

## EPISODE 33: Big Little Fact-Checking: The Lies Keep Coming In the Murdaugh Case

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[00:00:04] **Liz Farrell:** Cups up guys. How are we doing?

[00:00:05] **Eric Bland:** Cups up.

[00:00:06] **Mandy Matney:** Cups up.

[00:00:07] **Liz Farrell:** Happy birthday, Mandy.

[00:00:08] **Eric Bland:** Happy birthday.

[00:00:09] **Mandy Matney:** Thank you.

[00:00:10] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. New year, new you.

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

[00:00:13] **Liz Farrell:** New background.

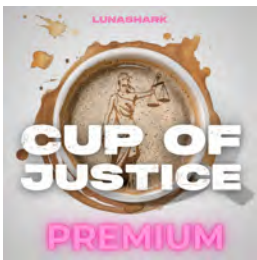
[00:00:14] **Mandy Matney:** New background, new basement.

[00:00:16] **Liz Farrell:** Love it.

[00:00:17] **Mandy Matney:** How are you Liz?

[00:00:18] **Liz Farrell:** I'm doing alright, I yeah, just, you know, living my life as best I can I guess. How about you, Eric?

[00:00:25] **Eric Bland:** Fun, having a good time, you know. Feeling better a little bit every day and, you know, exercising and walking more and, you know, spending more time at the gym, getting my size and my weight back. So I'm starting to feel my little kick in my stride. So I'm feeling good.



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[00:00:40] **Mandy Matney:** That's awesome.

[00:00:41] **Liz Farrell:** Oh, that's good. Good, good, good. Well, we had some excitement over the weekend in addition to Mandy's birthday, but should we talk about the Beaufort chalkboard lady a little bit?

[00:00:50] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, I think it's a perfect story with all of this. Eric, have you heard? I think Delayna texted you a little bit over the weekend. But wow, another fraud in Beaufort. The, so our friend Delayna, who worked the island packet with us years ago, when I first started in 20-

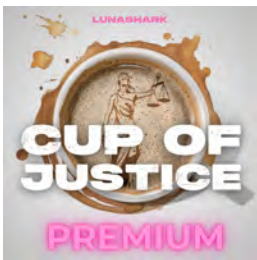
[00:01:10] **Eric Bland:** With Jake from State Farm.

[00:01:13] **Mandy Matney:** Jake from State Farm.

[00:01:15] **Liz Farrell:** Oh Jake, that's right.

[00:01:16] **Mandy Matney:** It was way before his time. Jake from State Farm was like in elementary school when this was going on. But anyways, um, she figured out this woman was frauding a bunch of people in Beaufort, including Sandy Smith. She raised money on behalf of the Smiths and it's nowhere to be found. And the weirdest part of all of it was Delayna texted me with this woman texted a group of women and she described this coffee meeting with Sandy that she Zoomed me in on the coffee meeting. And she said that we came up with the idea for the GoFundMe. And like none of these things happened. It was like a lie on top of a lie on top of a lie. And it really does remind me of the Alex Murdaugh situation because it's like all of these people wanted to believe that this woman was good and kind of looked the other way and she just took advantage of a lot of people in bad situations and it's just horrible—or allegedly I'll say. But after the story was written, she skipped town.

[00:02:27] **Eric Bland:** Isn't she like been married five times with five different names and all this different stuff?



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[00:02:33] **Mandy Matney:** Yes.

[00:02:34] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. Well, let's give a little bit of background about her. So Delayna Earley is the reporter who is working on this, she was a photojournalist and now she is working for the Island News which is in Beaufort, and that's a weekly newspaper. They're the ones that I did a guest column for during the trial. So Delayna called me last week out of the blue and...

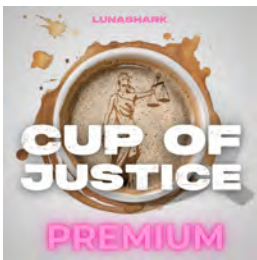
[00:02:53] **Eric Bland:** Which everyone should read, by the way, because they are really good.

[00:02:57] **Liz Farrell:** Thank you.

[00:02:58] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, they were.

[00:02:59] **Liz Farrell:** But yeah, she called me out of the blue last week and it was disturbing, to say the least what she was saying. But it's sort of a desperate feeling when somebody calls you and starts saying things of a serious nature, which is what Delayna was saying. Like, you know, this woman's raising money, she's raised \$900 on Sandy's behalf and said she gave it to Sandy. And there's these other organizations as well that she was doing it with. And she, this woman has it out for Mandy, that she feels like Mandy stole her plan for a GoFundMe for Sandy. And that Mandy was, "taking credit for it online," which is the most, to hear that as an adult woman where you're just like, what, what is this world and like, I'm, and I think Mandy, you're the same way. We were both raised Catholic and so immediately there's this guilt that kicks in like, did I do something wrong? And there's Jewish guilt too, right Eric? Like where it's just this...

[00:03:53] **Eric Bland:** I got Jewish guilt.



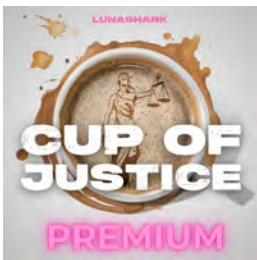
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[00:03:56] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, good, Lord. Well, this woman...she was known as the Beaufort chalkboard lady, because she created this, she had her husband build a chalkboard outside of their home, like this large sign, and she would write these like positive, inspirational messages on them, for people who are driving by and it came up during COVID. So it was something that got shared on Katie Couric, apparently Jennifer Garner, the actress shared it as well. And, you know, we met her, I met her one time. It was at the unveiling of Steven Smith's headstone in Varnville. And she came up to me, she said who she was as if I, and I hate... I'm not trying to be snobby when I say this but, as if I should know who she was. And I had to like, do that smile and nod thing where you're just like...because I had honestly, I'm not on social media to the extent that probably I should be but I don't know a lot of things. So I didn't know and I immediately felt stupid. Like, I don't know who this person is. I have no idea what Beaufort chalkboard is. That was the last time I heard anything about her until Delayna called. So it was just out of the blue where she was basically saying like, Delayna's just asking me these questions and I guess immediately I felt like, oh, my God, are we being misrepresented as associated with this person? And it seems like yes. Right? I mean, to certain extent, she was saying that she had this phone call with you, Mandy, and...

[00:05:17] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, just 100% False. And I mean, a couple things with this that I really learned in the last year, like, you just when you're misunderstood, it's the worst feeling in the world. And when people are not getting something about you, and people are just highly misunderstanding and misrepresenting you online, it's the worst feeling in the world, because, especially for all three of us, like, we just have that in us that you just want to fight back. And you just want to say like, that's not me, you have to understand blah blah blah, but I've really learned to just let go of that stuff. Because it's like...

[00:05:59] **Eric Bland:** The problem is that a lie travels halfway around the world before truth can lace up its shoes.

[00:06:04] **Mandy Matney:** Right.



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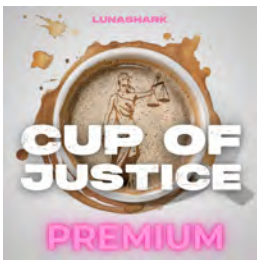
[00:06:05] **Eric Bland:** So you're trying to put feathers back into a pillow and you want to fight everybody and say, no, this isn't true. Because most of the time, it makes us look bad.

[00:06:13] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah.

[00:06:14] **Eric Bland:** Or be part of some kind of fraud, or we should have noticed this or, or seen it better. And these people are very crafty, they begin to take on a persona, they you know, it's like the old George Costanza: it's not a lie unless you believe it. So it becomes the truth to them. And almost like that she walks around saying that, you know, she's done all this for Sandy Smith and she's not getting credit.

[00:06:39] **Liz Farrell:** What's amazing to me is that she didn't think anyone would fact...So like we didn't know she was saying these things until Delayna called us but that she didn't think that that would be fact checked, you know? And that's, that's where it's kind of like, how have these people operated in a world where there is no backstop to what they're doing?

[00:06:58] **Mandy Matney:** Right. And this, Delayna's article came to be because there was another article written in a Beaufort magazine. And I'm not knocking the people from Beaufort Magazine, I get it what it's like to crank out like feature stories and you're not in the business of straight up fact checking people but they did say that they had, their way of fact checking was having her read the story before it went to print, which is just a really great lesson for even if you are a magazine; no matter what you're doing in journalism, that is not the way to get facts right about somebody. You have to independently verify this stuff. Because there are narcissists out there that will make up complete lies, complete bullshit, and take you as a journalist or a magazine editor or anything for a ride and that's terrible but like that's how this came to be. And that article it said that she had a 501(c)(3) which she didn't. And just very basic things that they didn't fact check. And that's how Delayna started digging into this and again, I'm really proud of Delayna because I was kind of in a, I go through peaks and valleys through all this



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stuff, but I was in a, I was in a valley last week with just kind of like, feeling stuck feeling like we're not gonna, we're not making a lot of movement. We're kind of in the exact same place with this Cory and Alex stuff and it seems like the feds are on their side, this is weird. But when, when I talked to Delayna it really like I got this rush of like gratitude and was just happy to see another journalist doing what we've been doing both exposing somebody else and doing the hard work and fact checking. And Delayna said to me on the phone last week, like she was scared for the article to come out because she was afraid of facing backlash. But she, it was the right thing to do and I was just so proud of her for doing that. So that's my little speech.

[00:09:01] **Liz Farrell:** With 501(c)(3)s, those are very checkable. In most states, you can look up online just to see if that person has registered with the Secretary of State's office.

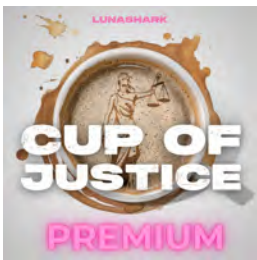
[00:09:11] **Eric Bland:** As a charitable institution, a 501(c)(3) is a charitable institution.

[00:09:16] **Liz Farrell:** And in South Carolina you, if you're raising any sort of money for an organization or a cause you have to register that with the Secretary of State's office. So that's another little trick of the trade that we use to look that stuff up. Yeah, you can look up on um, oh gosh, I can't...it's another site that I use, GuideStar.

[00:09:38] **Mandy Matney:** Oh yeah.

[00:09:39] **Liz Farrell:** So you can go to GuideStar and you can look up 501(c)(3)s or people that are claiming to be 501(c)(3)s. You can see who their officers are and you can see their tax returns I think for the last two or three years.

[00:09:49] **Eric Bland:** And you see how much they actually give to the charity as opposed to how much they take as administrative expenses to operate the charity.



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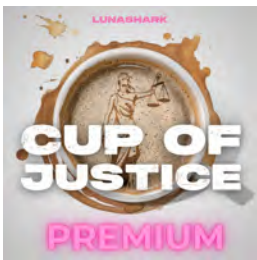
[00:09:58] **Liz Farrell:** Right, which is important.

[00:10:00] **Eric Bland:** And you'll be shocked to see how little goes to the cause and how much goes to the administration on most unreliable 501(c)(3)s.

[00:10:09] **Liz Farrell:** Right. Well, going back to what Mandy you said at the beginning, this woman she, so she was on Katie Couric, you know. I should say, got recognition from these big names online. And I think I'm not sure if it was because of that or in association with that or if this was something separate, but it seemed like some pretty big, I would call them power players in Beaufort, including a state representative, befriended her, and again, I don't know if it's because of that association or that recognition. But it's, when you look at where power flows and going back to what you know, Delayna had said to us about being worried about this running, you are taking on more than just that person, you know, because these other people now are going to have to defend their association or explain their association with this woman. On top of which, this is the most disturbing part, is this woman apparently, allegedly, I will say, uses fake accounts to help further her goal.

[00:11:06] **Mandy Matney:** I think too, with a big red flag with this woman is that like she literally went by "Beaufort chalkboard lady" and a lot of people didn't even know her name so they couldn't even look her up to see if she had fraud history. And she did; she had a lot of it. And she went by all these different aliases and names. And I think she's also another person, an example of a person who just, she sought the pandemic as a major opportunity, because she really was like, nobody knew who she was before the pandemic. And I think because we were all alone and seeing these like cute messages on a chalkboard, and there was a lot of like news stations that did stories on her and everything but again, *Beaufort Lifestyle* is not the only magazine, like several TV stations did stories on her, this lady was fooled by a lot of people. And I think it's again, a huge lesson in just basic fact checking and basic journalism.





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[00:12:00] **Eric Bland:** You know, I get a lot of phone calls, probably once a week or every other week, from people who some are psychics that say that they can solve the Steven Smith murder, I must call them back. And I don't call him back, and then they keep calling and then they get abusive of, look, I can solve this. Why don't you want it solved? You don't want it solved. You know, they claim to have solved, you know, JonBenét Ramsey or other stuff. I mean, there are just people that are really disturbed, that I don't know what is happening to their lives, that they invest themselves into a story. And the phone calls that I get would blow your mind. I'm telling you, would blow your mind...my assistant, Mary Ellen, you know, could do a whole show on it.

[00:12:51] **Liz Farrell:** Unfortunately, I don't think they'd blow our minds.

[00:12:54] **Mandy Matney:** Well yeah. And that's, and that's the thing too that's really scary about this is these people get angry when you don't respond and they get, and they take it so personally, and...

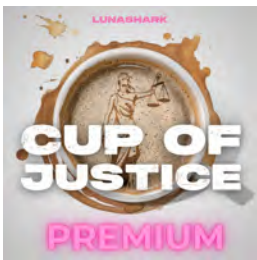
[00:13:02] **Eric Bland:** Correct.

[00:13:03] **Mandy Matney:** That I've had a million people reach out to me and say that they want me to do a story on their families, blah, blah, blah. And then if I don't respond, they get

[00:13:12] **Eric Bland:** Angry.

[00:13:13] **Mandy Matney:** Really abusive and angry and it gets scary because it's like, I don't, you don't want to expose yourself to...I don't respond to a lot of people because I don't want them to get attached, I don't want them to like get attached to me and then it gets even worse. There's just a lot of women have been in very dangerous situations with stalkers, because they start to be nice at the beginning, and then they get scared and then the person like, it's just a lose-lose, it sucks.





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[00:13:43] **Eric Bland:** You can't pull away, that's the problem. If you, if you engage, it's okay for a while and then you start to pull away because you start to feel a little bit uneasy, and you pull away and that's when it starts to get weird when you do the pull away.

[00:13:58] **Mandy Matney:** Right. And it's just it's very scary how many disturbed people there are out there. But I will say with the Beaufort chalkboard woman, it was very sad at the end of the story her, her husband had no idea who she was and Delayna really, right Liz? Delayna was the person to explain to him what happened right?

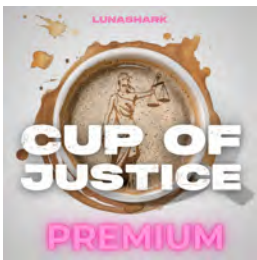
[00:14:20] **Liz Farrell:** Essentially. But just, quickly to go right back to what you guys were saying. Just to add to that, it's what bothers me is the assumptions that people make if you don't respond to them or when you don't respond to them because inevitably, like you know, I can't respond to everyone either and the assumptions that then get made which is that we're covering for people or we're part of it or...

[00:14:41] **Eric Bland:** Arrogant.

[00:14:42] **Liz Farrell:** Arrogant, right.

[00:14:44] **Mandy Matney:** Fame got to your head.

[00:14:45] **Liz Farrell:** Fame got to our head, you don't care, all of that stuff. And it's like, I don't think that people understand sometimes that like we were investigating this since 2019, which means that we had like a two year lead on most people when it came to the murder. So we didn't just start, you know, on June 7 2021 looking into this. So it takes time to vet these, you know, issues or these stories or what have you. So, at any rate that but yeah, her husband apparently didn't know and she skipped town which, when Delayna sent this story she's like, the last 12 hours have been wild. Like how?



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[00:15:20] **Eric Bland:** She skipped town with \$900, that's not gonna get her too far right?

[00:15:24] **Liz Farrell:** She had other organizations too are accusing her of...

[00:15:30] **Eric Bland:** Got it.

[00:15:31] **Liz Farrell:** Taking advantage.

[00:15:31] **Mandy Matney:** Stealing.

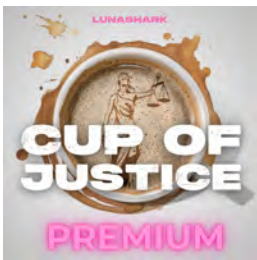
[00:15:32] **Liz Farrell:** Right and stealing. And again, she had like a long history of that.

[00:15:36] **Eric Bland:** You read those stories of the people that you know claim that their daughter has cancer, and they do a GoFundMe, and she doesn't. Those people should bake in hell, man, eat those people should bake in hell, you know?

[00:15:49] **Mandy Matney:** They should.

[00:15:49] **Liz Farrell:** Truly.

[00:15:50] **Mandy Matney:** And I think the other thing that bothers me about this story, and the Alex Murdaugh story is that this wrecks a lot of people because it, it goes to the core of your ability to trust people and to want the best out of people. And then when you're betrayed like that by somebody that you thought was a decent person, or you thought that was doing the right thing, it's just very hurtful. And it just it, the widespread damage that it does is so beyond just the initial betrayal, it's going to take a lot of people a lot of time to get over something like this. And I think that that's what people don't understand about fraud. And we've talked about this a lot, Eric, like, with the Alex Murdaugh, financial crimes, a lot of people tried to brush them off as like, oh, it's just money being stolen. But no, this is deep, deep betrayal. And



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you are taking away people's ability to trust people and people's ability to see the best in other people. And that's...

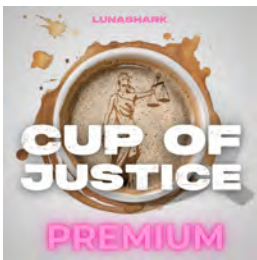
[00:16:56] **Liz Farrell:** Well protect themselves too. That's the main thing is like, if you don't have the ability to protect yourself and make decisions that are best for your life, because you're using faulty information, or you're going with what the more the louder person says to do, or the person with the power in the power differential, the person with the most power in the situation, you're going along with what they want, because it's the path of least resistance or it'd be impolite to say something. Then you end up in this situation that I saw that with some of the victims is just like questioning themselves with whether they should have spoken up or whether they you know, the little Navy red flag that they felt was enough to say something but I don't know, in this I just what I saw was that...

[00:17:40] **Eric Bland:** Let me give you let me give you a little example. So the more I have been using Twitter since like I started last September and you know, built up a little bit of a following and and so I share a lot of things with the people who follow me whether it's, you know, pictures of the dogs or Renee or different stuff that happens or weightlifting or an exercise or stuff about my knee. You know, I got one guy who responds to every single tweet with real nasty stuff, you know, real to the bone like you're self absorbed, you're an asshole, yada, yada. And I want to say to the guy, hey look, man, just don't follow me just you know, don't don't respond, there's no reason to do it. And you know, he keeps getting personal and I don't understand if, why people want to do this and be mean or be deceptive. You know, I'm saying do you guys get that?

[00:18:39] **Liz Farrell:** Yes we get that are you kidding?

[00:18:42] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. I block them though. And then they make...

[00:18:45] **Eric Bland:** That must be an act of aggression too you know, that's an act of aggression.



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[00:18:50] **Mandy Matney:** They totally, there's a lot of people that, there's a whole...

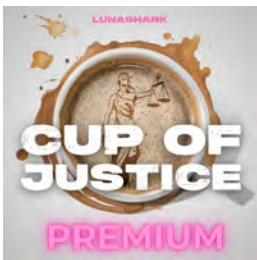
[00:18:52] **Eric Bland:** Do they backdoor and figure out a way to get to you even if you block them through somebody else?

[00:18:56] **Liz Farrell:** Yes.

[00:18:57] **Mandy Matney:** There's a whole account called "Mandy Blocked Me" that somehow they like take, and it's a group of people who all hate me because I blocked them at one point. But it's just that is anger that I don't want in my life. Like if somebody is going to be nasty once I don't want, I want to protect myself from that I'm putting up that wall. I don't want to be hurt by that ever again. I don't want I don't want to think about it. I just, that's my boundary. And when you, we're the three of us are in a position where we are in the public eye and there's only so much that we can control and blocking is my way of just being able to control a little bit of that like constant. All of it is people who are angry with themselves. That's it. They are mad that they don't have Eric Bland's life. They're mad that they don't have, we have something that they want and it's a really weird thing to...it's a hard thing because it makes me angry and I'm...and I just want to like shake these people and be like just do something for yourself. Just go out and do something that makes you happy except for looking at Eric's pictures and yelling at him about being fit. Like just do something.

[00:20:07] **Eric Bland:** This same guy, one of our listeners point out this same guy is a guy and he pulled up an old tweet from the guy that was saying, I'm praying for Alex to be found not guilty by the jury while they were deliberating like that gives you who he is you know what I mean, I'm praying for Alex.

[00:20:26] **Liz Farrell:** If it's even a person Eric, it might not be a real person. That could be an account held by one of the many organizations out there that you can pay to do this stuff.



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[00:20:36] **Eric Bland:** Okay.

[00:20:37] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah it's a wild world.

[00:20:28] **Liz Farrell:** Who knows, you know, there's people who I think just get...or it turns into their hobby, and they check their calendar and say, Have I done that today? No need to go on and insult Eric.

[00:20:49] **Mandy Matney:** Or yeah, I had a photo shoot last week and somebody, somebody on Instagram and you know they said it, I know that they said it particularly to be mean but they said "when are you due Mandy?"

[00:21:03] **Eric Bland:** Oh come on man screw that man.

[00:21:08] **Mandy Matney:** I know but like that is like deep. Somebody had to sit there, think about it. Like what can I hurt her and the most in this like.

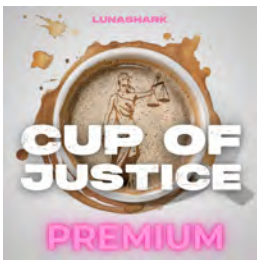
[00:21:15] **Eric Bland:** Somebody said something about you that I really got pissed off and I responded last week. It was something about working out or something and they made a snappy comment about you and I got really pissed off, man. Come on, man. Get a frickin life.

[00:21:31] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, all these people. But you know.

[00:21:35] **Eric Bland:** Look at your face, look at you, how beautiful you are a man.

[00:21:39] **Mandy Matney:** Aw you're so sweet. Right, but I mean it's, this turned into a therapy session. Yeah...

[00:21:47] **Liz Farrell:** It's a world out there.



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[00:21:49] **Mandy Matney:** It is, it's hard. But once you see it, I just want to tell people this, like once you see it, and I wish that I wish that children knew this growing up. I wish that like, I wish that I knew this a really long time ago. Once you see every act of anger towards you as it's not about you, it's about them. This is about their internal, like, everything kind of changes, and you're just able to let go of a lot of things and just, I don't see those people as like, I just see em as like, man, you need help.

[00:22:21] **Eric Bland:** Yeah, and who are they doing it to in their small circle of life? Are they abusing their wives or their children?

[00:22:27] **Mandy Matney:** Totally, right.

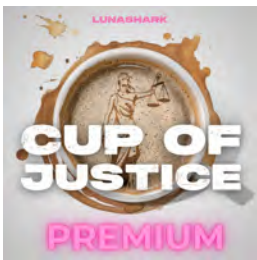
[00:22:21] **Eric Bland:** Are they you know, they're not just nasty. This ain't a one off. They're doing this to everybody. You know what I mean?

[00:22:34] **Mandy Matney:** Right, and it's just like I do. I feel like that is so much angst, like the people that like, have so much time to go through every single thing that I do, or you do and pick it apart. It's like that it's just so much anger, you It must be really hard to be inside of your head. But it's just so much anger and negativity and anxiety that like we as a society have just got to start viewing it as like, it has nothing to do with the people who are being attacked. It has everything to do with the people who are attacking and yeah, that's how I'm able to move on from it. And we'll be right back.

### COMMERCIAL

[00:23:35] **Eric Bland:** Let me ask you something Liz, why haven't we seen Cory be disbarred? It's been a week and a half, he already pled guilty. They disbarred Alex within two days of the confession of judgment. He's already pled guilty to a felony. Why is he, his license not already disbarred.

[00:23:52] **Liz Farrell:** He also relinquished his license according to his lawyer, so I don't know. Yeah so supposedly...



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[00:24:00] **Eric Bland:** There hasn't been a published, there's been no publication of that.

[00:24:03] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. It was part of, Debbie said that in court, in Federal Court, that as of this week, and she was talking about the day they were in court, Cory had relinquished his South Carolina and Georgia Law licenses. And there's been no evidence of that, that we can see at least officially. So I don't know what the holdup is there. If it's connected to something larger and they're continuing that investigation, or if it's just such a meaningless piece of paperwork at this point, because he's not fighting it, that they just haven't posted it yet. But it's coming. I mean, there's no world in which he keeps his license, right, Eric?

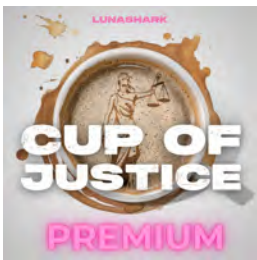
[00:24:44] **Eric Bland:** No, no, no, Mandy and I went on a bad rant Friday night during happy hour about, you know, Cory's, everybody's saying, oh he's coming clean, he's coming clean. I mean, he hasn't even come clean 1/10 of what each needs to come clean on. I mean, it was a rant wasn't it Mandy?

[00:25:00] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, Liz, I was telling Eric about how, like we both got angry mid last week we both were just like Cory is what really, really, it's just it bothers me to my core. And I think it's just, and in the last couple of weeks, insane people thinking that like he's coming and seeing people still support him. That pisses me off because, and seeing lawyers still like give him the benefit of the doubt and assume that like, okay, he just knew that they were gonna he was gonna steal \$100,000. No, that's not okay. That's the opposite of what your profession is supposed to do. You're supposed to be protecting your clients, not just oh, that's just 100k. That's ridiculous, like, and yeah, it just feels, I really, really hope that we see movement this week because it makes me angry where we are right now.

[00:25:58] **Eric Bland:** We're recycling is what you said Friday night.

[00:26:01] **Mandy Matney:** Right.





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[00:26:02] **Eric Bland:** We're recycling plastic. Same people, same plastic.

[00:26:06] **Liz Farrell:** Well, it feels like Cory got the deal that I think Alex thought he could get at some point in all of this, which is just get you know, the minimum charge federally and then plead guilty to that and then hope that the state will take mercy on you which obviously we've found out from Creighton Waters, the prosecutor, that there are no plans to take it easy on Cory and that's a good thing because...

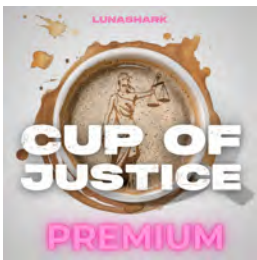
[00:26:28] **Eric Bland:** Yeah, he called me. I think you guys talked about it last week, but he called me. I was in the gym and he was pissed. This was, this was big Creighton energy. And he said, I want to let you know that there is no deal in the works where the state is going to step aside on Alex or Cory. Cory is not cooperating with us, Alex is not cooperating with us. I have no agreement with Emily Limehouse to step aside. And unless Cory is going to come totally clean unvarnished, he's going to trial on September 11th and it was really refreshing to hear that because that's the fear that we had that, you know, it's a lot of sound and fury signifying nothing with all these charges and at the end of the day, it's a plead to one crime or two crimes and you know, everybody goes on their way and the authorities stand up and say, see, we gave you justice. Well, Creighton said No, that isn't the definition of justice he wants.

[00:27:28] **Liz Farrell:** Eric have you ever seen the movie *The Untouchables* with Kevin Costner and Robert DeNiro? I started watching that last night, Mandy have you seen that movie?

[00:27:35] **Mandy Matney:** No, I haven't.

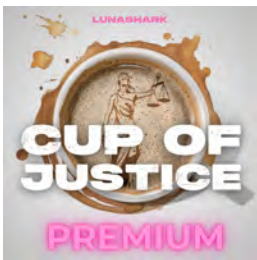
[00:27:36] **Eric Bland:** It's great.

[00:27:37] **Liz Farrell:** It's really good. It's about the story of Al Capone and Eliot Ness who was a prohibition agent in the 30 years and he was



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instrumental in bringing Al Capone down. And one of the things that struck me is there's a point where Sean Connery is in it too and he plays a supposedly Irish cop, sounds Scottish to me still, but his boss says to them, like it's easier to look the other way. Like it's you don't want to be getting messed in with this, like the rum running and all that. And to be clear, like the Murdaugh history is in bootlegging that is a fact. Like they are there's a history of bootlegging there, there's a history of big Buster's involvement in it. So we've talked about it on Murdaugh Murders Podcast, about the history of Buster Murdaugh and the whiskey stills and all of that, and the moonshining and what have you. But one of the things was just that, you know, law enforcement, the circuit judges, all of it, it was just rang really true of what we were seeing or what we think we're seeing in the Murdaugh story now. So going back to Cory, it's like, you look at like, we've got a business, so...sorry to jump around here but there's an alderman character who comes to visit Eliot Ness with a stack of cash in an envelope and is basically like, you're messing with a big business here so you need to step back, relax. You know, when everyone was basically it seems on the take in some way, whether it was to protect themselves from violence or protect their families. I mean, these people meant business. They weren't, they weren't messing around, they would shoot they will shoot you. So I just feel like with the Murdaugh story, and with Cory Fleming in particular, like, this isn't just, oh Cory comes clean and about his role and what have you like, I really, truly hope that the federal government is looking at the bigger picture and for real looking at the bigger picture because unfortunately, what has us hesitated like why we're hesitating right now when it comes to the federal government is because of some of the players and their connections to people who might want to keep a containment on certain activities that are happening in the low country when it comes to the drug trade, alleged drug trafficking, whatever it is that's going on. We know that Beaufort County is a part of that we know that Hampton County, Colleton County and all of that so, I don't know. I think Cory knows a lot more than he says he does. I know we mentioned the Calvert's in one of our other episodes, the couple that went missing on Hilton Head in 2008. But Cory out of the blue shows up as Dennis Gerwing's attorney and Dennis is who they believe killed the Calverts. But why is Cory involved? You



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know what? So you just have all these questions and like, what's his connection to the captive insurance industry? What's his connection, like what we need to know more than just what happened with the Satterfield case, you know what I mean? And I don't know that the federal government has it in them to pursue that with the gusto that they need to be pursuing it.

[00:30:38] **Eric Bland:** They can't, they know every bank account, they know every transaction, not the state doesn't have access to the information that the federal government and the Justice Department has access to and they know...

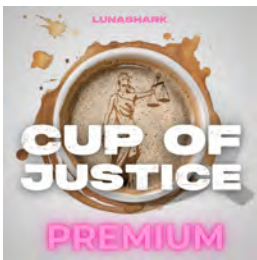
[00:30:50] **Liz Farrell:** Well a lot of that was transferred into cash, though, Eric, right? So like, what, you know what I mean, that's where I start to get, you've got guys, you've got guys that are adjacent to these men with private planes that make trips. I mean, who's to say they're not taking suitcases of cash with them, like that kind of thing.

[00:31:06] **Eric Bland:** Yeah, Friday night we had a listener who asked us questions on where the money went, and Mandy and I said three places: overseas to an island, somehow, some in real estate, and then some just in pure cash that may be in in a vault made somewhere or some cold storage place. You know, don't forget, cousin Eddie, you know, changed \$2.2 million in cashier's checks into cash. And, you know, where did all that cash go there? There may be a vault of cash. It's not just the Satterfield cash, there's cash from other clients that were taken advantage of and had money stolen.

[00:31:47] **Mandy Matney:** Right.

[00:31:48] **Liz Farrell:** Well, I just go back to the drug trade needs investors and you can't invest with a check or you can't really wire money to a drug you know kingpin, you've got to pay with cash, I would imagine.

[00:31:59] **Eric Bland:** They don't take credit cards?



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[00:32:01] **Liz Farrell:** I don't think they take credit cards.

[00:32:02] **Mandy Matney:** Cashier's checks?

[00:32:04] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, right.

[00:32:06] **Eric Bland:** Mandy, what do you think?

[00:32:07] **Mandy Matney:** I think the federal government, I feel like we're on the cusp of something here where like the federal government actually could have the, could find the answers as to where the money went and...

[00:32:20] **Eric Bland:** Does Cory have the answers?

[00:32:22] **Mandy Matney:** Does does Cory? I think Cory has a lot of answers and, but do I think that right now they're putting the right pressure on him that he will spill the, no. I think Dick and Jim could have a lot of answers. I think they know a lot more, but I don't think that they're feeling any pressure from anyone. And that's unfortunate. But Liz we did hear something. Eric had some fun news on Friday night.

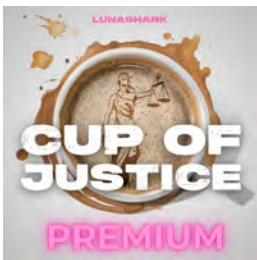
[00:32:50] **Liz Farrell:** Oh, what's that?

[00:32:51] **Mandy Matney:** You are possibly going to depose Dick and Jim and Alex, you want to.

[00:32:59] **Eric Bland:** I am I'm sending out a notice of deposition for Alex's deposition at McCormick prison, and we are going to be

[00:33:06] **Liz Farrell:** To take it?

[00:33:07] **Eric Bland:** To take it, yeah and I would do a lot I told Mandy that it's vulgar, to be able to take his deposition. And I'm sending subpoenas out to Dick and Jim for their communications, which ultimately will that they'll



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object to but they they've made statements that they learned during the trial that dictated that, you know, Alex said that the dogs didn't cause Gloria's fall. Well, how would you learn that? The only person you can learn that from is Alex because everybody else is dead. And then later on, and he made some other comments. So we are going to test the attorney client privilege. Was, is there a waiver? But I definitely am taking Alex's deposition because in the Nautilus answer and in the motion that they made in the Satterfield case to get relief from the judgment, Alex didn't do any of this under oath. This is lawyers saying what he, you know, what he contends now and he needs to get under oath before we have our hearing on whether the confession of judgment will be negated.

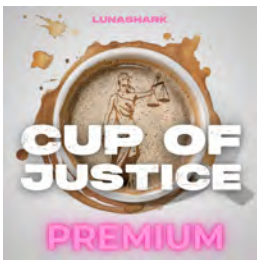
[00:34:16] **Liz Farrell:** Well, that's exciting. I would love to be your paralegal in that.

[00:34:20] **Eric Bland:** And it will be a deposition, it'll definitely be a...you will, it'll definitely be you will, by the way, both of you and it will be a deposition that will not be sealed and hopefully it will be released like I did Chad Westendorf's deposition.

[00:34:36] **Liz Farrell:** Nice!

[00:34:37] **Mandy Matney:** Okay, everybody what is what is your first question sitting down with Alex Murdaugh? What is your first question?

[00:34:44] **Eric Bland:** My first question is, what did you eat for breakfast? No, no I want to start off with when did the when did you start this betrayal and stealing from clients? When did it occur to you? Why did it happen and then just work my way up from 2005 forward, Dick'll object, instruct him not to answer that I should only answer, ask questions about the Satterfield case. And I'll work my way forward and just keep asking the questions and plow my way forward. And you got you guys will will definitely give me some stuff to put in my outline for sure.



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[00:35:21] **Mandy Matney:** I can't wait. Liz, what would you ask him?

[00:35:22] **Liz Farrell:** Excellent, can't wait. Just what was his role in the Steven Smith case? That's what I want to know.

[00:35:29] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah.

[00:35:30] **Liz Farrell:** Did he know Steven personally? And if so, what was the nature of that relationship? That's what I would ask.

[00:35:36] **Eric Bland:** Yeah did you know that your brother was representing Stephen's father on a worker's comp case? Were you involved in that? Yeah. All the way through?

[00:35:44] **Liz Farrell:** Even Yeah, just at the basic level, what was his connection to Steven Smith? That's what I want to know. And how close were they if they were close at all?

[00:35:51] **Eric Bland:** On a personal level?

[00:35:53] **Mandy Matney:** I would like to know that too.

[00:35:54] **Liz Farrell:** Yes. On a personal level.

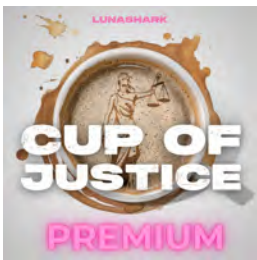
[00:35:55] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, I think that that's the biggest. I also just have a lot of questions about the Pinckney case.

[00:36:02] **Eric Bland:** Plyler.

[00:36:03] **Mandy Matney:** And Plyler. I mean, so yeah.

[00:36:05] **Liz Farrell:** Like, did you kill Hakeem? Did you unplug Hakeem Pinckney?

[00:36:08] **Mandy Matney:** Right?



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[00:36:08] **Eric Bland:** Did you travel to and kick that plug out?

[00:36:15] **Mandy Matney:** Right, or did or do these like deaths that you benefit from a lot just fall into your lap that are just very mysterious? I don't know. And but the other thing that's just so frustrating, is like, I think we're all picturing a world where Alex would suddenly be truthful, and it's going to be a lot of he will tell you what he ate for breakfast, and he will talk about beef sticks and he's gonna, we all know his tactics. He'll try to warm up to you, he'll talk about hogs. And the amount of times that like, if you guys go back and listen to his testimony in the trial, his manipulation tactics, man are something else.

[00:37:06] **Eric Bland:** And we'll be right back.

### COMMERCIAL

[00:37:18] **Eric Bland:** Did you guys read Dick's filing on Friday on the motion to reconsider Judge Hall's denial of the \$160,000?

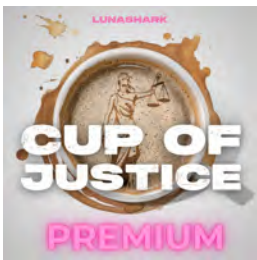
[00:37:27] **Liz Farrell:** I haven't yet but I have it.

[00:37:31] **Eric Bland:** Again, here here he goes the he chides Judge Hall and said you don't know the law, the federal law on this that these are are not tainted funds. They haven't become tainted funds, because there hasn't been a forfeiture action yet on these funds. He he mocks Jordan...

[00:37:49] **Liz Farrell:** But that's not the issue, though, right Eric? It's not about whether they're tainted, it's about whether you made it, you've already made a deal that...

[00:37:59] **Eric Bland:** You would wait in line.





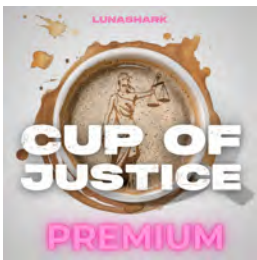
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[00:38:00] **Liz Farrell:** We allowed you to cash out your 401k in with the the agreement to allow you to do that without the victims going after that. Because once the 401k is cash out, it becomes an asset of Alex's, a touchable asset right. So in order to get it to not be not have the co-receivership pounced on it Alex had to come up with a way where the to make it untouchable to a large extent. So he made the portion that he needed to be untouchable and said I'm going to take if I can take this amount, you guys can have the rest. And now he's coming back and saying actually, I want the rest too and now they're trying to use this federal law as its justification for like it's not tainted funds, we can have it it's not about whether it's tainted funds, it's about whether you made a deal with the court and the receivership and the victims that we would not come after your money if you gave us this portion of it and you can have the rest so.

[00:39:00] **Eric Bland:** And he can make an application but it's at the right time when everybody else makes their application. He doesn't get the jump to the front of the line, just like I didn't get the jump to the front of the line with my \$4.3 million judgment that he gave us. Everybody stands shoulder to shoulder. And the other thing that I found interesting is Dick trafficked again, that they made no money representing Alex so you know, \$81,000 in the murder case, and that spent \$519,000 of expenses. You know, what do I believe Dick? No. Is it possible? Yes, but I'd like to trust and verify. So how about itemize for me that \$590,000 because I want to make sure you didn't charge you know, \$137 for a cup of coffee like the Department of Defense does with a screw. You know what I'm saying? Let's let's really see how you make \$519,000 of expenses.

[00:40:04] **Liz Farrell:** Wouldn't there, I mean, if their housing if they charged Alex for where they were staying wouldn't that have amounted to like close to six figures if not over six figures for the amount of time they were staying?

[00:40:13] **Eric Bland:** Sure, according to everything it's \$20,000, \$25,000 a week that was five weeks for that.



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[00:40:18] **Mandy Matney:** Right. So that's done. That's 100. And then, but what was weird was the witness. Like they did not spend that money on like the one thing.

[00:40:29] **Liz Farrell:** Which is what they wanted the money for Mandy. That was the whole point of the 40k money we needed for experts and then they bring in the bargain basement Paul Murdaugh cast offs.

[00:40:41] **Mandy Matney:** A two for one. They got a two for one expert.

[00:40:45] **Eric Bland:** That's right, that guy. Yeah, the guy who did the boat. He's a boat reenactment and then he became a ballistics reenactment guy.

[00:40:52] **Mandy Matney:** How many ballistic cases have you done?

[00:40:57] **Liz Farrell:** Well, one hunting case on accident because I'm kind of an outdoors guy. Like, I don't know, these people...

[00:41:03] **Mandy Matney:** That was unbelievable.

[00:41:04] **Eric Bland:** Do you think Dick and Jim are doing all of this for free?

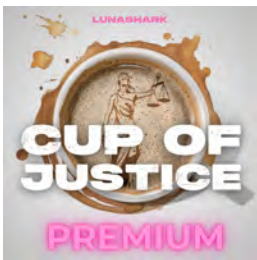
[00:41:09] **Mandy Matney:** No.

[00:41:10] **Liz Farrell:** No.

[00:41:11] **Eric Bland:** No. Do you think they're getting paid somehow at this time? Raise your hand.

[00:41:16] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, I do. I would assume.

[00:41:17] **Eric Bland:** I think there's family members paying.



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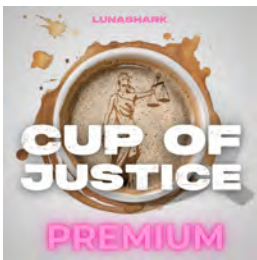
[00:41:19] **Liz Farrell:** Why would they do it for free? I don't understand it. If they're doing it for free, then I hope the federal government questions them too. Because why are you helping this guy that we suspect might be involved with all this other stuff?

[00:41:32] **Eric Bland:** I'm gonna give you guys a little advanced preview. My partner who writes legally as good as Liz does journalistically, with sarcasm, is I think 40 pages into his response to Dick's motion to seek relief from a judgment. And he's gonna use a sports analogy to raise every issue. And he warned them, he warned Dick and Jim, he asked them under Rule 11 to withdraw the motion. That's what we have to do when we make our own motion for sanctions and they wouldn't do it and he is not going to hold back a punch. I think you're gonna really enjoy what Ronnie is writing.

[00:42:17] **Mandy Matney:** I'm excited.

[00:41:18] **Eric Bland:** Yeah, you should be.

[00:42:19] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, I do not like holding back punches. If you're going to punch, you need to knock the person out, in my opinion. But real quick, and then we can wrap this up. But Mandy you also sent me another tweet this morning, it was right before we started recording, that was from a guy who it looks like he specializes in like anti terrorism issues. And he was talking about the federal government not going full bore on drug trafficking in the low country in particular. And it really was chilling, because it's exactly what we have suspected. And apparently he's been, he's spent quite some time studying this. And, you know, obviously, the Murdaugh connection is interesting to us. And he did mention Alex Murdaugh's name, regarding the islands or two that he owns, that are were considered targets. And, but I do think we're sort of, you know, Mandy you had said that we're like, kind of like in a, you're kind of in this sort of trench or like a rut. I think things are going to start moving forward rather quickly. Because once we call these things out, and it's, it's not always easy, because things happen behind the scenes that we can't say out loud yet that we know that the things we talk about on the



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show, contribute to some momentum that happened behind the scenes. So one of the things I'm hoping is that the federal government will look into PMPED's connections or interactions, potential interactions, I would say, with the federal government on Alex Murdaugh and any of his alleged co-conspirators.

[00:43:57] **Eric Bland:** Are you saying that sometimes the government will will look the other way on a drug operation because there's a bigger piece that they're trying to do. You sometimes see that they they let like a Sunni Bolger or somebody do his gangster stuff because he's cooperating

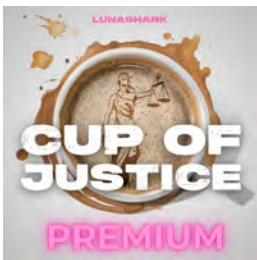
[00:44:17] **Liz Farrell:** Whitey Bolger.

[00:44:18] **Eric Bland:** Whitey Bolger, right.

[00:44:19] **Liz Farrell:** I can't let you say that wrong, Eric. I'm sorry.

[00:44:21] **Eric Bland:** Right because you're from Boston. So they let them operate their little gangster work, because there's a bigger picture. Is that what you're saying with the drug stuff?

[00:44:33] **Liz Farrell:** Oh, I'm sure they do. I mean, I know they do. No, no, what I'm saying is that this area of the country has had a very specific set of people in charge of deciding how hard to go on the investigation and me and on investigating it or on shutting it down. Whatever is happening in the low country. So that's what I'm saying. I'm saying that like, you put them in a, and maybe this is just me watching *The Untouchables* you know, to a certain extent. But you put the right people in place, and they decide on how much to turn up the heat, right. So when we're talking about what needs to happen to figure out like, what's been going on here, like that's, I think we need to talk about that and with the federal government has, have they also, have they been protecting certain businessmen in this area? That's just, that's my thought. That's all I wanted to say about it.



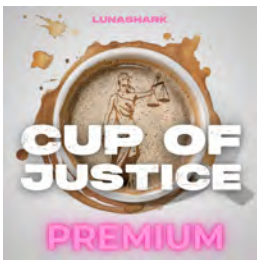
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[00:45:23] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, Jackpot has come up a lot in the last, I don't know, couple of weeks. I just keep getting all these Jackpot references. And I feel like, I mean, that's a story that I don't think we've touched the surface of as far as what really happened. And I think that there's definitely something there with people being looking the other way, including the federal government, and going hard on competition of their friends. And I think that'll be very interesting.

[00:45:58] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, so this was specifically about the cocaine trade. And that's, you know, we had never heard that Alex was on pain medication, well we hadn't heard for a long time. But what we had heard was that cocaine was an issue for, you know, allegedly for him and allegedly for people in his circle. So, not saying that there was no oxy or anything like that. But oxy is a much more socially acceptable drug to say you're addicted to than cocaine.

[00:46:26] **Eric Bland:** So we still we have Cory, we have Russell, we have Alex. Okay. The Troika. There's the 14th circuit, judicial office, there's judges, there's the police departments, there's other lawyers. What is happening? What's going on? Are you hearing behind the scenes that there is movement? These people are being looked into? Or is it they're just going to just tar and feather Alex, Russell, and Cory?

[00:46:57] **Liz Farrell:** I think that. I think that I really do think that a move is being made right now to tar and feather Alex, Cory and Russell. And I don't, I think there's a lot of confusion surrounding what the federal government is up to right now and a lot of speculation. Because, again, if this goes back to a turf war between the federal government, the state and the federal government, what why would the federal government care about having their fingerprints on this anyway? I mean, the state's showing that it has, it has the wherewithal to deal with this. So why would the federal government want any involvement, if not to have some control over the outcome, perhaps. I understand that federal laws were broken too and they have every right to prosecute those violations. But it's just, it's a bizarre thing when you come up and Alex is given 22 counts, most of which are redundant to the state charges



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and you don't really know why when it's a man who is spending two lifetimes in prison, so why? Why get involved with that, if not to have your finger on the pulse of who gets talked to, who gets investigated, who gets interviewed, what happens with that, that interview and what do you do with it afterwards. So that's what I'm saying. And I don't even know who you would talk to at this point to make sure that doesn't happen.

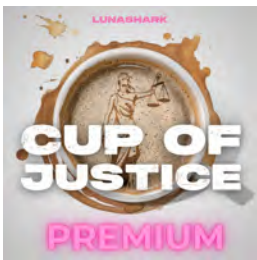
[00:48:17] **Eric Bland:** Look I trust I trust Emily Limehouse and Winston to do the right thing. What I don't trust is what happens over their heads in Washington, DC with the Justice Department and Dick Harpootlian. Dick just is too powerful, is too well connected, has too many private phone numbers that he can do his dizzle with. And you know, when you're the third phone call, like Mandy and I talked about Friday night, away from the president of the United States, what is the directive from DC about these cases and these charges? Is it do one and done? Or go forward where the evidence and everything will take you? I just don't know. But I I am very fearful of what Dick can do on a federal level.

[00:49:04] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. And I mean, the more that I think about it the more like we've been begging for the feds to come in for a long time. And like you said, look at the look at the 14th look at what's going on. Look at all the public corruption like we are begging for federal intervention here. But at the same time when they come out of the gate, and then they get Alex and Cory all of this time later it's like, even more suspicious. And I would just like a simple answer from them as far as like, why are you doing this now? And why why even bother with Alex at this point? Unless you're getting other people like what are you doing here?

[00:49:49] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, exactly. So that is my worry of the day. What's your guy's, you guys got a worry of the day to share?

[00:49:58] **Eric Bland:** I shared mine, I worry about Dick on the federal level.





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[00:50:02] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, I do too. And yeah, I just worry that, this is, we're entering just another part of their game. And I don't like that.

[00:50:13] **Liz Farrell:** It's like Harry Potter, where you start, you know, you start off with a few victories, and then the Death Eaters come, you know. I think we're in the Death Eater phase and we're trying to figure out, you know, what is the actual battle look like ahead. And I think that that battle is going to be far more scary than the I mean, the murders and all of that was the easy part really. So now, now, we're going to need people with a very, very strong backbones, to persevere on the state level. And hopefully that is Alan Wilson and Creighton Waters.

[00:50:46] **Eric Bland:** So talk to me, talk to me ladies about True Sunlight. Tell me about what you got, what you're thinking about where it's gone. What's the next six months gonna look like? Are you still in the formative stages? Tell me what, what you see for it.

[00:51:00] **Mandy Matney:** Picking up more cases and still putting the pressure on in this case, and I want to be clear about that. And like, it's not just like moving on, packing up and moving on. It is just giving us more flexibility to expand. But...

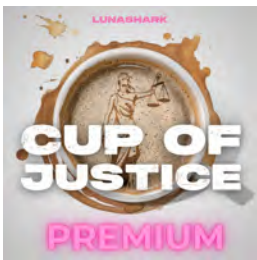
[00:51:19] **Eric Bland:** What's the response been? The listeners, are they concerned that you're going to veer off Murdaugh or they want more Murdaugh? What do they want? Are they excited about it? What are you hearing?

[00:51:31] **Mandy Matney:** For the most part, great things?

[00:51:35] **Eric Bland:** Good.

[00:51:36] **Mandy Matney:** But yeah, I was just looking at...





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[00:51:37] **Liz Farrell:** I think it was a little fear there. Right? At first people were a little scared that we're gonna just up-end everything.

[00:51:43] **Eric Bland:** Were you guys scared a little bit?

[00:51:45] **Liz Farrell:** No. I mean, I wasn't, Mandy what...

[00:51:48] **Mandy Matney:** No. I mean always know it, have to be apprehensive with change. And we had such a good thing it's obviously it's hard to leave something that's working, but we're making it better. So and it's not leaving.

[00:52:04] **Liz Farrell:** But that's, I think it's just a name change right now. It's just, it's just a name change right now. I mean, like, that's, I think that's the hard thing is just like, it's like getting divorced in a way like and you took your husband's name and now you just want to like rid yourself of that name and just kind of start fresh. I mean, we haven't finished the Murdaugh story yet but do we really need to be under his name all the time? You know, I think that's really what it is.

[00:52:25] **Eric Bland:** MMP merch now becomes like highly valuable because now you're moving into True Sunlight. So, it's gonna be like the whose got the trading card of the original, you know, MMP shirt. You know what I'm saying? It becomes Valley, OG stuff.

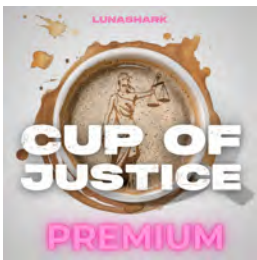
[00:52:39] **Liz Farrell:** Oh wow.

[00:52:41] **Mandy Matney:** So guys...

[00:52:42] **Liz Farrell:** I should have bought more merch.

[00:52:44] **Eric Bland:** Yeah.

[00:52:46] **Mandy Matney:** Before we wrap up, I was just thinking that so June 7 is this week, that will be two years. Wow. What has been the most surprising



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thing that has come out all of this, to both of you? Looking back in the last two years what's been your your biggest shocking moment?

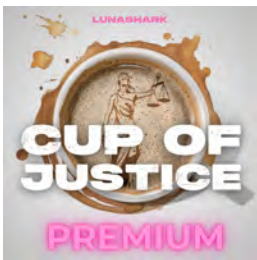
[00:53:10] **Eric Bland:** Jim Griffin.

[00:53:11] **Liz Farrell:** Really?

[00:53:13] **Eric Bland:** Yeah, how deep how deep he is going for Alex. Just it, it's stunning. Alex's evil, you know, I knew that. We knew that two years ago. There's no you know, nothing that he does surprises us because he's just a narcissist, like Mandy always paints him that he is and, and a psychopath. It's really what Jim is willing to do for him is just shocking to me. I understand defense of the murders, we talked about that, Mandy and I did on you know, Friday night. What I don't understand is how they keep going on the financial crimes and not guilty and yeah a little bit teasing a little bit, but it's, it's that. He's willing to wreck his whole career over Alex Murdaugh.

[00:53:59] **Mandy Matney:** What about you, Liz?

[00:54:01] **Liz Farrell:** For me, it's always been, I think, going back and I know I talk about this all the time, but I feel like it was just a table for two for so long it was just you and me. Literally a table for two that you know, we go eat dinner and talk about this just for hours. And I, it's so weird to me still to have so many people seeing what we're seeing. And it's just so like, I can't even tell you like how surreal it is. But also just like how joyful and like fulfilling it is to see complete strangers who are able to cite a whole passage. I told you I was listening to a podcast and like the host you know, it was an old episode and the host started talking about, and the host is famous in her own right and she's talking about the Murdaugh stuff with like such fluency and shock and I think just I think the most surprising thing for me was that we weren't, this wasn't just this little interior world we had created it's it's and we were right to be as ridiculously shocked all the time as we were. And I just, I don't know, I like that I like it's, there's power in numbers and I've always said that like the more people who know something and the fewer secrets that are kept, the



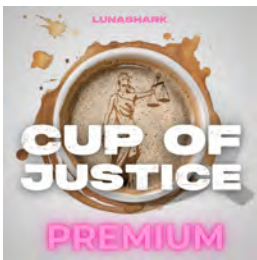
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less able bad people are to do the bad things that they've been getting away with so, we made it safe. And I think the more and more people who know make it safe for more people to come forward or more people to do the right thing. And I like that a lot.

[00:55:29] **Eric Bland:** What about you, Mandy?

[00:55:31] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, probably still most shocking will always just be the moment that Alex was convicted. I mean, and looking back on it, like you said, Liz, it's after feeling so alone enough for so many people telling you that you're obsessed and that you need to get over it and that like you are trying to get famous off of this person and make up all this, all this crap. I've really learned through this, the validation is just such a powerful feeling. And whenever you can help validate somebody else's feelings, to do it. And because it's just the best feeling in the world, when you don't feel like you're alone, no, a human being doesn't want to feel like they're the only one who feels a certain way. Or they that they feel silly for thinking something's up with this guy, or so just learn it, just the process of validation has been amazing. And just seeing all the people who've been behind us. And I mean, we went for a walk this morning, and there was a lawyer who stopped us and thanked us for what we did. And I mean, it's just, it's a, it's been the craziest two years of my life, that's for sure. That it has been really, really, really great and rewarding just to see how many people are behind us.

[00:56:55] **Liz Farrell:** Especially after people don't know this, because I don't really talk about all this but like, I like I was in trouble at work when I worked for the sheriff's office for my Murdaugh stuff. And I've had horrible accusations made about me behind the scenes about like, what I use the system for and what I didn't use, like, the electronic system. And like right before I left the sheriff's office, I had gotten in big trouble for a tweet that I had sent out. And it was just constantly. I don't know, I just look at my job history over the last few years and like when leaving *The Packet* and stuff and the thing that got I think I was criticism at *The Packet* from editors, there was our focus on the Murdaugh story. Like that's when I really started to happen, I think, right?



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Maybe like I just I feel like the Murdaugh story is just like been invasive in my life in a way that I can't really explain because I haven't really processed all of it yet. But that is why I get really teary when I start like thinking about the people that are also seeing it because it's just so much vindication for me and saying that it was worth it not to, like I would be working at *The Packet* still, if not for Alex Murdaugh, you know, like that's, that's how I feel like I would still be writing columns and you know, and it's not to say that, like, I'm happy about Alex Murdaugh. But it's that's how much change this man has brought to my life physically, emotionally, you know, mentally all of that. And when I unpack it it's just nice to know that there's other people there who can, I don't know, it's not like this, I don't have to...I don't have to give them the details of what happened. They can see it for themselves by watching Netflix or HBO. You know,

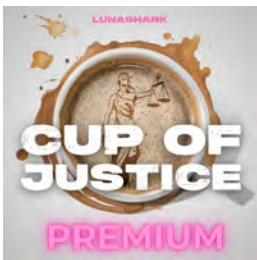
[00:58:37] **Eric Bland:** I'm a Deadhead. And so I love the lyrics of "Truck." And you know,

[00:58:42] **Liz Farrell:** I did not know that Eric, are you kidding me?

[00:58:43] **Eric Bland:** Oh, yeah.

[00:58:45] **Liz Farrell:** What is going on?

[00:58:46] **Eric Bland:** "Truck," you know, "what a long strange trip it's been" is one of my favorite lines from that song. And yeah, it has been, you know, I remember, you know, coming home from court, and somebody said, oh my God, the plane went into the one of the World Trade Centers and I sat down, I turned on the TV. And when I turned on the TV, the second plane went in, and that shock, like, I've never experienced that kind of shock. Like, did I see what I just see? Alex gave me two of those shocks when I heard that Maggie and Paul were murdered when it came out on TV. Like, what, what? And then the labor day shooting, you know, he was allegedly shot on the side of the road. This level of shock that he brought, you know, what a long strange trip it's been, Grateful Dead. That's all it reminds me of.



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[00:59:36] **Liz Farrell:** yeah, I learned something new about you every week Eric.

[00:59:39] No I'm a big Deadhead.

[00:59:41] **Mandy Matney:** That's so funny. Did you like go to the concerts?

[00:59:44] **Eric Bland:** I did. I love fish, you know? Yeah.

[00:59:46] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. There's a connection to Hilton Head with Fish too...one of the singers, yeah, one of the singer's fathers. I think he, did he start volunteers in medicine? I think he might have.

[00:59:58] **Mandy Matney:** That makes sense.

[00:59:59] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, there's, you should look it up. There's some connection. It's pretty cool.

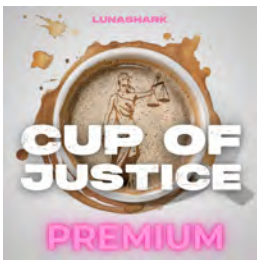
[1:00:02] **Eric Bland:** I became a dead fan in ninth grade because a friend of mine, his cousin was Bob Weir, so he would get all this stuff. Yeah. I mean I didn't smoke weed and didn't wear the tie dye stuff but I love the dead.

[01:00:18] **Liz Farrell:** I was gonna say that's why it's so not like yeah, you're not like the Eric's not mellow people I don't know if you notice that.

[01:00:25] **Eric Bland:** There's a directive that "Ripple" has to be played at my funeral, the song "Ripple." I've already written what has to be played there: U2 and then "Tupelo Honey" by Van Morrison.

[01:00:39] **Mandy Matney:** That's a great song.

[01:00:40] **Liz Farrell:** Nice, good. I like it.



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[01:00:43] **Eric Bland:** Well with that guys, cups down.

[1:00:45] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah cups down. Happy birthday again Mandy, I'm sorry I wasn't up there.

[1:00:49 ] **Eric Bland:** Yeah happy birthday and many more many many more. Good to see. You guys look happy, pretty.

[1:00:56] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah doing good, cups down.

[1:01:19] **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.

CUP OF  
JUSTICE