



EPISODE 61: What to Know About Justice Toal + Becky Hill's Email Dump

Mandy Matney 00:05

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from all of us at *Cup of Justice*. Before the holiday weekend kicked into gear Liz, Eric and I snuck in a *Cup of Justice* episode. We weren't able to get into all of the crazy news that happened in the past week. Specifically, there was a lot more to talk about when it comes to Colleton County's release of a year's worth of Clerk of Court, Becky Hill's emails. I am sure we will be talking more about Becky's emails in the coming weeks as we continue to read them. Also, we're told that there is going to be a serious and disturbing announcement from her co-author, Neil Gordon on Tuesday morning. Today we are focused on the appointment of Justice Jean Toal to hear Alex Murdaugh's motion for a new trial. Eric has personal experience with Justice Toal. Plus, we share what our sources have been telling us what her appointment might mean and what we can expect to see in the next few months. Like we said in True Sunlight, we are cautiously optimistic, but we are also on guard. In this episode, we will talk about the reckless publication of more than 2000 pages worth of emails from Becky Hill's county email address and some of the chaos that it has caused. Not only do the fast and furious publication of emails result in the needless and cruel harassment of a special needs adult, someone who is a friend of this podcast, we discovered that Becky is behind the defamatory lie that Liz and I were kicked out of the courtroom during Alex's murder trial. I'm telling you last week was a weird one. But all of this has opened our eyes even more. Not only does this whole Becky saga show how broken the system is both through her egregious behavior and how she is still being used for Alex to get a new trial. It shows how ruthless people can be. That said, it's not going to drag us down or stop us. If anything, our drive is even stronger. And 2024 is going to be a great year. Let's get into it.



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Liz Farrell 02:32

Alright guys, cups up!

Eric Bland 02:35

Cups up.

Mandy Matney 02:36

Cups up.

Liz Farrell 02:37

Well, what a way to...

Eric Bland 02:39

...roll in the Christmas.

Liz Farrell 02:44

Merry Christmas to us.

Eric Bland 02:47

Merry Christmas.

Liz Farrell 02:48

There's so much to talk about. Mandy, I'm gonna let you take the lead on this because I want to hear what you want to do first here. Okay.

Mandy Matney 02:59

Well, let's talk about Judge Toal. Let's talk about that first. Because a lot went down this week. But I still think the most important thing is that Alex now has a new judge assigned to his murder case and motions related to it. And the biggest decision probably in South Carolina



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judicial history in a very, very long time is going to come down to Justice Jean Toal. And we've done a lot of research and Eric knows Jean Toal. A lot of people who I know have been telling me very random things about Jean Toal and you too, a lot of lawyers are extremely familiar with her. She is 80-years old and has been around a long time. I think it's fascinating that we have this person that was already such a huge piece of South Carolina history because she started in the Statehouse in the '70's and was the first female Supreme Court justice in the year 2000 and...

Liz Farrell 04:12

...1988 actually Mandy.

Mandy Matney 04:15

Oh, and then she was the first Chief Justice in 2000. Yes, correct. 1988. She was the first Supreme Court Justice ever and the only female right?

Liz Farrell 04:22

No, there was one that served with her afterward, and then when she was gone, that was it.

Mandy Matney 04:28

Which is pathetic, by the way. By this time in history it is really, really sad and I'm just going to make this comment about feminism. It is really sad how much the feminist movement has just delayed or stopped entirely and in some cases gone backwards. This woman was in the Statehouse in the '70's and the Statehouse has not gotten any better as far as equality with women or caring about women's issues. It has not improved whatsoever. So that aside, what is interesting about Jean Toal is that I think the most interesting thing that I found out about her



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through a lot of conversations was a lot of people say that she does what she wants and she is hard to predict. And so that makes this even more interesting. She also has a long history with Dick and a long history with pretty much anyone who has had a career in the legal community in South Carolina it seems like. Everybody has a story about this woman. Liz, what was the most important thing that we learned about Justice Toal this week?

Liz Farrell 05:37

For I want to note that when you started talking about Gene Toal, I'd forgotten that that happened this week. Like, that's how long this week it's already been. I totally forgot that we haven't known that for weeks. One thing I want to note, we didn't say this in...I don't think we said this in that episode of True Sunlight, but we had gotten word that this was going to happen, possibly. And then, you know, it seemed like it had pulled back a little. I don't know, do you guys remember me texting you a couple of weeks ago?

Eric Bland 06:10

Yeah. Two weeks ago.

Liz Farrell 06:11

Yeah, something like that. Because we started to hear that. And we had mixed feelings on it and I know, Eric you'll talk in a second about your feelings on the matter. But from everything that we've been told, so far, people are seeing this is generally a good sign or a signal from the Supreme Court that they want this buttoned up fast. And it seems like what we're hearing today is that there was a phone call between, which Eric you'll talk about, between the AG's office, the defense and Jean Toal...or I guess we should call her Judge.



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Eric Bland 06:46

Justice.

Liz Farrell 06:48

Justice. Justice Toal. Okay.

Mandy Matney 06:51

As long as you are a former Supreme Court, you are called Justice? Okay. We will get that right in the next episode. I was saying Judge because she is not a Supreme Court judge. But yeah...

Liz Farrell 07:03

Yeah. So Justice Toal, you know, it looks like it might be a sign that she is going to put a bow on this, I guess is the nicest way to say it. And to deal with it swiftly and fairly. But like Mandy said, you know, from what we're also hearing is she's incredibly unpredictable. So, I will say that even though she has a reputation on the one hand of perhaps, maybe being a part of the good ole boy system, maybe because she had to be, she also has a reputation and just from the news clippings that we read over the past week of surprising people who would think that they were her friend, or would think that they would get some sort of beneficial treatment because they were her friend or because they thought she liked them or something like that, you know? So it sounds like she can be rather no nonsense. So I'm very cautiously optimistic about this. Eric, why don't you tell us about your experience with Justice Toal.

Mandy Matney 08:04

And your reaction. Your immediate reaction.



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Liz Farrell 08:07

Yeah, your immediate reaction to hearing that it was going to be her.

Eric Bland 08:09

I didn't like it. She is an incredible powerhouse intellect. Probably the smartest of any Supreme Court Justice our state has ever had. It is true that she was in the legislature first and then she jumped immediately to the Supreme Court. She wasn't an appellate court judge, she went straight from the legislature. She has a political background, so sometimes politics, I believe, infects some of her decision making as opposed to just pure jurist. She is though, without question, smarter than anybody in any courtroom. Probably still is even at 80-years old. My problem with Justice Toal is her...sometimes her demeanor. You know, when you see a Justice, a judge like Judge Newman, who is very reserved and measured and doesn't humiliate, or dress down litigants. Justice Toal is an old time judge and judges differently than judges do today. She owns her courtroom, you know, she pays on every corner in that courtroom. It's hers. And you know it when you walk in there and you know, if you're on the winning side, it's great. If you're on the losing side you get excoriated and you can be humiliated. I think she has a tendency to beat down litigants more than she should. Of course, I have a little bit of bias because of the v. Bland decision that she did involving my partner and me in reversing a lower court judge who held our behavior to be commendable and in the highest professional standards of our rules of professional conduct. I just think that she was handed this because, I think Justice Beatty decided that, "I don't want to put this burden on any other Circuit Court Judge to have to take this kind of



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heat, either for keeping the verdicts preserved or reversing it for a new trial." She doesn't care what anybody thinks about her.

Liz Farrell 10:28

Are you saying that because of perhaps her age and her status that that makes her free of...?

Eric Bland 10:34

She has friends sometimes to reward and enemies to punish. Or she has friends to punish and enemies to reward. You know, like you said she is completely unpredictable. I worry about her temperament. I worry about what procedures are going to be put in place. The fact that there was a status conference and, you know, I represent for jurors and I wasn't even told of that status conference. And I believe that my jurors have the right to legal representation in any type of proceeding, dealing with Alex Murdaugh's verdict where they're going to have their verdicts questioned. You know, we'll have to wait and see. She runs a rocket docket. This will be really quick. She, you know, when you walk into her court, she will have read every single thing. This is not a judge that doesn't read everything or only reads cliff notes, or her law clerks do a little executive summary for her. She reads every single thing. And she is a very lively, vocal judge that will challenge you. So she isn't reserved like Newman. Newman didn't ask a lot of questions. When arguments are made he lets the parties make the arguments. She conducts a courtroom like you would in an appellate courtroom, where you start to open your mouth and she'll jump right in and ask you a question. "I want you to go here. You want to go here, but I want to take you here." She is a very activist type of judge. And she's been able to make that smooth transition from being an appellate court judge justice to a trial court judge, and she's handling some extremely complicated things



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like the asbestos class actions that are taking place in our state. She's fully capable of it. I just am not a big fan of her temperament.

Mandy Matney 12:32

So a couple things about Justice Toal that we learned this week. One is that while she is very smart. And I would say I would say well respected considering her. I mean, there's a lot of...it's just really hard with somebody like that, because I know that the world that...she really had to carve her own path in a world that was completely against her. So I can understand her temperament being the way that it was, because I'm sure that...and I also question if, like I saw a lot of articles about her temperament and her cursing and the way that she conducts herself in court, and I just was looking at those articles from like, you know, the 80's and 90's. and wondering, "Well, I wonder how many male judges are written about in this way," and I just think because she was a woman people expected her to be a lot more polite, a lot more reserved, and she didn't play that way. But at the same time, we do have to bring this up, she has a checkered past. Specifically with two hit-and-run situations where there was a...one of the incidents she was believed to be drinking and admitted to in the police report, but left the scene. And she also was off and on it sounds like has been friends slash enemies Dick Harpootlian and it does concern me too, that Dick Harpootlian said in the August 2022, hearing regarding the Murdaugh murders trial, Dick specifically named Jean Toal as somebody to handle discovery, and he said, "What about Justice Toal," and that, to me, sounds like Dick Harpootlian would only say that if he thought that Justice Toal was on his side, but I mean, who knows? This is going to be a major wildcard. And the other thing that I've heard about her, I hear that right out of the gate, it's going to be very obvious of what she's going to decide. Like she does not hold back on her opinions about



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anything. So right out of the gate, we will be able to tell if she's on Dick's side or not. And that will be very interesting, but..

Eric Bland 14:59

It's interesting that her lawyer, her private lawyer for a lot of her past problems, whether it was, you know, with the accident or some of her judicial issues was Cam Lewis, who is best friends with Dick Harpootlian. Was. Before he died was Dick Harpootlian's best friend. And Becky Hill's lawyer is Will Lewis who is Cam's son. And it's just so incestuous. And I'm not saying that in a negative way. It's just incestuous. It's just too much close relationships all the way around, it just seems like you're, we're retreading the same players all the time. You know what I'm saying?

Liz Farrell 15:48

That's because you have to. I think, in that the way that South Carolina is structured, there's like, maybe what, like 15 to 25 lawyers who really are at the heart of all the action, not just with the Murdaugh case, but with things that happen in the legislature. So it's hard to extract yourself from that when, especially when, like lawyer legislators are holding on to their power so strongly, it's never going to get fixed. I mean, like, that's really the first block and getting that fix that, you know? If we want to, there's 2500 lawyers in South Carolina, right, something like that. So why do we only know about you know, 50? Like, we keep hearing about the same 25 lawyers. Not even. What is it like 10? But I think it's funny that you use the phrase earlier, that she pees on her territory, because that's how Dick fancies himself as somebody comes into the courtroom. He literally used that phrase in an article that we constantly quote from, I think it was like *Whistleblowers Weekly* or something. That was something that he prides himself on. So it almost



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feels like we're going to be watching Dick meet his match. And I'm happy to hear, Eric that she reads everything. I think that's necessary for us...if our position, which it is, is we don't think that Alex deserves a new trial. We don't think anything that we've seen so far has merited that. The way you get to that opinion, I believe is through, having read everything and understanding the accusations that Dick and Jim are making within the context of...I guess bringing context to it. Because you know, standing on its own, obviously, we can see it from the media, you read their original motion to the appeals court, when they first launched these accusations about jury tampering and naturally, you come away from reading that you're like, "Oh, my God." But once you start to insert the context and clarify some of the misleading statements that they have in there with the truth, you start to see that like, this whole thing falls apart. There's actually like, literally no scaffolding to it. So in order to get there, she's going to need to read everything. And that is so encouraging to me. So I'm really happy to hear that, despite. And as far as her hit-and-runs, we should note that they happened a long time ago. And she did the right thing from what it seems like other than like, they didn't give her a breathalyzer or anything. She reported herself to the bar. She admitted, I guess to drinking and that it could have affected I guess, her hitting the car. And then additionally, in the second crash, which happened a couple of years after the first one, she came back to the scene. She said she thought that she saw no damage, but she ended up, you know, she got ticketed in both cases and you know, paid her fines or whatever. So I just want to note that. Not to say that it's a good look because especially when we know that a certain judge named Judge Carmen Mullen is well known in Beaufort County as being a menace to the road. She is a fast driver. And she, you know, gets pulled over. She's known among the



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law enforcement as getting pulled over a lot. So for her speedy driving. And we'll be right back.

Mandy Matney 19:34

So the other thing that is hard to predict with Justice Jean Toal is how she's going to be as far as transparency. I have heard that she likes the spotlight. I have heard that she likes making her mark. I heard that, but at the same time she's very old school. She's 80-years old. So cameras in the courtroom probably aren't, you know, her jam. She also was a part of ruling against having cell phones in the courtroom.

Liz Farrell 20:07

Not for media. Just for civilians.

Mandy Matney 20:11

For civilians, right. So it's up in the air about that, but Eric, let's talk about how we just found out about on Friday after a certain "though who shall not be named" media outlet reported on a hearing that took place. It was a status conference hearing with the Becky Hill situation, and Justice Jean Toal. I don't know of any other media outlets that knew about this. Eric didn't know about it. I'm upset about this, because we asked the AG's office specifically on Wednesday, if there were any upcoming hearings and the AG's office said no. And the fact that they slipped this in the Friday before Christmas is just not a good look. So Eric, what can you tell us about this hearing?

Eric Bland 21:07

First, I want to tell you that there is something good about Justice Toal, even though you know, there's some things that I don't like about her.



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She was instrumental in amending Rule 41 in our rules of civil procedure to say we can't have secret settlements anymore that affect the public interest. Which was a huge, huge rule that was put in place because you know, in civil cases, defendants want to pay money so that they can keep everything that was alleged in a lawsuit under wraps. And judges will not approve a settlement if they feel that the issues involved in the case go beyond the parties themselves and have a public interest effect. And I think that's a good thing. It's what we talk about True Sunlight all the time and why you guys started LunaShark. Sunlight, sunlight, sunlight. So that is something that was, I think, a really good development that she was instrumental in putting in effect in our rules of procedure. Yes, there was a status conference. It wasn't a live status conference, it was a phone status conference. And that's old school judging. Most new school judging is they want a status conference to be in open court, put it on the record where there's a court reporter. Old school judging is status conferences back in chambers where there's no court reporter and, you know, there's a collegial exchange between the judge and litigants or phone calls, which often don't have court reporters. Evidently, there was an introductory phone call that she wanted to make because, you know, she hits the ground running. She runs a rocket docket. It's not going to be well, we'll set a hearing in March, then we'll brief it in April, and the decisions will be in the summer. I'm telling you, we're going to know where everybody stands by February in this case.

Liz Farrell 22:57

How much do we need to worry about Dick's legislative immunity?

Eric Bland 23:03



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I think we have to worry a lot about it. He certainly wants these hearings to go play. So when it behooves Dick, he's going to participate in any hearing that, you know, behooves him. He's not going to want to wait until the summer to have the motion for a new trial heard. So, I think his goal is to have this case reversed and then scheduled for trial in the Fall. And Mandy, you've talked about it, like if he's going to get a new trial, let's throw it into 2027 or 2028 and let all these other people who are sitting in jail that didn't have their day in court, in all these counties are from the statewide grand jury, let them get their time. Why should Alex keep jumping to the front of the line? He's had enough deference given to him and his lawyers. So I don't think the legislative immunity is going to be an issue on any of the pre-trial hearings, I think it's going to be an issue on scheduling a trial. Now, she had a status conference, I was told. I spoke to Creighton Waters and he told me that, you know, nothing was set in stone. He expects that there'll be another status type conference, whether it's going to be a hearing or phone call in early January, and that's when the parameters are going to be set. But I said to Creighton, "Look I represent four jurors. If somebody's going to be setting parameters regarding what discovery is going to take place or who's going to have to testify whether it's in court or out of court. I want to be a part of that. I want to be weighing in on the record regarding my clients. Now Creighton said that the law says that the courts have to choose the least restrictive means to get at jurors who already have served if there's a post trial jury issue. So he said that he believes that Justice Toal will be following that law to make this as narrow and restrictive as possible. Remember, from Dick's press conference, he wanted it as broad as possible, "I want to depose every one of these jurors, I want to subpoena their phone records. I want to subpoena their text and their emails." I'm not sure if she's going to do that. I know that the AG will not advocate for that. But I told Creighton that I would like



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to write Justice Toal and tell her, "Hey, there are other people that have an interest in what is going on, from a legal standpoint, not just the defense and the prosecution." And he said, "There will come a time where you will do that." He said, "It's just not now."

Liz Farrell 25:41

I think we should probably be clear to people because I think you can get kind of confused here. So what Justice Toal has to decide is whether or not Dick and Jim..whether or not there should be an evidentiary hearing. Correct? That's the first hurdle...

Eric Bland 25:58

No, there's going to be an evidentiary hearing. It's what leads up to that evidentiary hearing. Dick wants to be able to have as much discovery so that when he walks into that hearing, he's going to know what Juror 165 says and Juror 238. The State says, "No, no, no. This is a hearing that's conducted by the court, not by the parties." That's the difference. Dick wants to run the show. Justice Toal, we're hopeful, is going to be the one that runs the show.

Liz Farrell 26:30

But couldn't Justice Toal decide that, "I have heard your arguments on both sides. And so far, what's been..." Because what's the point of the motions? Right? The motions are to show you the full 360 on the argument. Like they're the Dick and Jim's best argument, along with the State's best argument. Couldn't she read those and decide, "I've seen enough. I don't think that there's cause."



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Eric Bland 26:53

The answer is, technically yes. The answer is no. Sometimes judges do make a decision on the briefs. Remember, Judge Gergle did that a lot of times on the post trial motion, you remember with Russell Laffitte? He said, "No," he did it on the briefing. In this particular case, because of the public importance of this I don't believe that's going to happen. There's going to be oral arguments. Remember, this is the most important case, maybe in our state's history. It's going to go down as one of the top three legal cases in our state's history. I think it has to be open. I think it has to be fair. But I also worry about, is this going to be a decision that is guided by a judge as opposed to the evidence. That's what concerns me because she runs her courtroom and makes up her mind quickly. Like Mandy says, you'll know right out of the get go, where she's going, what she's feeling. And that's what concerns me, I think. I want everybody to present their evidence and then there should be a reasoned decision. I don't want anybody jumping to such early conclusions.

Liz Farrell 28:06

Well, I guess I feel like I can relate to her if she does have an early conclusion. Because once you've read everything, and once you've seen like, the full scope of how Dick and Jim have conducted themselves and just sort of like the fruitlessness of some of their arguments, not to say that every single one of them was trickery, but certainly quite a number of them were, you know, based on hyperbole and overstatement, and a lack of context and a truncation of facts. I just I guess I have to trust that anyone who would read...because I think a lot of these people may be online or what have you. They're not reading the full scope of things the way Mandy and I are. And therefore, like, I guess I can kind of



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understand their opinion, if you're just basing it on headlines or like the quick take or the TikToks or whatever you're watching or going on YouTube, or whatever it is just to get your news. But once you've read the full scope of the whole thing I feel like it's, I mean, I think that's a good sign. So I go back to that, I think, yeah...

Mandy Matney 29:07

Yeah, it's a wild card. And what I'm excited about too, is I've seen a couple people say that if Dick is out of line, she would be one to call him out. So it's going to be very, very interesting. If she does that, or if she lets him get away with things that will be extremely telling too. So I'm cautiously optimistic.

Eric Bland 29:28

You will not see the same Dick. It's not a flamboyant Dick. You cannot be flamboyant in front of Justice Jean Toal. There's no theater in her courtroom. It's her theater. You understand? She's the one that will put the theater on. If you are bombastic or you're disrespectful, or you interrupt, she will dress...she can chew your ass better than any judge I've ever seen in my life. It's that simple.

Liz Farrell 29:59

And that's great. Like, so you're saying basically that if Justice Toal were in the room when Dick pointed his automatic weapon at the prosecution...

Eric Bland 30:07

It would have been a problem.

Liz Farrell 30:08

Great. Well, hopefully she sees that in her stack of papers.



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Eric Bland 30:14

Oh she wouldn't have tolerated him with the baked bean comment and the phone in the bag. She wouldn't have tolerated, "What makes you special Agent Worley?" She would have stopped the trial and said, "Mr. Harpootlian, one more crack like that and you're going to be held in contempt."

Liz Farrell 30:30

You're making me like her Eric, you're making me like her. She sounds like our kind of people. Real quick, though, do either of you know what her relationship, if any, is with Judge Newman? It seems like they attended a lot of the same, like high profile events for President Obama and such. So I'm just wondering, because I know there's an element here from what my sources are telling me is that Chief Justice Beatty really wants to put an end to this. He's sick of the nonsense with the Murdaugh's. He's sick of the, you know, just the state being made a fool of. And he does not appreciate how Dick and Jim have thrown Judge Newman under the bus the way they did. So.

Mandy Matney 31:16

And it costs the state over \$500,000. I mean, think about that. And think about having to do that again, and how, what a colossal failure that would be. I mean, I don't want to think about it. But it is important to note that that will also be on their minds, and it's going to be a big decision. So I'm excited.



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Liz Farrell 31:43

Real quick about the money, though. I think...what was I gonna say about that? Oh, sorry. This is all just to say, like, you know, I feel like when we have these discussions, let's just remove Murdaugh from this. As reporters, we would always leave open the possibility of maybe there was jury tampering, and maybe that's what they'll discover and maybe this will end up with a new trial and if so, you know, that's just. We're not saying it here because of...again, going back to the scope of what we've read the people that we're talking to like, there's nothing that has shown us that there was jury tampering. Which brings us to our next point, which we will talk about after the break.

Liz Farrell 32:27

So one of the things that happened this week is Colleton County did a major FOIA dump, which essentially, they published all of Becky's emails from January through present day. Now, we had done a FOIA as well as all these other news agencies, we didn't ask for the full scope of it. We asked for specific dates.

Mandy Matney 32:50

I just want to say, first of all, Colleton didn't...we got to be clear, Colleton didn't publish it. One news outlet published all of the emails. So that's important to know. And second of all, highly suspicious that all of these news outlets FOIA'd for the exact same thing. And FOIA'd for that much. And especially a lot of these news outlets who have been very like I'm sorry, but lazy and not aggressive on this story whatsoever. I am shocked that they all...and that would be a very expensive FOIA as well. I'm very shocked that several news outlets wanted to FOIA for the exact same thing, and that we didn't get that memo. So a little light bulb inside Mandy's head thinks that somebody named Dick Harpootlian or



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one of his besties whispered into the ears of several reporters and told them exactly what to FOIA for, which happens to us all the time. A lawyer doesn't want to give us a FOIA but they'll say, "Here, here. You need a FOIA for this, this and this. Look for this on this date. Here you go." And it seems like that happened here, which is hmm, interesting. But...and also it's very rare for a Clerk of Court...for a news outlet to ever care about a Clerk of Courts emails to this extent, and it's extremely rare to publish every single one of them without hardly any redactions. And Beth found one redaction, which was very interesting, which happens to blackout several names of Colleton County employees who got a raise this year. Which, ha, why would you redact that and you didn't redact lots of private citizen's contact information. Lots of things were problematic throughout that entire FOIA and they decided to redact their...probably they were, it looked like they were protecting their own information. I am very upset about a lot of this. So I'm trying to, you know, keep my anger and keep my cool here.

Eric Bland 35:13

What are you angry about Mandy? Tell me. Give it to me straight Rocky.

Mandy Matney 35:17

I think what I'm most angry about, and Liz and I had a very long conversation about this yesterday, is that we are both so tired of giving people the benefit of the doubt included in this story and seeing them through a lens of being a good person and wanting them to be good. And I'm tired of being disappointed by people. I'm tired of being betrayed. I'm tired of just being lied to. I'm tired of...this year, we...all three of us have been, you know, stabbed in the back many times. And that's been a very hard thing to handle. And the emails, first of all, I want to say this, nothing to do with jury tampering in those 2,000 pages.



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We've seen nothing. So that's, we have to be clear about that. Which is a good thing. It's a good thing. And we have to keep focused on that. The bad thing is that they make Becky look horrible.

Liz Farrell 36:34

Becky made Becky look horrible, Mandy.

Mandy Matney 36:36

Becky made Becky look horrible. They tell the story of a very...

Eric Bland 36:40

What do you mean by that? I don't understand. I don't understand.

Liz Farrell 36:42

So I think we're maybe beating around the bush a little bit here. There's a couple of things happening. One is obviously there's some piece of this that was a little self-interested in, which would be that...it turns out, and Eric I don't know if you remember this. But there was a lie going around during the trial that said that Mandy and I had been barred from the courtroom. That we had been booted from the courtroom. And I thought that this was a rumor that was just being perpetuated by people that have been jealous of us in the past or like or threatened by our success or what have you. Because it seemed to be coming from those camps. But what it turns out is the perpetrator of that lie was Becky. That she was...there's an email in there from Thad Moore with the *Post and Courier*, where he actually did his due diligence and tried to get to the bottom of the rumor and asked Becky, "Hey, is it true that two reporters have lost their courtroom privileges," which I you know, I do take issue with the word privileges because it's an open forum. It's public space. So there's no privilege. And actually being in the court,



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you just have to obey the judge's orders. But, that said he did his due diligence and tried to get to the bottom of it. And she offered him an equivocal answer and said, "Well, they're not here. So it must be true." And from what we've gathered, just in various bits of information that have come to us, that she continued to perpetuate that lie and it even went so far as to correct Jay Bender, who is a First Amendment attorney, he is an attorney to...I would get I would venture to guess that every news agency in the state has used him at one point or consulted with him.

Mandy Matney 38:23

And he was the official media liaison of the trial.

Liz Farrell 38:28

Meaning he was the go between.

Eric Bland 38:30

And Jean Toal's partner for the last 30 years before she became a judge.

Liz Farrell 38:34

Yes. And so, Jay Bender...

Mandy Matney 38:37

He's been on our show before.

Liz Farrell 38:38

That's right. And so he served as liaison between Judge Newman and the court and media. So what bothers me about that is it speaks to our credibility. And that was the thing that bothered me from the beginning. It was just like, hey, look we trade on our credibility. You are



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listening to us because you know that what we're telling you is the truth and that we've checked it and that we did our due diligence. So for somebody to say that we did something wrong and got kicked out of the courtroom for that. But what's frustrating is to see that, you know, reporters and trolls who knew the answer. They knew that Jay Bender had said, "No, that's not true." And he said it in their presence. And they decided to go with what Becky said, I guess, because they continue to perpetrate that lie and spread that rumor. We spoke with Jay Bender over text today, and I just want to read what he said because I just want to put this to bed once and for all: *"Liz, happy to hear from you. Neither you, Mandy nor any other reporter was excluded from the courtroom during the Murdaugh murder trial. I am confident that had that happened it would have been brought to my attention."* So that's one thing to be angry about.

Eric Bland 39:50

This was not petty, by the way.

Liz Farrell 39:53

We're not being petty. We're defending ourselves.

Eric Bland 39:54

No, I'm saying, right. I'm saying this is not a petty gripe on our part. No, no, no, no, no, I'm saying the listeners may think that we're just doing that because our feelings are hurt. No, no, no, this goes absolutely to your credibility. I was mocked on something else that was false.

Liz Farrell 40:18

Becky said that you had been reprimanded, Eric. For taking a picture in the courtroom.



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Eric Bland 40:23

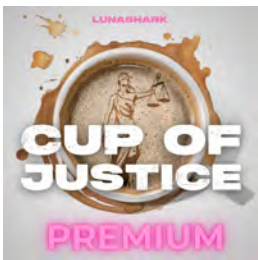
That's insane. It did not happen. The point I'm trying to make is people may say, "Oh, you guys are being petty because you're trying to, you know, change the narrative here and it's such a small picayune issue." It's not, this is a major issue. This is credibility. You guys are journalists. I'm a lawyer. I know how to behave. Okay. Yes, at a break, I had a selfie taken with my wife and Creighton, but not during court. And nobody ever reprimanded me. And, you know, a lie runs so fast before truth can even wake up and open its eyes. And it just makes us look bad. And it's not petty that we're bringing this up.

Liz Farrell 41:08

It does not make us look better. Because I think that we've held her own very strongly throughout this whole thing. I don't think that people have lost faith. I think that the people who perpetrate the lie, were trying to make us look bad in the hopes of, you know, lowering our status or importance in this exactly, to knock us down.

Mandy Matney 41:27

And one thing I really want to say here, I mean, this lie was perpetrated up, I mean they're probably still talking about it on Twitter. I literally had to remove myself from Twitter yesterday, because I was getting so angry. And when I'm angry I just need to not be on the internet. And I've learned to do that in the last few years. Good for me, pat on the back. They were perpetuating this lie up until yesterday. A lie that they know is completely untrue, a lie that hurts us. And what was making me mad was seeing specific tweets saying that we are liars. Saying because we lied about being kicked out of the courtroom, we are lying about everything else. And that is where I have a major problem. And



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that is where I get extremely defensive. Because again, the credibility that we have built in these last two years...four years since this investigation began is our most value...it is what makes us...

Eric Bland 42:34

It's your currency.

Mandy Matney 42:36

It's our currency. And it's what made our two of our podcasts number one in the world, by the way. It is what makes us so far above all of these people that were so petty. And all of these reporters who are perpetuating this lie, and, "We're laughing with Becky Hill about..haha." They were in little huddles saying, "Haha, Mandy and Liz got kicked out of the courtroom." And I'm hurt by it. I'm disgusted by it. And again, I want people to know if reporters perpetuate this lie that they know to be untrue they're going to do that with other things. And I also want to say again, this is really hard. And I have realized throughout this story that a lot of this has just become incredibly personal and intertwined with our own lives. I didn't change my mind entirely on Becky, I think we've known in the last few weeks that Becky is likely going to get into trouble. And that Becky played fast and loose with the rules as Clerk of Court with her position. I thought that she was more naive and more...had a good heart than I do now. I think that that's been my biggest change of...let down. And I think the other thing that I saw with those emails is seeing how much Becky really values everybody loving her and being the popular one. And you can tell that she is constantly stirring the pot with everybody that she's emailing and she wants to be an important person and she wants to be somebody that everybody likes. And by the way, she is the one that emailed David, way after...several days after jury selection and said, "You two can have



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another media pass." We have a record of that. Becky knows that we were not kicked out of the courtroom and she's still perpetuated that lie. Because the other reporters hate us so much and she knew that she could get on their good side by stirring the pot. And an elected official cannot do that. An elected official needs to uphold the rules and...

Eric Bland 44:59

Hit it down the middle. She needs no friends, no friends to hurt and to reward and enemies to punish.

Mandy Matney 45:05

And let's be honest here any successful person is going to have people who hate them. You just have to realize that. And it was very clear in those emails that Becky could not understand that. It was like watching a high schooler who wanted to be really, really popular and wanted to do everything to get everybody to love her. And it also, again, the soft side of me saw that and was like, this must be absolutely horrible for her because look what happened. This is what happens when you try to be everyone's bestie. And this is what happens when you try to be on everyone's good side and you refuse to stand up for the truth and stand up for what is right. This is what happens to you. So I've lost respect for Becky, I've lost a lot of sympathy for Becky. However, at the same time, I'm still sticking to my guns on I have seen zero evidence that she did anything to tamper with or influence the jury. And that is the most important thing. And there's nothing in those two...I mean, those 2,000 emails make her look bad. She was talking about her book. She was doing a lot of work about her book to the point it was just ridiculous from her county email.



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Liz Farrell 46:24

Well, let's be clear, she wasn't writing...it doesn't appear that she was writing her book at work. It just appears I mean, she was doing sort of...right? Like there's nothing in there that...

Mandy Matney 46:33

She was doing research for it through her county email.

Eric Bland 46:36

Can we agree that this has been a concerted campaign? And some of it's true. Based on attrition by all that's coming out, she's going to not get any benefit of the doubt. Isn't that the goal of whoever's behind all this? That there's just so much that's going to weigh on her shoulders, that she can't bob out of water enough to have credibility?

Liz Farrell 47:01

But again, you know, Mandy, and I will say her credibility sucks. But I don't think her credibility is the issue here to the extent that I think they want to make it. Because it's not her word against the juror. There's 12 jurors. They each stood up in front of Judge Newman and said, "This is my verdict. This is my opinion." So to come back now..and all of them, you know, most of them anyway, the ones that appeared in the State's response none of them are saying that Becky did anything that would change that change their opinion. So we have to keep the focus on that.

Mandy Matney 47:41

Right. And also, I just want to also say that we also have to focus on the timeline. And like Eric said, two things can be true at once. But the timeline with Becky's ethics complaints and Dick and Jim's mission to get Alex a new trial. And the fact that a lot of these allegations happen



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before the trial, but nobody said anything. That is all highly suspicious. And I also believe that...and I've seen enough to believe that if we just picked a random group of 10 elected officials in South Carolina and got all of their emails, we would find a lot of the same things. And that's the problem.

Eric Bland 48:30

Oh hell yeah. Hell yeah. Using their emails. Hell yeah.

Mandy Matney 48:34

Using their emails being loosey goose with the rules, trying to be friends with reporters. Like a lot of things would make them look bad. And when there is a mission, when there is a kill mission, yeah, it's easy to make someone look bad, especially in South Carolina the land with no consequences. And as we talked about this week on *True Sunlight*, my gosh, the Ethics Commission in South Carolina is a joke. It is a joke that everybody laughs off. You know, there's like millions of dollars in outstanding debt, like they don't even have to pay when they get a fine. When these officials get fined. It's a joke to them. They don't even have to pay it because there's no law that forces them to pay it. You and I if...

Eric Bland 49:22

There's no enforcement procedure?

Mandy Matney 49:25

There's several of them who have like \$50,000 worth of fines that they're just not paying.



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Eric Bland 49:31

We get booted, our cars get booted if we get tickets and don't pay for them.

Liz Farrell 49:35

But who's writing the laws, Eric?

Mandy Matney 49:39

We could go to jail for not paying a parking ticket, for not paying a toll ticket. But these elected officials, it's insane. *The Post and Courier*, a couple years ago when they had Avery Wilks...and I'm really sad looking at all of Avery's work. He quit journalism after the murder trial, but he did a lot of good journalism in the state and one of his best pieces was about the Ethics Commission and what a joke it is. The Post and Courier really dug into all of the just absolutely absurd amount of fines that are outstanding for the Ethics Commission. The whole thing is a waste of taxpayers dollars, time, and it's just ridiculous. And I have personally reported on a case within Colombia with a school board member who hired lawyers to fight his ethics complaints and billed the taxpayers \$14,000 for fighting his own ethics complaints. And then he, ultimately all he had to pay was \$1,000 to begin with. That was all the fines.

Liz Farrell 50:50

That's cheap, Mandy. Beaufort County's up to like hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Mandy Matney 50:56

It is absurd.



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Eric Bland 50:59

In fines?

Liz Farrell 51:00

No, in tax payers paying the legal bill to defend some of these dodo birds.

Mandy Matney 51:09

To defend these public officials wrongdoings. I mean, our whole state is so messed up.

Eric Bland 51:14

So if somebody files a complaint and I'm a public official, I get to charge the taxpayer for my legal dollars. Is that what you're saying?

Liz Farrell 51:24

It depends. So in the case of a school superintendent in Beaufort County, he had it written into his contract that the school board would, you know, any lawsuit that would arise during...

Eric Bland 51:36

Indemnify him is the word. Indemnify.

Liz Farrell 51:39

Right. So when it came to his ethics complaints, though, you know, I think it was by the second ethics complaint when it became clear that he might have, you know, is perhaps a target of an FBI investigation. He tried to get the school board to pay another \$30,000 to retain Bart Daniel and the school board finally said, "No, no sir." So, I think it depends. I think if you're, you know, Clerk of Court, I would guarantee



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the county's not paying for her attorney. But I do think that there are some guys and some - there's some people who are able to make it happen for themselves. But yeah, like Mandy said, it's a joke, no one takes it seriously. It drags its feet, it can take years to see any sort of resolution. It's largely secretive. It's become a little tiny less secretive in the last few years, but it's just like the ODC in that regard. I mean, the rules are written to protect it. The rules are written to look like we're doing something about a problem. We're mitigating it. We're trying to prevent it. Right? It reminds me of on Hilton Head. It's against the law to drink on the beach, there's an ordinance. You're not supposed to be drinking on the beach, as Mandy, and I can tell you, nobody obeys that, right? But it's a deterrent. So it's like a law. It's a law that's put in place or an ordinance that's put in place because there's a certain percentage of the population who will see that and say, "Oh my, I can't drink on the beach." And they won't do it. Right? So it cuts down on the number of instances of it, right? Or, theoretically, it should. So with the Ethics Commission and these laws, you know, in the ODC you have these rules in place, right for like, "Oh our guys are unethical. And this is what you have to follow." The idea, I think, is more that these are in writing and there's a certain percentage of lawyers, there's a certain percentage of public officials who will understand that and not break it. But what about the percentage of people who do break it? That's where all the, you know, the effort needs to go. Otherwise this it's just a joke. And it just when you start to, like, you know, zoom out and look at this as the bigger picture of not just South Carolina, but any state when you don't have that ground level enforcement. What happens then is it's basically a free for all on public money. So it's almost like - we've said this from the beginning with Becky it's almost like she's a product of her environment to a certain extent that worried us from the beginning about her right? Remember Mandy? Like, she came up under Judge



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Perry Buckner. Like what were her lessons like, I mean, come on. In Murdaugh land. Yeah, Murdaugh judge, in Murdaugh land, right? She was his court reporter and then she became a clerk of court with the help of the Murdaugh's. She has said that herself. So you know, what does she...what was normalized for her? Right? So these people come into these offices they think nothing of...it's almost like you know, you're there with the people you went to high school with, right? And, you know, who knows what the education level is of the entire group of people who are there. It's just they don't regard...it's almost like they regard it as their piggy bank. Like, I mean, the idea that she...if you go through the emails, you'll see that she was sort of naively trying to give people bonuses. And I say naively, because I do believe she...I don't believe that she is a...I don't know what you call...a criminal. I don't believe she's a criminal. You know, if she ends up getting charged with crimes, fine. I think that a lot of it is just the sort of idea that they can do this and no one's told them not to, right? And even if somebody tells you not to...

Eric Bland 55:11

Is it Lord Acton? Where power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely?

Liz Farrell 55:17

I thought that was Emily Limehouse. Just kidding.

Mandy Matney 55:22

I think you said this yesterday, she comes off as entitled. And she comes off as feeling extremely arrogant and feeling extremely protected and feeling like no one is ever going to come after her. And again, she's a product of her environment, because she's around lots of people who



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feel the same way and act the same way. And rules are very loosey goosey in places like Colleton County. It's just extremely unfortunate. People are believing that because she was loose with her emails, because she appears to disregard a lot of the rules that equals that she tampered with the jury, that she influenced the jury. And we have seen no evidence of that.

Eric Bland 56:17

So you're still seeing the barrier between that even though on the left side there are questions regarding her abuse of possible office using her office for purposes that were...that are not consistent with their job. But there's still that wall that on the other side, there's these jury tampering allegations and you still haven't seen anything that would influence your opinion on that. Is that where you stand?

Mandy Matney 56:44

Yeah, I mean, I believe that. And it's not just because I want to believe that. And I want to say this as well, I really don't want to come off as because I was personally betrayed in those emails that made me completely change my...Becky has been a slow burn in this past month of getting to know who she really is. And we're finding out every week more and more. I don't...I still do not think it's fair...I still don't think anybody would care about any of this had Dick and Jim not hung her out to dry and thrown her in front of the bus and then the train early in September.

Eric Bland 57:28

I would venture to say you're right, Mandy. If you went to any clerk of court, who has served for 10-20 years, in a particular county there would be not flattering things that you could uncover about that person. It



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would be in any position of power. You're 100%, right. That people, you know, say things in an email that they shouldn't say or they use their office email for this or they use the power of their office to get catering or whatever. This isn't isolated. It's just under the focus right now for her.

Mandy Matney 58:02

Right.

Liz Farrell 58:02

Right. Shooting fish in a barrel. I mean, I knew. Like I mean, because like working for a county government...spend a day there. Like Take Your Daughter to Work Day and your daughter will see that these people generally speaking, it's night and day to the private sector. I forget who I was talking to, I was talking to somebody about the sort of the difference of like, when you take a private sector job after working in the county or wherever, local government or what have you, you come off as like this star employee because you know...I'm sorry, when you go from the private sector to the public sector. Because you are used to a grind that is so different from what they do on a daily basis. That's not to say, every public employee, there's so many that do great jobs and are hard workers. So I don't want to take that from anyone. But, but, but...there's a lot of people that are, you know, if you have time to lean you have time to clean. They're just hanging out there for the paycheck and look at their budget as their own personal piggy bank. But um...

Mandy Matney 59:05

One more thing I want to say about the emails and what I noticed about the ones that were released through the FOIA. We've done a lot of FOIA's in South Carolina. A lot at this point. And it was very clear to me that whoever released this FOIA within Colleton County, that they



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did not want to protect Becky one bit or anybody involved in any of those emails. Specifically Becky. It seemed like they...and we know that the lawyer for Colleton County, Shawn Thornton is a part of Duffy's office and that's a whole 'nother thing.

Liz Farrell 59:51

Meaning because he approves, he would have a hand in approving the FOIA's, yeah.

Mandy Matney 59:57

We need to talk about a couple of huge problems with that. First of all, officials have, it seems like way too much wiggle room to decide what they can and cannot redact when it comes to FOIA's. I have seen some ridiculous FOIA's that like...or not even FOIA's. One time I was looking at a police report in Buford County and they blacked out the city that the crime took place in. Like they get that extreme with just, there's some people with a real heavy hand when it comes to redacting. And...but you can also tell a human is behind this and a human who either wants to burn the person or wants to protect them. And this one seemed like the people of Colleton County are ready to hang Becky out to dry. But because they were so incredibly reckless with their lack of redaction and because a news outlet published the whole thing, records recklessly...

Liz Farrell 1:00:59

And I think that's the thing you have to pause on and focus on for one second here because even though Colleton County gave that bulk of emails out and did only at what looks like a partial reduction, one that apparently benefited them. They left phone numbers, private phone numbers, etc. and you can talk about that in a second. But news



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publications are not protected. Just because it was released to you - you publishing it puts the responsibility on you as a news outlet. So for instance, in this particular bulk of emails, there's a live link to photos of Paul's dead body.

Eric Bland 1:01:38

That violates a court order.

Liz Farrell 1:01:40

That violates a court order, they were sealed by Judge Newman. So you're not protected because Colleton County accidentally released them. The same way Becky accidentally released them to Netflix. You are not protected. We as journalists have a responsibility to protect our agencies from libel and from defamation. From damage like this. We have a responsibility to check and do our own redactions so that we're not putting in people's...we're not broadcasting and amplifying people's private information. That what we put out there is meaningful and speaks to the larger issue that we're talking about, right? So you know, there's an argument I'm sure that can be made, like, let's just see it all and everyone can go through it. And I can get on board for that. But you still have a responsibility to take out the parts...and tell people that you took it out. Like news agencies say all the time, like we decided not to run the name of the victim, we decided not to run the redacted parts or phone numbers and personal identifying - you know, there's a way to do it. But you have to take your time, you have to go through page by page. But this sort of, it's just this idea of like, I want to get this out there before everyone else and that's fine. But there's consequences to that. And the consequences is that now Paul's, the Murdaugh family who I have no love for I think it's pretty obvious, but I don't think anyone should ever have their loved one's dead body out there broadcast for



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people. I don't unless, you know, unless they want that unless they want the public to see that. I can't imagine that they do.

Eric Bland 1:03:18

Well said. Well said, Liz.

Liz Farrell 1:03:21

But anyway, Mandy. Why don't you finish this off by telling about the number that they shared?

Mandy Matney 1:03:25

I want to, I want to say a couple things. We as journalists are gatekeepers of information. They tell you that in Journalism 101 the first day that you walk into class. That you are supposed to receive information and be able to figure it out, find the truth, find the story and tell that story to your audience. That is your job. If you publish something like this, and it was very clear they did not read it at all. They wanted to be first and they wanted the most traffic on their website. You are an entertainment website, you are Reddit, you are nothing better than that. You should not have privileges to be a journalist. You should not be called a journalist because that is not journalism. Anybody can file a FOIA and just put information - just copy paste, whatever. And the other thing is that, I mean, the reason why we are gatekeepers and the reason why...the majority of you know I'm all for breaking rules in journalism. I'm all for being different and journalism. I'm all for a lot of old school rules do not help us and are a part of why media is dying right now and why no one trusts them. However, it is very important to maintain that responsibility of gatekeeping information and that responsibility with your audience of, I'm sharing what I can with you, and the rest of it I'm keeping to myself because it



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could hurt people. And it could do a lot of damage. That said, what made me very mad, and another reason why I had to get off Twitter entirely, and I had to just go for a walk, get away from everything. We have a fan named Trista. And Trista has special needs, and I started getting a tweet I believe, one tweet, had screenshotted Trista's emails to Becky. And this person who was just being very, I mean, it's hard because this stuff shouldn't have been out there to begin with. But it was troll food for the entire Internet. And people just trying to get attention and people wanting to take down Becky, take down me, take down anybody. That's what Twitter was yesterday. But one person tweeted a screenshot of Trista's emails with Becky including her contact information and they obviously did not know who Trista was. And they were tweeting at me saying, "Look, Becky giving this person VIP treatment. How dare Becky blah, blah, blah. This girl Trista is all excited to go through the back door and get a special seat. How dare Becky blah, blah, blah." And that's a perfect, perfect example of why we are gatekeepers of information and why if anybody would have read that entire thing would have taken those parts out because it doesn't do anything.

Liz Farrell 1:06:48

Or explain it. Yeah, tell the story of it. Tell the story.

Mandy Matney 1:06:52

Trista has special needs. And she is an amazing person, the sweetest person with the purest heart that I've met in all of this. She came and gave us individual gifts during the trial. She is a huge listener of this show. She listens to it with her mom. She listens to both of our shows every week with her mom in the car. And she has gotten very, very interested in the Murdaugh situation. And also she has been the



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subject of horrible rumors. Throughout the trial, a lot of people on TikTok and on Twitter said that she was a member of the Murdaugh family and were Tweeting and TikTok'ing about that. Because people are awful.

Eric Bland 1:07:37

We should say that when we pointed it out to that media agency they did take it down. But your point is, it should have never been there in the first place. That's what you're saying.

Mandy Matney 1:07:53

Right. Be responsible with the information. Take ownership of it. And these things can hurt people recklessly when you're on a mission to do nothing but be first and get the most amount of clicks you will hurt people like Trista. And you will hurt the best people in all of this and that is what made me so mad yesterday. Trista has a heart of gold way better than any of these people involved certainly, or any of the people that published this crap yesterday. And how dare them. And how dare people on the internet jump to conclusions about her. And I do not fault Becky one bit. That was the best thing that I read, honestly about Becky was that she gave Trista special treatment. She should have, as a human being because that trial meant the world to Trista and being able to have a seat made her entire universe. And she deserved it. I just cannot believe that we are getting to the point as human beings and as people in the media that we are just losing sight of all morals and all responsibility over the information that we put out.

Liz Farrell 1:09:19

And I think it's important to note, Mandy, because this is a conversation that you and I have had privately. When we talk about this stuff, like it's



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not just like these people with loosey goosey morals or no ethical compass or what have you. There's a specific thing that's driving some of these people and I think it's purely the hatred of us. And that's what I think, why we feel so hurt and angry when these things happen because it's almost like we're responsible for them because we know that this like element is being fueled by that...this sort of like right? You know this sort of idea of like, I hate Liz and Mandy and this is all about that and it's just like, can we all just move on? And can we all just do our own thing. Like there's enough of this story for every single journalist to have a chunky piece of it and not even cross over each other, you know? So that's where I get really frustrated. It's just because then you're just like, okay well, why was this done? Is it simply just because you know, people want to be first or they just want to get the information out there so that everyone can have it, you know like democratic journalism. I don't know what we would even call it. But it's...I do think that there's so much that's fueled by this. Our success in this has changed so many relationships in both our lives, specifically with, you know media. But I will say, it's not every reporter and it's not every media agency. So I don't want to malign everyone with what we're saying.

Mandy Matney 1:10:53

Two more things I want to say very quickly. One is another thing that became very clear to me this week, that other reporters are very close with one of my worst trolls on the internet and our worst troll. This man has harassed, maligned. He was a huge, huge member of the Luna Snark, Reddit group that, you know, body shamed all of us, made fun of all of us, were horrible. He was horrible to Sandy Smith. Is just an evil person. Well, he was at the press corps party that they all had with each other. And he was specifically invited. And I think my eyes have just been wide open as far as I will never trust anyone involved in this at all.



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I'm done. And that sucks, because I want to make new sources. And I really want to be able to convince myself to meet new people and get out there and find more information. But I cannot do that to myself. And I got to draw a line because this has just been wildly disappointing. And the other thing is that, I don't think people - I've never experienced this where people hate me so much that very innocent people who are fans of me or who are friends of me are getting hurt because people hate me so much. And I keep experiencing that over and over again. And that's another reason why I got extremely angry, contacted Trista's mom, contacted Eric immediately when I saw that because people like Tristan need to be protected from this and I cannot live with myself knowing that I am somehow...I don't know, putting these people...just because somebody likes me they're all at risk because people hate me so much. And we don't even have to include any of that. But I'm tired of it.

Eric Bland 1:13:04

Mandy, if people are hating you, they're jealous of you. It means they're jealous of your success. It means they're jealous of what you've accomplished. Very few people get accomplishments without having the negative side of people who are jealous and envious attached to it. You have far more supporters. Far more people who admire you far more people who follow you than these dirtbags that want to try to take you down. You're talking about half of 1%. Ninety-nine and a half percent of the people that follow us or follow you or buy your book or come to see you speak, respect you. Remember, in life, you don't have to be loved. You don't even have to be liked. But it's essential that you have to be respected and you are respected. That's the bottom line.



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Mandy Matney 1:13:56

But let's end the show with a positive note. Trista has an amazing company called Trista's Sunshine Company. And she makes all sorts of fun crafts. And I want everyone to go to her website and check it out. It is tristasunco.com. And I think that I'm gonna order a ton of things from there. I'm very late on my Christmas gifts, obviously. I think it would be great if we saw a bunch of our members support her and her company and and I want to spread as much sunshine as possible, because she's an amazing person. And I don't want people to forget that.

Eric Bland 1:14:38

But I gotta say something to you two. I want to wish you two and your families a very merry Christmas. When you look back at this year, you know, because I'm not gonna see you guys until the Westin function on December 29th, next Friday. I want everybody who's a Premium member or people who are Sunshine members and people who...COJ and True Sunlight, come meet us. We're going to be there. But I want to wish you guys - think about what we've had. We've had the murder trial. You've had your book tour. We've had all these different things happen in just the last nine months. I mean, it's just been a power packed year. I want you guys to relax this week, enjoy your loved ones. You know, Liz enjoy your family. I'm going to enjoy mine. I can't wait to see you guys. I can't wait to see what next year brings and you know, we have a lot of neat things going on. I have some things going on professionally and personally that, you know, I'll talk about the coming weeks. And I just want to wish you guys all the best and I'm just so glad that, you know, you are my sisters.

Liz Farrell 1:15:44

Thanks, Eric.



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Mandy Matney 1:15:45

Me too, Eric. Merry Christmas to all and to all...and on that note, cups down.

Eric Bland 1:15:52

Cups down.

Liz Farrell 1:15:53

Cups down. I hope everyone had a good Christmas.

Eric Bland 1:15:56

Thank you, David.

Liz Farrell 1:15:58

Awesome cups down.

Mandy Matney 1:16:09

Cup of Justice is a LunaShark Production created by me, Mandy Matney and co-hosted by journalist Liz Farrell and attorney Eric Bland. Learn more about our mission and membership at lunasharkmedia.com.

Interruptions provided by Luna and Joe Pesky.