harper, Julian referred to them as rumors. They're not rumors, we've had people tell us that they faced a backlash, we've had a victim be called a snitch, we had another one who said over and over again, that he's not worried as much about himself. But if he comes forward, what's going to happen to his wife and kids? That is a general thing that we have felt throughout this case, and it is indicative of the power that this man exercised. And a big part of that, as well as what we also hear is that they still struggle with the fact that they thought he was their friend. They thought he was their friend, and he used that to steal money from them. And when combined with the power and influence of his family, that danger to the community is very palpable. It's felt by all these victims, they all almost all have talked about it. And even to this day, it is still a process for some of these individuals to get them to participate with this investigation and look at and help us uncover what may have happened in this case.

Liz Farrell 24:32

Like we keep saying this has been the hurdle all along for folks, they've been too afraid to come forward because of what they feel the Murdaughs are capable of doing to their lives in Hampton County, whether that's real or perceived. This is



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probably hard to understand from the outside because the same people also believe that Alex was her friend, and that's because by all accounts, Alex is a nice guy. He was friendly, generous and helpful until he wasn't because a person can be two opposite things at the same time. It can be a very loving Father who wanted The absolute best for his sons and still be a person of interest and one of his sons murders. It can be someone's financial salvation and also their financial demise.

Mandy Matney 25:10

Then waters briefly went over some numbers that he said also make Murdaugh a threat

25:15

He has to date been accused of stealing over 6.2 We're misappropriating over \$6.2 million. And of those amounts, just looking at the indicated offenses to date, about 2.5 million of that was cashed out either cashed direct to himself, or there was a check cashing place that was used or checks to various associates. And the reality is, the investigation has uncovered that that money was not just gone as Mr. Harper Lee said, but substantial portions of it were returned to Mr. Murdaugh, where is that cash? That's a good question as something that investigations are looking, looking to develop. And then if we look beyond just the indicted offenses, and we look at the period from 2015 to 2021, we're talking about \$3.7 million, that was quote, cashed out converted to cash, whether by checks to himself, but whether by the check cashing place or checks to these various associates, I will also add that up until 2021, these checks almost uniformly, would be under \$10,000. And were clearly written to avoid that oversight right there. So all of that is a substantial and amazing amount of cash that was converted, and is out in the woods somewhere and was done at the instance and at the direction of Mr. Murdaugh, according to the investigation.

Mandy Matney 26:35

Where is that money? That's the biggest question out of all of this. Where did it go? And what was he doing with it? In the middle of that argument, Waters dropped a bombshell that could come into play later on. Water said that investigators have been listening to Murdaugh's jailhouse calls. And it sounds like he's trying to get his family members to move money around. And then on

27:02

On top of that, let's talk about the testimony that we just had with the receiver. We do have a \$2.2 million retirement account that's being discussed. We have cited in



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the jail calls, he is talking about that retirement account all the time he's talking about that I can borrow against it. But I don't want to have more interest in the penalty. And we have to make sure that the creditors can't get to it. These were his own words.

Liz Farrell 27:25

You know, that part of your brain that kicks in when you're about to do something bad, the part that says, Hmm, you might not want to do that because there could be consequences. And also, I'm being recorded. I don't think Alex has that. Alex has lived his entire life believing he was the prince of the country gingers and it is well established in low country lore that the Murdaugh boys could get out of whatever nonsense they got themselves into. I know that Alex isn't seen as a genius by his peers, but I don't believe he doesn't know that jailhouse calls get recorded. I just think he's so used to having someone come behind him with wet wipes and a broom that he doesn't even notice what a mess he's making of things during the hearing Creighton waters through doubt on Alex's drug problem by calling it a quote. Suppose it opiate addiction, which I think is the first time we're hearing someone part of the investigation publicly questioned that I bring this up just to say, as we said before in other iterations, that maybe Alex actual addiction is to taking money, or maybe even just to money to say the things that he apparently said on the recorded phone call that he has to know investigators are listening to with bated breath. That's a sign of someone who can't help himself right, someone who is so consumed with the idea of keeping all the pennies to himself that he overlooks the fact that he's incriminating himself further, this man that Dick and Jim wanted us to believe in the last bond hearing is sorry for his actions, and it's making victims hold again, is actually devising more ways to keep money away from those victims.

28:49

This is an individual that we listen to when the jail calls and he does not at all, when we listen to those JL calls seem to be one who is destitute, who has less than \$10,000 it's very clear he is telling relatives go ahead and spend money. I've already worked it out. I'm gonna pay you back. Go play golf here. You need me to send you four or \$5,000 . I don't want you to have to play golf without at least being able to get some drinks at the bar and a souvenir shirt and a shirt. This is what we're hearing. And we've heard that even to a call today, where he is talking about go ahead and spend this go and spend this. I'm going to pay back this other relative that's loaning us money. So this is not a man who has that concern about spending money.



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Mandy Matney 29:36

And we'll be right back. In his conclusion, Prosecutor Creighton Waters reminded the judge that there has been no change and circumstance since the last bond hearing a month ago. The state asked that the conditions previously set during the last hearing remain, but then he apparently opened his mouth again.

Dick Harpootlian 30:03

Your Honor. Could I address a couple of things before I don't have to go after the victims? Did Mr. Waters? She said

30:11

you can. But I know you're going to have more to say once you hear the victims? Well, not

Dick Harpootlian 30:17

really because the victims are going to have heard them before. It's the same old song. I won't have anything to say after the victims.

Mandy Matney 30:24

Excuse me. What did he just say? This was the comment heard around South Carolina Monday. I have talked to a lot of attorneys in the last two days, and no one could believe that even Dick Harpootlian, who's known for being aggressive in the courtroom, would be so horrifically rude to victims to a lot of us closely paying attention to this case. This was another clear indicator that Harpootlian was losing it, and then he would not stop talking.

Dick Harpootlian 30:59

Your Honor. I think it's important to understand a couple of things. Mr. Waters, for instance, says something there. The family's so influential in Hampton County, the family's not charged. The guy sitting in front of you in the jail with the mask on is the only one who's charged with anything. He's not Don Corleone. There's not some mafia family out there, if there is that I challenge Mr. Waters to indict him.

Liz Farrell 31:26

He is playing the Don Corleone and mafia card. I wonder if Dick knows that. This is actually what a lot of people think about the Murdaugh family. Hard to believe this bond hearing could get any more awkward and any more bizarre, but away we go.



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Dick Harpootlian 31:40

Also, in terms of opioid addiction, this gentleman has been opioid free for six months, he went to detox successfully, completed it, went to rehab and was in the middle of rehab when he was arrested. So yes, we know that there are opioid addicts who do all kinds of bad things, but he is not. I mean, you always be an addict, but he's been drug free for six months. There's no evidence whatsoever that he's had any drugs in the last six months,

Mandy Matney 32:05

three separate times without correcting himself. Dick said that Alex had been sober for six months, which completely dismantles his whole Alex addiction that was out of control, leading to the labor day shooting theory. This was one of many times on Monday, where Dick contradicted himself about basic facts. In his own case, it is very rare for attorneys who are charging as much as he is to screw this up badly, either Harpreet Lian who is 72 is losing his memory, or he's having trouble keeping his stories straight. But guess what he kept talking. And all

Dick Harpootlian 32:46

this is about is Mr. Waters, inability, inability to have law enforcement focus on the murders of Paul and Maggie. And they're attempting to distract from those murders. They're attempting to infer that somehow out murder was involved and use that as a way to heavy up on him. He was not involved. He's indicated he wasn't involved. And this is a total distraction. I apologize to the court for being somewhat emotional about this. But again, Mr. Waters will not be investigated. Well, the investigation is not a person. Not only is it hearsay, I believe it's not true.

Mandy Matney 33:25

Okay, so finally more than an hour and 15 minutes into the saying, Judge Lee gave the victims and their attorneys the floor. Eric Bland was the first step speaking on behalf of the Satterfield family.

33:40

I take a little bit of umbrage with Mr. reputedly saying they, you know, he knows what the victims are going to say. And they've said it already and it was almost dismissed that these are victims that have been victimized by Mr. maracas or attorney, victims that have lost millions of dollars.

Mandy Matney 34:01



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He then asked the judge to consider the safety of the victims when deciding bond Attorney Justin Bamberg, who is representing eight victims in this case, some of whom have not been included in the indictments, was next to speak.

34:15

These were not just financial crimes or honoring the victims. In this case, in all the cases, these are personal injury cases, these are people who suffered physical harm, some of which were subjected to serious surgeries. The money that was misappropriated and stolen from them wasn't just fun money. It wasn't just I'm gonna go to Las Vegas and gamble on money. This was money that was supposed to be used to compensate them for injuries so that they could afford medical care so that they could afford to get to where they needed to get in terms of the doctor or get proper transportation, as well as for life. lifetime. care, because we know that when someone who's injured has a poor example of back fusion, that's going to lead to problems down the line. And the settlement money is intended to be used to help address their physical ailments. So to say, and downplay that. It was just a financial crime. That's not the case. And if he's if the defendant has shown for years that when that money was taken, nobody cared about the impact it would have on the clients physically.

Mandy Matney 35:34

Dan Burke said, if anything, the judge should increase Murdaugh's bond, as Bamberg was talking, by the way, her boolean and his boys were literally cracking jokes on camera.

35:46

If you're willing to misappropriate the amount of money that we're talking about, from the type of victims that we're talking about, what wouldn't you do when they're victims who are worried about what happens to their safety, if he is led out? Those are legitimate fears, from individuals who had their lawyer misappropriate the money that they could have spent, they could have spent that money on their own medical care. So yes, those victims do feel as though Mr. Murdaugh didn't care about their physical well being because that was the whole point of him representing them in the first place. So he is a danger to the community. What has changed from the courts prior decision on bond as it pertains to Mr. Murdaugh, then and now? Nothing except additional information coming for additional that some I'm sure Mr. Bullying will say alleged victims being identified. But nothing but more information. That shows that this is a lot deeper than then most people know.



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Mandy Matney 37:03

Finally, the star of the show, Lieutenant Thomas E. Moore spoke at the hearing. Murdaugh is accused of stealing more than \$125,000 that Moore got from a settlement when he was injured while working for the Highway Patrol. Here's more

37:20

Mr. Murdaugh, as my attorney, I was asked to go to him because he's a very nice man. always very nice to me, but I've never had any issues. on a regular basis. Here's the problem. He treated me that nice. And he stole every dime I had from the injury. I was working for the Highway Patrol, and was struck by a car and had to have three levels of my neck repaired to levels fused, and one has an artificial disc. And now there's permanent nerve damage. There's no question about that. And the injury is only going to get worse, it's not going to get better. So what is going to happen with me is, I am going to have to leave and retire at some point, I'm not going to have a choice. And whether I can stay or not because of my age. We're talking about money. We don't have to talk about all the money but as \$100,000 that came from my insurance company that I'm finding out now that probably wasn't even required to deposit at that law firm. And I was given bad legal advice. That money was never even deposited in that law firm the same day that after the check, they're taken to another bank, and it was cashed shortly thereafter.

Mandy Matney 39:08

More speaking in uniform from his desk at the Highway Patrol said that he didn't want to still be working but he had to because Alex Murdaugh stole from him. I don't

Liz Farrell 39:18

i think Alex and his attorneys saw this coming. Lieutenant Moore's testimony was unbelievably strong and incredibly pointed, not just because he's a law enforcement officer, but because he was the living breathing example of what we've been talking about this whole time. And he wasn't afraid to go there with the truth.

Mandy Matney 39:35

In his speech, more said something that a lot of us have been saying all along.

39:41

So I guess my thing is, if he didn't have money, like some people are saying, and there's so many questions about money, how does he have all these attorneys?



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These attorneys I've seen on TV and in the newspaper, but I couldn't afford to hire. So how can he if he doesn't have any money?

Mandy Matney 40:00

And then the veteran police officer so that he felt Murdaugh was a threat, both financially and physically. And that is a big deal.

40:09

But clearly, he's a financial threat. He can get out here tomorrow, he may not turn on me or you or somebody else, he'll find somebody. He's got away getting money. He's not done. And, you know, as far as he's a financial threat, my pain, physical threat as well. Would I be surprised if he or somebody related to him showed up at my house? Absolutely not. I think there's enough questions that his bond does not need to be reduced. Because all of a sudden, Earl Miss Morrow doesn't have any money. Well, guess what I don't need, I can't pay my medical bills. And I'm going to be forced out of this job because of my injury. And frankly, I wouldn't even be here. Now, if I don't have bills I have to pay. And that has to be done because that money was blatantly stolen from me.

Mandy Matney 41:15

Keep in mind, as the police officer was giving his powerful testimony, Dick was completely disregarding him and looking away from the camera.

41:26

All I can say is, there's only two things I thought it's gonna happen, I just didn't know number one, you're gonna see me either going into the job or dying, or he's gonna be leaving this country. And number two, you're gonna have more victims. Those are the two things that are absolutely going to happen if he's released. I think he's done enough harm as it is. I don't think we need to give him the opportunity to do any more until he goes to trial. And that's all I want to say yo

Mandy Matney 42:00

Dick could not help himself after this powerful speech. He had to make one more comment before this nearly two hour hearing and he really wanted to drive the point home that his client was poor so he brought up Alex underwear

Dick Harpootlian 42:19



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and in terms of borrowing money from his family, I think that the most graphic example of that is the snippet they enclosed about him wanting a family member to write money to another inmate's canteen account. And the reason for that is this. All you have is \$60 a week for a canteen account. That is, you have to buy underwear, under shirts, all at three bucks for a pack of salt and pepper, four bucks for mayonnaise, five bucks for ketchup, so if he's asking them to write a check, just use this \$60. That's all he gets for a week. He needs more because he likes to get some more underwear. This is a guy who's rolling in cash where he's asking his 10 relatives to write checks to a canteen account so you can buy clean underwear. No, this is not I mean, this is this again to create Boogeyman. And this highway patrol officer, God knows that, you know, my heart goes out to Him. And God knows that he was victimized and God knows I think he will be made whole. As many of these other victims have been made whole. What I would suggest is that it has nothing to do with bond. If danger to the community is getting yourself shot in the head, then I challenge Mr. Waters while you hadn't alleged that any Smith who did the shooting in the head isn't a danger to the community. And secondly, if there are assets out there, it's not speculation that he has access to use to post a bond. Where are they? Thank you.

Liz Farrell 44:01

We did a little fact checking here because whenever a purported \$750 An hour attorney starts talking about his clients need for clean underpants you know, things are getting a little loosey goosey for everyone's own good. Dick gives us some unsolicited insight here into the Insight operations of Alex's life; it looks like Alex has been instructing family members to put money in other inmates' accounts for more than a month now. We've been waiting on a FOIA request to come back from Richland County, in which we asked for a long list of items, including a list of who has been depositing money into Alex's account. Could Alex be asking for the money to go into another inmate's account to avoid scrutiny? Maybe but the prevailing theory out there right now is that maybe this money was for protection. Deke told the court that the reason Alex wanted money to be deposited into someone else's commissary account is because inmates are only allowed to have \$60 A week deposited into their commissary accounts. Dick is basically trying to tell us that this is cramping Alex style, so he devised a workaround to get himself clean. underwear. This was a very strange rant. It was almost as if Dick forgot where he was and started giving us the Senate floor speech on the privatization of jail commissaries and the travesty of overpriced condiments. At any rate on Tuesday we asked the Richland County Public Information Officer whether there was a limit on how much money can be deposited



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into commissary accounts each week at the Richland County Detention Center. She told us No there is not, which means Dick appears to have made up an entire story about Alex drawers. Maybe this is just the story he was told. Or maybe it was fanfiction, who can tell.

Mandy Matney 45:35

Judge Lee, like the rest of us watching, appears to be overwhelmed at the end of this hearing. And she said she will issue a written order with her decision on bond. While none of us can predict the future in the story. We have asked a lot of sources what they think will happen here and across the board. Everyone agreed that it is highly unlikely that Lee would significantly lower Alex bond. So after the bond hearing, we spoke to attorney Eric Bland who busted this thing wide open back in September.

46:08

I think the circumstances actually you know for them got worse because one I thought Dick 's statement about fit. It's the same old same old from the victims. I heard that I don't need to respond. It actually wasn't because they had not heard from Justin Bamberg, and the people that he was speaking on behalf of. And they certainly never heard of, you know, from patrolmen more in the circumstances that he felt that he was actually in danger. So I think the situation actually boomerang the opposite way for Dick, and murder. I think the situation got worse.

Mandy Matney 46:45

Bland told me that he could not see Judge Lee changing Alex bond significantly or at all.

46:53

And the reason is, there hasn't been a change of circumstances. He didn't have money a month ago. He has the same amount of money this month. You know what I'm saying? He never had money. So what are the changing circumstances? Is it just because he's been in jail? 30 more days? You know, it's always going to get worse for him. Because I think what you saw is these victim impact statements. And when these victims testified at his trial, I mean, he was in trouble. There's no defense to this, to the crimes of

Mandy Matney 47:26

the SEC. Eric Bland, along with several of my sources, could not get over the fact that Dick was so disrespectful to the victims on Monday.



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47:35

I don't know where it's gone with this. And then for Dick, to cast doubt on whether people are that their safety is in danger. How dare you say that? My clients get strange looks at the grocery store from people that used to be friends with them. Alex still enjoys a healthy percentage of people in Hampden County that like him, sure, there's a lot of people now, they don't like him. And there's a lot of people that are probably saying, Oh, I'm so glad that, you know, he's finally getting what he deserves. But he's got friends, they're people that he's really helped out. And, you know, my clients get eyes from people, like, really you? When are you going to stop when your lawyer is going to stop? You know, we're suffering here in Hampden County. And, you know, even more patrolmen said that he doesn't feel safe at times. So those are very real things. And to predict, to say, well, these people need to come forward, and bring their charges. So people are afraid to come forward. That's the whole point is that, you know, it took a tremendous amount of courage for Satterfield to come forward and do this. No, not everybody's willing to come forward and say, oh, this person, you know, cut me off, or this person came at me with a shopping cart or yada, yada. No, it's not that easy. And then, just to double down and say, you know, I stake my reputation, or I'm telling you, he had nothing to do with Maggie and Paul's murders. No lawyer makes those kinds of statements. Some of the things that dictated yesterday were unusual.

Mandy Matney 49:38

So there was a point at Monday's hearing when Harpootlian flipped a switch, and he got this look on his face and fire in his eyes. Like this was very, very personal to him. Like maybe he was watching his whole reputation and career collapse, and he was about to lose another bond hearing on an international stage as just In an Eric both said her Boolean failed to even address the one thing required for bond reduction, which is a change of circumstances. Instead, he just gave the judge the same old song. In fact, it's ironic that she politely dismissed the victims and said that they were singing the same old song that he's heard over and over before, but really the only one who sounded like a broken record in the bond hearing was Dick to us. And several of our sources, we were left wondering what the point was a Monday's bond hearing, especially when we're expecting more and more charges for Alex the whole hearing, remember, was because of the defense's request, and in the end Harper, Julian and Murdaugh managed to look like worse human beings than they did before. And that is saying something. Why waste taxpayer dollars on the circus? And how many more times are we going to do this? For the latest updates in this case,



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subscribe to FITSnews.com. Or we will report on Judge Lee's decision and Alex's bond. A huge thanks to Karen a GA of my favorite murder for the shout out last week, y'all rock Lastly, big news, the 2020 Murdaugh special airs this Friday where I will be featured. I chose to work with 2020 because I believed that they would do this story and all the victims justice. We have a lot more to cover in this case. And as always, thank you for helping us expose the truth wherever it leads. Stay tuned. The Murdaugh Warner's podcast is created by me, Mandy Matney and my fiance David Moses. Our executive editor is Liz Farrell,

51:51
produced by Luna shark Productions.

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