



EPISODE 76: Court TV's Vinnie Politan On The Murdaugh And Colucci Cases And The True Crime Industry

Mandy Matney 00:06

Well, I'm really excited for today's episode where Eric Bland and I got to interview honestly one of our top guests on this show so far, Vinnie Politan of Court TV. Vinnie is an Emmy winning journalist and a former prosecutor who combines his journalistic talent with his legal knowledge to cover some of the craziest cases in the American court system. It was fascinating to talk to him about where he got started, both in the legal field and in small town journalism. Eric and I both could relate to him. And I'm sure you all can too. I have always liked Vinnie's Court TV coverage of the Murdaugh case because he was one of the few people on TV to tell it like it really was and to call out all of the absurdities. We had a great time talking with Vinnie about the never ending Murdaugh saga. And Vinnie is actually very familiar with the latest case that our team is diving into the Colucci trial set for this May. Vinnie covered the Colucci trial several years ago when it ended in a hung jury. Colucci is accused of killing his wife Sara Lynn and claiming she hanged herself with a hose. It was enlightening to speak with Vinnie about how the case was one of the first ones that Court TV covered when it revamped its network. I especially loved hearing Vinnie thoughts on the lawyering in this case between Andy Savage is one of a kind antics and the prosecution's many fumbles. Let's get into it.

Eric Bland 01:46

Cups up, Vinnie, thank you for joining us. Very stoked to do this interview with one of my favorite legal TV hosts and analysts, Vinnie Politan. I've gotten to know him over the last year and a half. He is an amazing man and Mandy and I've really talked about this interview and how much we wanted it. And so welcome, welcome. Welcome, Vinnie.



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Vinnie Politan 02:07

Well, great to be here. How much dirt though did Mandy dig up before this interview? Because that's what she does, right? That's what she does.

Eric Bland 02:14

I did too, but it's not so much of what I dug up on the internet. It's just all the questions like, you know, I love your hairstyle. You and me have unique hairstyle. And you know, how long have you been wearing the Peewee Herman hairstyle like I have my, you know, high, high flat top, you know, how long have you been wearing that?

Vinnie Politan 02:34

Well, it's interesting, because when I started at Court TV, I was in the field, right? So I was outside outside of courthouses running around all day. And it was at that moment where I went short. I had to go short, right? Because you just didn't have time to style it. There were elements I was dealing with, there was humidity, Eric, you know, it's not easy being a TV correspondent. So I went short. And you know, since I've been dyeing my hair silver now, like you started, yes, you know, this short and neat, and then I let it grow in a little bit and a little more on the top. That's all.

Eric Bland 03:09

Well, it's great. You know, I did research your background, and I knew that you were a lawyer, a prosecutor, private practice. What surprised me was, I knew you were smart, but I didn't realize you were Stanford educated, which is quite impressive. Specially from New Jersey. You know, usually the smart kids from New Jersey, they go to University of



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Pennsylvania, they go to the small schools, Haverford, Swarthmore or stay on the east coast. So I'm gonna ask you why you went to the west coast. But then what really surprised me is I always thought you were like on TV as a legal person. But you have a, you know, a crossover background where you did traditional broadcasting as a newscaster?

Vinnie Politan 03:51

Yeah, I did. So first I went out west because my older brother and I are separated by three and a half, four years. So he was graduating college, and he was applying to law schools around the country. I was graduating high school applying to colleges around the country. So I sort of match wherever he was applying. So he was applying University of Chicago. So I applied to Northwestern. Wow, he applied to Stanford, I applied to Stanford. So I kind of did that. And he got his first that he got into Stanford said, I'm going I'm like, oh, okay, well, good luck for me. I don't know if I'm gonna get into Stanford. And then when I got in, I was like, Alright, I'm going I didn't even visit the campus. I didn't even visit I just I said, take, take a couple of pictures. We didn't have digital phones. So they came back with like, you know, six or seven pictures of the campus looks nice. I'm going and it was great. So to be that far away, but to have my brother there, my older brother, worked out really well.

Eric Bland 04:46

Were you public school educated or private school educated?

Vinnie Politan 04:49

I was public West Orange High School, home of the Cowboys group to section two state champs 1983 I was captain of the basketball team junior and senior year.



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Eric Bland 04:59

At five feet nine, you're five feet nine. You were five feet nine. No, not five foot nine, six feet. Six feet. So were you point guard or were you actually over six feet tall? Okay, okay, six feet tall by the way.

Mandy Matney 05:16

Five-nine?

Vinnie Politan 05:17

You saw me at the Murdaugh...I'm not as tall as Murdaugh, but...

Eric Bland 05:20

Standing next to you I didn't see I didn't think you were that tall. 5'10 maybe. You know I didn't think you were that tall. Were you a point guard or a forward?

Vinnie Politan 05:29

No, no, not I came in...I was the sixth man in high school. So whoever made a mistake I went in for so I played every position of whoever first wanted to mess up. Coach would send me in. But I was good rebounder for my size, good rebound.

Eric Bland 05:43

4-A School, or was it a 3-A school?

Vinnie Politan 05:47

We were group two. So we were small, you know about 210 kids in my senior class. So it was a pretty small school.



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Eric Bland 05:55

So Politan, is that your full name? Or is that your team TV name? My grandfather changed our name. Really it's Bladstein. My grandfather was a dentist. And when my father was applying for law school, and medical school, he was going to either go to one or the other. There were quotas back then for Jews. I'm Jewish. And so he changed his name to Bland, so my name used to be Bladstein.

Vinnie Politan 06:22

So you wanted something a little more Bland, that would fit in something more white bread. So there you go. All right. So here's the sort of same sort of story, I guess, but it's kind of the opposite side. My grandfather, Luigi had five kids, but no job. And our name or family name was Politano with an O. So what he decided to do was he just dropped the O and became Politan. And nobody could figure out what it was right? He goes in for an interview. And the guy says Politan, what kind of name is that? He's said what do you mean? What will you know? What are you because what difference does it make? I can do the job. And he got the job. Right. So I do have one uncle though, who there was something with the birth certificate. So he's a Politano. So I've got a bunch of Politano cousins. But the rest of us are Politans. And so it's Italian. It's a time but we did lose the O, years ago.

Eric Bland 07:20

Mandy, do you hear that Jersey accent when he's really talking in Italian as opposed to his TV voice?



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Mandy Matney 07:26

I hear that. We were in New York this weekend. And my husband is from Jersey actually. And it's funny how when we're in New York, New Jersey, that accent really like comes out like it kind of hibernates for a little bit when he's in the South.

Vinnie Politan 07:43

This Philly accent that Eric's throwing at us here that is you know, bringing up part of the Jersey.

Mandy Matney 07:50

So where in New Jersey is your husband from? Plainfield? Plainfield?

Vinnie Politan 07:53

Plainfield. Yeah. We lived in Warren right next to it before we moved, moved out of state.

Mandy Matney 08:00

So it's where the Welsh accent is from and people laugh at that. I don't know.

Eric Bland 08:06

Whether the Howard Stern, there's the Howard Stern. He had a rest stop and there's all different names and New Jersey arrest stops. That's how you know, when you're going from Philadelphia to New York, where you meet people you meet him at the rest stop and it's named. They're named dressed up.



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Vinnie Politan 08:24

So you got to Vince Lombardi. You got to Jon Bon Jovi. Yeah, the Bon Jovi's closed right now, though, they're doing some construction there.

Eric Bland 08:31

So they're supposedly going to come and do a tour and I just read that Richie Sambora may come back to the Bon Jovi new tour so that would be really exciting to get get them together. Obviously I'm a big Bruce fan and Bon Jovi anything that the bands that originated from that area so are you a rock and roll or any do you like rock and roll?

Vinnie Politan 08:57

Now let's say you had to make a decision. You had to make a choice when I was in junior high school. You're either rock or disco. And there was no in between there's no slide you had to choose sides.

Eric Bland 09:10

Don't tell me Travolta's coming out. Don't tell me. Yeah.

Vinnie Politan 09:14

So you know which side I went to. I could not go to you know, all the time kids in our high school. We were on the disco side. And that's just that's just, you know, it was just it was life.

Eric Bland 09:25

I used to wear the silk shirts, the silk shirts and the Gabbard Dean pants and we used to go dancing after you know, Saturday Night Live. You know, I was 16 years old when Saturday Night Live came out and it just



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just caught wild fire. I don't know if you remember that. Mandy, you certainly don't you weren't born.

Mandy Matney 09:45

But like, what, what year are we talking about?

Eric Bland 09:48

1977 -78. So he's 59. I'm going to be 62. Okay, same age. So like a different generation. You know, there's so much in our generation that we had in this 70s. You know, you don't even remember we had the gas embargo where you had to get gas Mandy, on separate days, depending if your last number on your license plate was odd or even. That was and we had gas lines in Philadelphia in New Jersey that would mile long to get gas. It was brutal. It was brutal. It's wild.

Vinnie Politan 10:20

It was It wasn't easy growing up in the 70s. You know, it was tough.

Eric Bland 10:24

Interest rates were 17%. Mandy 17%. Can you imagine trying to get a home mortgage home that 17%?

Mandy Matney 10:33

Also homes were like, \$60,000? Weren't they?

Eric Bland 10:38

Yeah, but it's all relative to income.



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Mandy Matney 10:40

I look at how much houses cost when like my parents in my parents generation. And yeah, it is relative, I get that with money. But it's just crazy. Like, now you can't get a house because there's nothing under 200K in our area for anything, and it's just crazy. But anyways, I'm interested Vinnie, how you got into Court TV, that was like, 2002'ish?

Vinnie Politan 11:11

It was right at the turn of the century, 2001. And what happened was, so in college, I studied communication, that was my thing. I grew up, I always had a camera in my hand, a microphone in my hand. So that was the sort of the original thing. I worked at the radio station at Stanford, we didn't have a TV station. But you know, that's what I did. And that's that was kind of like in my DNA in my blood. But there's another part of my DNA. My father was a lawyer and a federal judge, my brother is a lawyer. So there was like that part of my life as well. So I decided to go to law school, surprised my father. And then I started practicing law, I was a prosecutor first and loved it, loved it. But I knew at the end of the day, how much money I was going to be making. After one year, two years, three years four, it just wasn't a you know, it's not enough. I don't know how they do it. But God bless the career prosecutors, because they can make so much more money in private practice. And that's what I did. But once I got to private practice, I realized, I'm not doing this. I'm just not doing it. I was working at a firm with timesheets, and it just, it didn't get me didn't get me juiced didn't get me juiced every day. You were doing civil work. Yeah, it was doing, like commercial litigation. So a little bit of labor law, some patent litigation, I mean, yeah, like I learned a lot. But it was no, I'm not doing this for 40 years. So one afternoon, I'm sitting there, I'm in one room, the



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TV's on in the other room, and I hear a voice on the TV. I'm like, wait a minute. So I go in the other room, and I look, and it's ABC World News Tonight. And it's Juju Chang, Juju Chang, Mandy Juju. I went to college with her. We both were the same majors. We worked at the radio station together. And this is like 10 years after college. And she's on World News Tonight. And I'm like, she did it. She did it. I said, You know what, this is like what we're gonna do? And I said, I'm gonna do it. And I didn't come to that, because I said, Oh, she could do it. Anyone could do it. No, it was like, like, she did it. She decided that, you know, everything we talked about. And, you know, during college, she turned into a professional, she's had an amazing career, by the way. So at that point, I just changed gears and got out of the practice, and did whatever I could to get the first job anywhere where someone would pay me to be on TV. And it's not easy. It's not easy. And this is before there was any digital world, right. So first, I had to make all these fake demo tapes of me doing stories. And then I had to mail them around the country, like 140 of them. And I got one phone call from New Jersey. It was a really small station that covered 14 towns in Eastern Bergen County near the George Washington Bridge, and two towns in Hudson County. And I went in, and it was like, try out after try out after try out. And then finally, they said, alright, you when you get the job, it was me and another guy. And I said, I'm so much better than him anyway. But I had no experience. So then I go in to meet with human resources. And I mean, it's a small, small station. And it's at a little cable operation called the it became Time Warner Cable took over. But it was Vision Cable originally and say a 20-year old woman and I'm like my 30's now opens up my application and she looks at it. Because on the application you have to Write like your current salary. So I wrote my current salary as a lawyer, and it was pretty good. And then she looks at it, she looks up at



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me, she looks down again, looks at me says, you know how much this job pays, right? I say yes. Just give me the job. It was \$10 an hour. I'm a grown man, Mary. She had one child, one, not another on the way. And I took the, you know, is it big pay cut, it was a big pay cut. I don't 90% 95 or whatever it was. But I took that first job. And from there, it was just, you know, I'm going to work as hard as I can to make up for the last 12 years I wasn't doing this.

Eric Bland 15:45

So you know, you have to you have to start at the bottom. Yeah. And get your voice. What was your voice going to be? What did you want your voice to be?

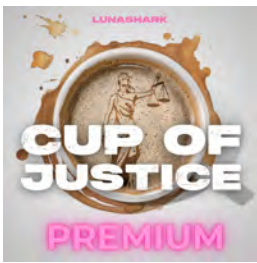
Vinnie Politan 15:53

Well, for me in I've always like, yeah, I take things seriously. Obviously, covering murder and everything else. But you know, I started out in regular news. And I looked at the stories and what we were covering, it was small town stuff. But I always tried to approach it with something in attitude that was just a little different, just a little more interesting, because the one thing I knew about local news, I think we all know is that it's like boring, yet we've seen that story before or Yeah, I know what's next. You know, it's every day, I know, the story is going to start with the tires going. And then they're going to tell us that they're selling out of shovels at the store and rock salt. I mean, so like, I looked at it, and I said, Well, I just wanna make things a little more interesting. So my goal, every time I did a story, whether it was a live shot, or what they call TV package, where you put together the story, and like a two minute version was to do something, either in that live shot, or when I was telling the story that people would remember. So it would register



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and it wasn't white noise. And it wasn't being crazy. It was just making things more interesting, trying to approach it from a different angle, or have a little sense of humor or whatever was appropriate for the story. And I think I, you know, I accomplished that because very quickly, you know, the packages I was doing, we're all just a little different than everybody else and what they were doing. And then when I got the second job on TV, I tried to get my second job in Philadelphia, by the way, they wouldn't hire me. The guy said, I love you. But we need someone to do live shots in the morning, I could do live shots. He said do you do like I said, What? Where I work, we don't have a live truck. So I can't do live shots, right? But I can do them? And he said, No, no, no. So then I went to Orlando. And that's all I did were live shots. It was a 24 hour local news organization. So there, I wasn't doing as many I would do some packages, but it's just a lot of live shots. So I would figure out ways to tell the story, you know, in the environment where I was, and not just standing there with a mic. So I think for me, that really became the way I approached television. And I sort of adapted that to what we do in the studio. And when I talked to other correspondents, a Court TV tried to, you know, for our show, I want you to can you do something like this? Can you show me something else, just because TV can become like white noise, especially local news, especially local news. So yeah, and it wasn't a show off. Right? It was just to make it interesting. And there was an anchor who I worked with at my first job. Scott Harris was his name, although he changed his name, because his real name was Vince. So they're actually to Vinnies on the air in Orlando was crazy. But he said, really the goal of like a good story is you just imagine like Mr. And Mrs. Smith, sitting on the couch watching the news. And then something happens. And Mr. Smith Goes to Mrs. Smith. Hey, did you see that? Did you see that? And that was like the goal. And that kind of



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resonated with me that hey, yeah, the object here is to, to have an impact. You know, however small or large it can be and not just be like generic, whatever would you know, just the generic reporter, bringing you the generic news.

Eric Bland 19:26

It's interesting. You say that because of Mandy's book, I've read it, you know, I've read it a couple of times, different parts over and over again. But what she talks about is when she was a young journalist at the island pack, it is she had to do those kinds of reporting stories, you know, the alligator in the driveway or this and that and, you know, six, seven stories a day she had to release and she talked about how she was going to make it more interesting because it was boring for her because she she had those aspirations Since you had to do these bigger and bigger things, but to try to get clicks, you wanted to try to get listeners to do the elbow to say, Hey, did you hear that? Mandy Tell, tell Vinnie about that. You know, that was the part of your career. That's almost the same.

Mandy Matney 20:16

Yeah, it's really funny you said that. And I really believe, I mean, there's a lot of good things to be said about people who start and local news. And you can really tell the difference between somebody who started in a really small market, I feel like I started at the Waynesville daily guide in the Ozarks of Missouri. And it was probably one of the smallest newspapers in the country. We printed five days a week. And I think we had about 1000 subscribers, maybe less, tiny, tiny. And when I was 22, I was very similar to you Vinnie. I just needed a job in journalism, and I'm gonna go anywhere doing anything. And somebody said, want to be an



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editor of this small town, newspaper where you don't know anyone. And I said, Sure. And they were like, we need some young energy. And what they really meant by young energy is somebody that they could pay almost nothing and work all the time. And so I was game for it. But I learned so much there, I learned, like you said, I learned how to make stories interesting. At that time, we were really being taken over by corporate media, and they were trying to, you know, consolidate newspapers. And one thing they did, which was so stupid, like, every month they made they created like a national package that we would have to turn in into local packages, by like, switching quotes around. And yes, so stupid. And but it's a great experience to have to be able to, to be able to understand like, this is not what a local audience wants, or anybody wants. This isn't good journalism. For anybody. This is just crap. Nobody's going to read it. And it's the same thing across the country. You can't just repackage stories in that way. It just doesn't work. And, yeah, so I totally relate to you on that level of just being like, we need to do things different here and shake things up a bit, because this is how news gets boring and news shouldn't be boring. Oh, no.

Vinnie Politan 22:38

And what I love working in the small market, you know, I've worked in a couple of different places. But that first job in that first market, I going to the local town council meeting, and seeing who's getting up and complaining about what can turn into seven interesting stories like and it doesn't have to be a big deal, you know, whether someone's upset about, you know, how close to his house, someone is parking, or what you know, whatever the little thing is, like, if you really get into it, and you you get to the people, and the personalities and the you know, make it somewhat relatable, interesting and sort of blow it up. And



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what I always tell young TV reporters is, you know, whether it's your live shot or your package, I said, if you're not genuinely interested in what you're doing, in the story that you're telling, it's not going to translate to the viewer. You can't fake it, you can't fake it. So that's why you're always searching for that angle, the piece of the story that's going to get you a little bit juiced up, you know, and right, I was able to find that and I think that gets you excited every day to do your job also, right?

Eric Bland 23:51

What makes you different Vinnie, and I, you know, Murdaugh has afforded me the luxury of being on so many different shows and being interviewed by different people is, you're intellectually combative. You call bullshit quickly. Whether I'm saying something that is just something I've said, that really doesn't measure up with what the facts are you get to the nub of it. You don't let somebody get on there and release propaganda or just, you know, monopolize you want to get to the answer, get to the crux of it. You know, why is why did Dick do this? Was it a mistake? Is he seeing the playing field, you know? And I really enjoy that because you make me think like a lawyer. You don't make me think like I'm being interviewed. When you're interviewing me. It's like I was in law school, or it's like one of my favorite shows when I was like, it was the McLaughlin group. It was rapid fire back and forth. You remember that you love that show? Yeah. And so you make me think like a lawyer like Well, Eric, why do you think Judge Newman did this or why did they do this? Was this a mistake? Is this a move that they're making now for something down the road? And, you know, I originally I thought, you know, Dick and Jim were playing chess, but they were not. They completely misread the impact of these financial crimes, they were focused on the murderer. And while the public was B, the period



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interest was in the murders. The financial crimes also resonated because of the victimization that took place. You know, like I said, yesterday, this wasn't people investing their money in Enron, or with Sam Banks, Friedman, cryptocurrency where they're investing money and trying to make money. These were people that needed this money, they needed it to survive, they needed it to for medical bills, they lost their loved ones, and, you know, tick, and Jim didn't realize they thought that they were just going to go in and get a normal, low, five to 10 year sentence on these financial crimes, then win on the murder case. And so Alex is 53-years old, he does maybe 10 years, and he gets out in his early 60s. But with the media grabbing on to the financial crimes, and journalists like Mandy and Liz, and then ultimately people like me that got on, it created a following where people were just as interested in the financial crimes. And what ended up happening is, we got that backstop we wanted, which was these long prison sentences for the financial crimes, that were the backstop, just in case the murder, convictions were reversed. And you will you always focused on that you focused on these financial crimes. They're serious. Dick and Jim are not paying enough attention to it thinking that some judge like Newman or gurgle is going to give a five to 10 year sentence. Like Jim said yesterday, well, Murdaugh got 12 years and Sandbag Freeman got 25 years and he stole \$8 billion, it was only \$8 million here. You know? And what do you think about that?

Vinnie Politan 27:11

It's a completely different scenario, like the standard financial crime is, is usually, you know, what they're used to is you're ripping off some corporation or you're, you know, fraud against a bank or against an insurance company or something like that. Not against people who



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come to the plate damaged. The reason you go to a plaintiff's attorneys because you've been damaged, your life is in a bad spot. It's a level worse than the ones in Madoff. You had people who lost their their retirement, right, their retirement savings. Well, yeah, that's bad. This is much worse. Because these people were in a really bad position. They just need this to get back up to, you know, back to even. And these are the people that he's going after. The thing that shocked me about all of it, though, was so greedy, that part of the scam was until like, give his clients like a little bit of money and say, you know, we settled, we settled for \$100,000. So here's, here's your \$66,000. I take my \$33,000 and really settling for millions. He didn't give them anything, right, like what a pig. That's a pig.

Eric Bland 28:26

Yeah. And with that, we'll be right back and we'll talk knee deep into Murdaugh and then move into some other subjects.

Mandy Matney 28:42

Vinnie, I want to ask you, you've been covering this case for a long time now. And you've been covering lots of different true crime stories. What makes Murdaugh different?

Vinnie Politan 28:52

I think it's the layers of what he did and who he was. Right. It wasn't. We've covered wealthy people killing their wives. But he's next level. It's his wife and his son. So that draws the interest. He was already on the radar for the boat crash case, which we were monitoring, right? We say this one. This one could be interesting. This could be interesting. It's not a murder case. It's a civil case. I know civil cases usually settle. So I don't



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get too invested in them for the long term. But there's something interesting going on here. And then when the murder happened, we're like, Well, wait a minute, wait a minute, we need to dig into this. And then once you got to the roadside shooting, I was like this thing is off the rails. We are all in. But even when that when the trial started, the one thing that I didn't, I wasn't I didn't think it was a guarantee in terms of the the viewer investment and the public's investment was the victims in the case because of Paul and the boat crash took away some of the sympathy that you would normally have for someone who's murdered. Maggie. I don't know what was going on in her life. But I thought, Okay, is there a chance here that the viewers can't connect with the victimization in this case? But that's where, as Eric mentioned, the financial crimes and all the other victims in his way, I think, change the normal equation that we see. Because in most cases, the ones that become huge like this, there's usually a victim who everyone is seeking justice for. This person needs justice, or I saw this one. Yeah, justice for Paul. And more, more. So for Maggie because of the nature of the boat crash, and what happened there, that were the sympathies, but at the end of the day, it's still a kid, it's still a wife, and they're hunted down like animals. So the sympathies ended up being there. But it multiplied because of all the other people that Murdaugh victimized. And then you add on top of it, you know, the true crime, nature of the mystery, and the evidence, all of that was there. And I mean, it was there in a big way trying to piece together exactly how this could have happened and where things were. So it had that aspect. But generally speaking for the big ones, it's about the victims, it's much more about the victims, but in this one, it was about the defendant.



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Eric Bland 31:30

In the pantheon of these famous cases whether it's Jodi Arias or Casey Anthony, Specter, you know, Blake, they're there. They grab you from the start, you know, Peterson grabbed you from the start. This case seemed to work its way up the rankings. You know, it started off with like you said, the boat case. And then Paul, getting criminally charged, and we're like, wow, this is getting serious. Mandy was writing articles about when is Paul going to get charged? I mean, this is a criminal case. It's not a civil case. It's a real criminal case, then Paul, good charge, then you have, you know, the murders, then you have the roadside shooting, then the revelation of the financial crimes. And it's like, this case is working its way up. Well, it's 24th. Now, all of a sudden, it's 20th. It's 50. Where do you think in history, this will sit will be a top 10 case that will stand the test of time? I think it will.

Vinnie Politan 32:30

It will. It absolutely will. Couple of game changers in the world we live in now. A true crime is at a place where it's never been before. There's a constant conversation that's taking place through great podcasts like this and docuseries that come out and the docuseries. And Murdaugh fuels it as well. People just they watch it, they binge it, they talk about it. And it's breathes life into these things. And I don't know where I said this, I may have said this online or off. I said on TV, it's all one big blur. But I'm waiting for like 10 years from now, because I'm seeing it in cases trials that I've covered, like maybe 1015, maybe even 20 years from now, there's going to be a bunch of people who are going to put together this docuseries and show you why Alex Murdaugh didn't do it and why it was an injustice. And there'll be like this simmering and and I don't know, I'll probably be out of the game by then. But you know, Mandy's



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gonna have to jump in there and explain to everybody what, I'll tell you what really happened because I was there. Because we're seeing I'm seeing it with Scott Peterson.

Eric Bland 33:34

Right, we talked about that.

Vinnie Politan 33:35

You know, Casey Anthony was found not guilty. But my goodness. We all saw the evidence and then people are it's it's like this revisiting these cases. Yeah. The other one, the staircase with Michael Peterson. I covered that trial in North Carolina, North Carolina, right. And the staircase comes out. And I was like, Well, what really happened here, what really happened? He bludgeoned her to death in the staircase. There's two people home, one's dead. Yeah. Like, how hard is it?

Mandy Matney 34:07

The simplest answer is most often the most true or whatever they say. It's yeah, I feel like there is a phenomenon and true crime. And I think the other thing that I get a little bit annoyed with and true crime is that like, the entire country focuses on the same seven cases. And like there's like 700 podcasts on Peterson and there are seven. So everybody's trying to be different in different ways. And I feel like that's where we're getting the people that are pro Peterson and looking at the evidence and that way, but it doesn't really help anything and is it? I think, I think with any case, you can look at one you can look at it from one angle and be determined, Murdaugh's innocent, whatever and then find the thing. was to find bits and pieces of evidence and twist it around to convince people so easy.



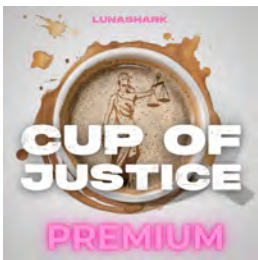
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Vinnie Politan 35:05

Yeah, every case is like every case that goes to trial. Like there's already arguments being made by the other side. They don't just sit there and say, All right, you know, I'm guilty. No, it doesn't work that way. So there's already things happening. And I could take, probably, I would say anywhere from 80 to 90% of the guilty, the trials where the defendant was convicted on Court TV, go through all those cases, make one of these mockumentaries or Docu series that come out. And I can make it look like everybody was, you know, completely innocent. And there was this incredible injustice, railroaded. And that's what they and Making a Murderer, they left out some of the most compelling evidence against the killer, right? Like, how do you do that?

Mandy Matney 35:52

That's ridiculous. I was so angry about that as like a journalist and watching that. And that was when I was really getting into true crime and really aspiring to be the people like who are making the Making a Murderer documentary, and that was so compelled by that case, and then just doing a basic Google search, I was like, this is a, this is wrong, this is really wrong. I mean, they, it is one thing to state your opinion and say, This is what I believe in, here's why I believe it. And here's the evidence that that supports my belief. And here's the evidence that doesn't. But when you don't say that, like I didn't, that documentary was not clear of we're trying to get this man out of prison. And we are, we believe he's innocent. And so here's what we're leaving out, and that that that's journalistically, unethical and wrong. And I do not like that trend.



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Vinnie Politan 36:51

Yeah that's why I say you watch them, bring the salt, bring you big grains of salt, like huge grains of salt, and then do some investigation after the after the after you watch it, because, you know, they generally have an agenda. And it makes it more interesting story. If someone's been wrongfully convicted in this injustice who could have done it? Well, the problem with making a murderer was That was his trial was in that I called the Dark Ages, there's like this little period of time where there's no court TV, it's a short period of time. And so that trial wasn't, you know, we can't watch it. And we can't go back and see it. But you can go back and watch Michael Peterson's trial. Scott Peterson, there weren't cameras in the courtroom. So you can't watch that one, which gives them a little more leeway with what they're attempting to do. In that case, as well. But, um, like, that's the great thing about Court TV, you know, you see in here all the evidence, you know, from the beginning to the end, and what we're doing now, every trial, we cover, we then put onto our website, and people can watch it for free. You know, it's like on demand. So if and if anyone's doing a podcast, and is wondering what what happened during the trial, and there was a trial, you can just watch it on Court TV, just click boom. And we break it into little sections, little chapters with different witnesses. Yeah, there's a couple commercials in there, because we got to pay for it somehow. But it's free. And it gives you a much better perspective when you actually see and hear the evidence and the arguments made by the attorneys, because they're sort of marshalling that evidence for you.

Mandy Matney 38:26

What do you think the pros and cons I was talking about? I went on a rant on Twitter yesterday, because you mean another rant on Twitter,



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another rant on Twitter, I have this thing every time I have to make the drive to Charleston, which is happening way too much in the Murdaugh case, to go see a federal court proceeding, because they refuse to allow cameras in the courtroom, and they refuse to allow the public to view what is happening in the federal courthouse. And not only is it a pain to me, but it's a it's really annoying to report on it too. Because you don't have your normal you I'm used to recording something and then I'm used to going back and checking the quotes and I'm a triple checkered I'm thorough. That's my thing. And things happen so quickly in federal court, and it's hard to understand sometimes. And I just think it would be a whole lot better if they just allowed cameras in the courtroom. What is your stance on that? And why do you think that they are holding back?

Vinnie Politan 39:31

It's the Supreme Court of the United States that controls that.

Eric Bland 39:34

We talked about that last night, Vinnie, you and I talked about that last night that there were no, no cameras.

Vinnie Politan 39:39

It's the Supreme Court. The Supreme there was a case and I think it was the case involved. This is years ago, Barry Bonds hit like the record setting home run and there was this, I think fight over the ball and I think somehow somehow and ended up in federal court. I don't know why, but in that and I think it was this case I might be mixing cases up but I know it was out West, in the bay area of San Francisco Bay Area, and the judge, the federal judge actually approved cameras and



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wanted cameras in there. But the Supreme Court stepped in and said, No, you can't do that. It's maddening. It's man. And it starts with the Supreme Court. I mean, the Supreme Court makes decisions that impact all our lives, right, like drastically impact our lives. Yet they do not allow cameras inside the Supreme Court. It's just lawyers and justices. There aren't even witnesses. There's nothing else happening. They do not permit cameras. They permit audio recordings, which get released afterwards. I mean, this is This is insanity. This is absolute insanity. It's the Supreme Court. It's the government, you weren't put there by God. You know, you were you were put there through a political process number one, and number two, it's our court. And not everyone can fly to Washington, DC and get a ticket to watch the arguments. It's ridiculous. But it starts with them until the Supreme Court changes. And this Chief Justice hasn't done it. Some thought He was going to, because I remember when he became Chief Justice Roberts, we thought it was going to be a change. Now, the younger guys in there, yeah, no, no, he's not allowing it. And it's, and it's maddening, and most of it, and most of and this is actually true across the board, because there's a lot of states where it's judicial discretion, whether or not to allow cameras in. And most of the times, it's the it's the judge who doesn't want to be on television. It's the judge who doesn't want the public to see them at work. That's the problem. Right? That's that they won't they won't put that on the record. They won't say that, right. That's the actual reason.

Eric Bland 41:43

And that's because a lot of judges have black robe syndrome. Like yesterday, I got up to speak in front of Judge Gergel. And he shut me down. He said, there will be no lawyers speaking in the courtroom. And



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if that was on TV, and it would the public would have been outraged not to hear from me. And so I kind of circumvented it a little bit. He said, I don't want to hear from you, Mr. Bland. And I said, Your Honor, I would like to thank you. And he was almost going to cut me off. I said, I'd like to thank you for how you've presided over the murder case, the Laffitte case, the Cory Fleming case, and I turned around to the prosecutors and I thanked Emily and Winston Holiday. And then I thank the FBI and he wanted to shut me down and he couldn't. And when I got done, I looked back up at him. And he was, I saw it. The point I'm trying to make is I've been on a lot of shows, and during the murder case, and I'm defense oriented. So I would have been walking into this thinking, let me give the benefit of the doubt to Alex. But I was on a lot of shows. And they were just buying into the narrative that was being propagated by the defense and by the defense minions and they were pulling apart everything. But when I went on your show, it was almost cut and dried with you like you and I saw the same thing. What executioner's come on somebody's property in a rural area in South Carolina, and not have guns and thinking they're going to break into somebody's house and find guns and then use it on him. What what people what man is going to see his wife and son laying their bloody and not go grab them and be full of blood and screaming to the high heavens? How's he going to have clean clothes? Why is he going to wait 42 minutes to call his only living son and call other people before he calls his son to tell him that their mother and son died? And who doesn't tell their son? I was with your mother and your brother one minute before they were killed? How can I live with myself that I didn't stop this murder? And who gets on the phone on 102 jailhouse phone calls and only talks about football and never screams? I'm gonna talk about football. If I'm innocent, who's out there trying to find the real killers, who's the guy that puts a reward out



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with a 90 day trigger on it, then it's going to end. I mean, you were like, I never saw you waver Vinnie, I never saw you waver.

Vinnie Politan 44:11

It's human nature. Common sense. Like come on. Come on, folks. Two plus two equals four. And but the comeback is the argument that I've heard, you know, for decades on so many trials. Who knows how we would react in such a situation? Who knows how like, and I go back I go to one that has a Philly Jersey connection Rabbi Fred new lander from Cherry Hill, who hired a hitman to bludgeon his wife, right? He shows up finds her dead, right? And, you know, the EMTs and everybody shows up and not I mean, he's she's bludgeoned to death. It's gory. It's really bad. And he has not a speck of blood on her. And he took the stand. Why, you know, why didn't you do it? Oh, it was, I forgot the word. He used some really awkward words and described how his wife looked like that's your wife of 25 years, right? Who gave birth to your three children? And like, yeah, he was with, you're gonna have the life back in...

Eric Bland 45:14

Um, you're gonna be screaming to the heavens who did this? Who did this?

Vinnie Politan 45:17

Who did it? Check a pulse. Good you might have, you might have one speck of blood on you. And the amazing thing about Rabbi Newlander, he tells the hitmen what to do. And he says, but don't don't mess up anything in the house.



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Eric Bland 45:31

Just killed her, but don't put any blood on the floor.

Vinnie Politan 45:34

If you don't, yeah, make sure you don't miss any of you know, any of our good china or anything.

Eric Bland 45:39

Like it was unreal. Mandy and I would scream every night like, how can people not see this? I mean, Mandy, tell me what were we missing? What? Why were there so many people who wanted him to be innocent?

Mandy Matney 45:52

You know, I don't know. And Vinnie you said, like 10 years down the road we're going to be seeing docuseries. I think it's going to be next year. There's already a book written by a felon by the way who it's on Amazon of like, why Alex Murdaugh is innocent. I'm pretty sure AI wrote it, but that's a whole nother thing. There's all of these crazy people online who will defend him till death do us part and I do not understand it for the life of me. And even with Murdaugh. The wild situation is the the wild thing to me is how they're they love to separate the financial crimes from the murders and like, and just brush all that to the side like, yeah, he might have done that. But he was on drugs. And he is sorry about that. And that's that's financial crimes, that's different, he wouldn't have murdered and it's like, how do you not see this is the same person. This is the same scheme. And this is a man who just believed that he could go get away with everything and y'all are helping him still believe that he can get away with everything. It drives me mad.



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Vinnie Politan 47:04

Oh, it's the same thing that would that would make it possible for you to do this to not only like his clients who he claims to love, but his law partners...

Eric Bland 47:16

Everyone in his life. His family. He stole from his brother.

Vinnie Politan 47:21

He stole from his brother. I mean, there's there's that little streak in people that are that have the ability to commit these ultimate crimes. Now go back to Casey Anthony is found not guilty of murder. But she stole from her grandfather. Her grandfather is in a nursing home and she's siphoning money out of his bank account. In the nursing home. She borrows her, one of her best friends allows her to borrow a car, she makes the mistake of leaving her checkbook in there. Casey Anthony starts writing checks. Because this is who they are. They're different than the rest of us. They're wired differently. They see things differently. They put on a show they can put on a show. But at the at the end of the day, they don't have the same moral compass, they have no compass, it's totally out of whack. And that's who commits murders. Regular people don't commit murders. We just don't do that. Right? We don't. And that's the problem. People compare and like themselves to the person who's accused of the murderer, and you can't do that it's a dangerous trap. Because they don't think like us. They don't act like us. They are they are wired differently. And you have to accept that. And it doesn't always make sense, right? The other great thing that defense attorneys do, this is my favorite thing. They talk about all the mistakes, like the prosecutor saying here's the evidence, well, this, this and this,



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and then the defense gets up well, if he was going to commit murder, why would he do that? Why would he do this? Like Like, like a murder is logical and plans it out. But my comeback to that if anyone ever says that on my show is well, we don't catch the smart ones. Like the real smart ones. They get away with murder, because there's a ton of unsolved murders. We catch the ones that make mistakes so of course, why would he do that? Well, he did it and that's part of the reason why he got caught. Like he's not the perfect murderer. He's not he got caught that's why is in a courtroom right now.

Eric Bland 49:13

Well, that's why that's why motive is not an element of murder because to you and I that would be That's the dumbest reason in the world to kill your wife and son so that you could take the attention away from you from your law firm looking into your finances but murders it's an imperfect crime. They do it for reasons that are not rational because, like you said, They're not like you and me. But I want to end it with what you asked me last night. Is this the end? Have we heard the end of Alex for a while? And I believe we have I believe civilly. We probably heard the end of it, I think from the financial crimes. I think we've heard the end of it unless he goes back on the Hot Box and he turns over that oh, there or lawyer, and he starts talking about businessmen, judges and politicians. I think over the course of the next couple of years, there'll be these appeals. We'll talk about them when they when they come up. But I do think, Mandy, that we've heard the last of Murdaugh for a long time. What do you think?



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Mandy Matney 50:20

Yeah, Liz asked me this yesterday. She was like, Do you think this is the last time that you're going to see him in person in a while? And I said, I wish? I don't think so. I think that's it, I think that they are going to move on, I think we're on like, Plan B, I think they're going to move on to C and then D. And I think as long as his lawyers are still getting money, somehow they're going to still terrorize the system. And us. And we're all going to watch and we're all going to be there. And I just think it's going to keep going. What do you think, Vinnie?

Vinnie Politan 50:59

Well, I'll never say it's over. The big ones never ever, ever end. Well, there's two reasons if anything happens in it, we'll hear about it right? In the cases that aren't to this level, things still happen, but we don't hear about it. We don't pay much attention to it. So I think a part of us like the media as a whole, you know, something bubbles up? Oh, okay. You know, we'll put it out there. So, but I really do think that we're at a point now where, you know, the normal criminal appellate process sort of takes over and starts doing its churning. And I think that's going to have to play out before any other noise is made. And I think Eric alluded to this, like if he's going to start naming names and putting things out there in some way or form, then thing but I don't think that's going to happen until all the appellate process runs its course. That's when you get down to that the next level of stuff. And then he's playing the long game. Yeah. When he loses all of that. I'm just wondering if the LA Innocence Project will open up in South Carolina.



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Mandy Matney 52:11

Well, there's a South Carolina Innocence Project, and it was founded by Dick's best friend Joe McCulloch. And I think Joe McCulloch has been on your show before and I've wondered if that is the long game going on. But you never know what these people with that we'll be right back. Vinnie, there is one more case I would like to talk to you about. And this is a case that I have been absolutely fascinated by in the last couple months. And it has been a it's very similar to Murdaugh, I think in a lot of ways. I've been watching my husband and I every night instead of like watching a documentary. We are watching the court to be Colucci. It's the Colucci case. And in 2018, Michael Colucci went to trial for the murder of his wife alleged murder, he said that she committed suicide via hanging herself with a garden hose. But it was a thicker garden hose outside of their jewelry store in Summerville, South Carolina. And this case is interesting in a lot of ways, but we noticed that this was the first case in the reboot of cord TV, correct?

Vinnie Politan 53:37

Yes. Well, what happened, this was one of the first ones. We didn't cover it live though. We, I think it may have been pre launch or just after the launch. And we are in another case. And we recorded it and then we played it in its entirety on a delay. And wow, what a case. The image that comes to my mind every time I think of this case, is the reenactment that was done by Colucci's attorney and I believe it was his wife who dressed up like the victim in the same dress, and, and takes this walk behind the jewelry store. And like runs into the garden hose like she allegedly did. I'm laughing I'm sorry, but they shot this video. And we made it part of like the sort of like the promo video for the for the for the trial. And in some of the packages. And every time I



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look at it, it almost looks like this a brooder film from the JFK assassination because it looks like oh my goodness, there's video of what happened here, but it's the reenactments just the way it's shot. It was like someone happened to be there with a camera. But can I just say that? I thought the story was absurd that so One could accidentally get your head stuck in the hose the way it's, you know, you hang your hose on the side of the house, in between offense and defense. And, and like hang yourself while your husband is sitting in the car doing I don't know what, like I thought this was completely absurd. But then I watched the trial, and you're watching the trial. This was a case of and I and I don't want to be critical, but the the the prosecutor there was there are two prosecutors. There was one woman little bit I'm forgetting names right now I'm sorry. One woman who's who's experienced. And then this young guy who is I know, not experienced. And he has like the most experienced lawyer like in the world. And this guy just takes control of the courtroom.

Eric Bland 55:54

Yeah, Andy Savage. And he's part of he was part of the Stephen Smith case. And I'm also part of the Colucci case. I was on the Colucci civil cases. So it's a small, small world that we're talking about here.

Vinnie Politan 56:07

Yeah, savage is savage in the courtroom. So he did this one thing. So the alleged murder weapon was like this, because it's a jewelry case, right was like this chain that the victim was wearing. Well, he gets the chain in his hand, and he starts chocking himself like this in front of the jury, and then he breaks the chain and cuts his hand. And when it happened, I'm like, Are you allowed to do that to evidence, but he just



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did, and then ends up in a hung jury, which means you've got to try the case again. And what is the prosecutor going to bring in the broken chain?

Eric Bland 56:46

Right, right.

Vinnie Politan 56:47

That was how do you explain that to the jury on the first trial? This guy over here, he broke the evidence, like, how are they going to handle that?

Eric Bland 56:56

Well, we had a we had a lawyer in our state, one of the most famous products liability lawyers, that was trying a case in Pittsburgh, it was a seatbelt in an airbag case. And in the middle of the trial, he brought his expert witness in in the middle to look at the seatbelt and the airbag. And they ruined it. They pulled it off the thing and they ruin the airbag. It wasn't in the same position. The lawyer actually got sanctioned, he ended up retiring. How do you retry that case? Now, when the evidence has been, you know, spoiling aid?

Vinnie Politan 57:27

Right. It's insane. But he was very effective in getting the jury honey in this case.

Eric Bland 57:35

Mandy, is Andy going to try it again in May?



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Mandy Matney 57:38

I believe so everything that the Attorney General's Office is saying, I mean, I think it's fair to criticize the prosecutors in that case, as a sec. As a South Carolina taxpayer. I was very frustrated, honestly, watching the prosecution in that case. But, Vinnie, do you think that there's what do you think's gonna happen this time around if the prosecution puts a better case forward in it also, I mean, so much time has passed, we're talking, it's was nine years ago. Does even harder for the prosecution. What do you think's going to happen?

Vinnie Politan 58:17

Well, two things right. So the older a case gets, the more difficult it is for the prosecution things just happen, right? Memories, fade all of that. But generally speaking on retrials, it's advantage prosecution. And there are many, many, many, many more convictions on retrials, then not guilty, regardless of what the split was the first time around, like I've seen cases go from, you know, 11, not guilty one, one guilty split to convicted the next time. So a prosecutor, I believe has an advantage because generally speaking criminal cases, the defense knows what the prosecution cases you've laid it out, you get all the discovery, but you don't necessarily know exactly how the defense is going to do what they're going to do. You know, they don't have to show their cards to the prosecution. So they when they show him is that the trial, so now that they've shown him once, you can prepare and adjust your case for what you know, they're going to throw out there. So that's why I think there's an advantage in that. This case should be very winnable. It should be because the alternative explanation that I think they will do again, I think they're married to it at this point, that it's an accidental hanging by a garden hose. Like just say those words out loud.



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Mandy Matney 59:42

And a woman women don't do that, that like they don't put on their pretty dress and hang themselves accidentally by a garden to crawl through a fence.

Eric Bland 59:54

Why would a woman crawl, a grown woman, crawl through a fence and You know, structure they that's not something that women do. You know, young kids do that. But it, it defies sense, which makes me want to ask you. Have you seen a lot of cases where there have been really good defense attorneys? Because we know there's been cases where there have been really good prosecutors and shitty defensive lawyers, and people get, you know, guilty and they shouldn't have been. But do you see cases where there have been really good defense lawyers and bad prosecutors like may be in the Gallucci case where somebody gets off or there's a hung jury and they shouldn't have had? It shouldn't have happened.

Vinnie Politan 1:00:39

Yes, well I've seen both scenarios, both sides of the coin, in cases like this, because there are some that, you know, yes, the person did it. But the evidence isn't quite there. And there's some peculiar facts on the side. And those are the cases where good defense attorneys can make the reasonable doubt, you know, much more prominent and obvious to the jury and sell it to the jury in a much better way. Generally speaking, though, because we do all these high profile cases. It attracts a lot of very good criminal defense attorneys. It's just the nature of the cases we cover we don't cover like drug deal gone wrong. We've seen great great attorneys and I've seen great public defenders as well. Right. In the



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public defender is by its nature less of an attorney. It's just someone who has more cases and less access to thorough investigations. So we've seen both sides but generally speaking, like the South Carolina Colucci case, and I'm not gonna say he's a bad prosecutor. He was just super inexperienced. He reminded me of myself when I was trying my first few cases, which were not murder cases against somebody like savage. Like, no, that's that's, it was a little too much too soon.

Mandy Matney 1:02:01

Yeah, I mean, Andy Savage, it makes sense. watching, watching the difference between Andy savage and Deckard Poulin, Andy Savage is who Deckard Boolean, I believe wants to be exactly like he was in command the entire time. He confused the heck out of the jury. He did things like you said that were kind of appalling. But still, he got his point across and look at his results. But the question that I have about the Colucci case, and I haven't got to this point of the trial, and I'm very confused. At the end of the right before the jury went to deliberate, they said you can vote guilty or not guilty on manslaughter or murder. Do you remember them doing that?

Vinnie Politan 1:02:50

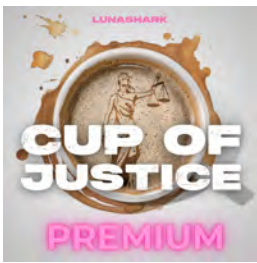
Yeah. Yeah, that there was a lesser included.

Mandy Matney 1:02:54

Why did they do that? Because I feel like that that's just confusing.

Eric Bland 1:02:58

It's because if there's facts that are present, where a jury could reasonably conclude that it was a voluntary manslaughter and not an



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intentional killing, they have an obligation to a judge has an obligation to charge on that. And it defense doesn't ever like that, because it's a fallback. If there's a conflict, the jury, and they kind of settle on that case. They wouldn't do that for Alex at all, because they wanted an all or nothing conviction, but it's always it's done 90% of the time.

Mandy Matney 1:03:31

Oh okay.

Vinnie Politan 1:03:34

Yeah, there are situations sometimes where the prosecution doesn't want it times where the defense doesn't want it times where neither wants times where both want it. I think the one time when defense attorneys want the lesser included is like the case where it's blatantly obvious, right? And it's a first degree, and maybe there's a second degree option, there's a manslaughter option. And your whole case is making that argument because you know that they were there and they did it. The question is what did they do? Did they commit first degree second degree but in cases where it's like a who'd done it like the Alec Murdaugh case, a defense if they believe they have a great reasonable that argument they don't want that fall back? Sometimes prosecutors want it because they, you know, I don't want them sent home. In the Casey Anthony case. They had all those choices, which was the other part that people forget people like oh, they overcharged her. They charged her with what they felt she did. But they there were there were two other lesser included options for the homicide that the jury also said, Oh, no, go ahead. Have a nice day, Casey have a nice life. You didn't do anything wrong here. So that's very possible. You know, the other thing about savage I wanted to say that that was effective. As you



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know, with all the all the things that he does in the courtroom, the way he commands it, and he's likable, he's you you want it like you know, because you don't like what the defended is accused of and you believe he did it. But at the end of the day, I liked the guy. I really liked him. You know. And that is a big factor. And I don't think enough criminal defense attorneys and prosecutors understand that. Civil lawyers get it right you guys, you guys get it? You get right.

Eric Bland 1:05:21

I worked with Andy on the Slager case, we represented Michael Slager who killed you know, Walter Scott in North Charleston, he shot him in the back. That was a national case. And Andy represented him on the criminal case, if we represented Michael Slager on the civil case and just being around Andy. He's a fundamentally likable man. He talks Nice. He's not sarcastic, I think harpoon Julian had to operate in the light where he usually operates in the dark, and his sarcasm and his bravado works, sometimes with judges and he can manhandle prosecutors. But when he was working in the sunlight, in this case, to the ordinary person, a lawyer can offend, they have to be likable. And I think he was not likable from a standpoint, not that he wasn't at his best, and he wasn't at his best because I've seen him at his best. But you have to be likable first, then they have to respect you. And I didn't see that one of the things I've been thinking about and I'm interested to hear is, I'm not sure dick and Jim will be there for the long haul with Alex. But one thing that I thought of last night, how about these guilty pleas don't they come in now under the next murder case, if there's a murder retrial, these are crimes of moral turpitude, that he just pled guilty to Vinnie, they come in as evidence. These are felonies 10 years that he's doing or more, they will come in as evidence as crimes of moral



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turpitude. So I don't know whether the financial crimes on the retrial will help him. Don't they come in? Who's thinking about that?

Vinnie Politan 1:07:05

But here's where I don't think it's as big a deal because in in the first trial, they came in as well, he admitted them, right. I think having a conviction, though, does have does taint him even more than he's already been tainted by all this. So yeah, it should, should come in and be able to use be used to attack his credibility and his ability to tell the truth. And yeah, that's that's another problem for Alex Murdaugh.

Eric Bland 1:07:35

If there's a retrial and if he testifies in that retrial, because we all know that he cut his own throat.

Mandy Matney 1:07:42

Yeah, if I don't think he thinks that though. Oh, this was so great. And are you covering Colucci, this? Are you planning on it? This May?

Vinnie Politan 1:07:55

We've definitely been been tracking it. You know, there's the great thing about cord TV right now. And the world we live in, is that we can cover many trials at once. You know, this spring is a very busy spring. But we also stream the stuff online. So for covering three trials at once three live trials that are happening, obviously only one at a time can be on the air. But the other two can be streaming online. And then when there's a break in one, you know, one ends, we put the other one up. So we've really changed the way Court TV does its business. It used to be just one trial at a time. That's it no more no less. Now we're we you know, at one



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point last week, we had six things going on at once. So it is your front row seat to justice. My show every night. You know, I talk about the true crime, the big true crime stories of the day, and the big cases that are happening in court. So it's sort of a balance. But we've got so many things on the fire and there's a lot of great stuff. Colucci is right up there with the rest of them. The best part about Colucci though is you got a bunch of guys from the northeast, moving down south and just raising all kinds of heck down there. I didn't do nothing. I didn't do nothing.

Eric Bland 1:09:15

Where can we find Vinnie Politano? We find him on Court TV from 8 to 10 every night in Closing Arguments, the highest rated show on Court TV and one of the highest rated True Crime TV shows on TV. He's a friend of mine, someone that I respect immensely, Vinnie, we are so grateful that you took the time to sit down with us. We can't wait for our listeners to hear this. Just really humbled. Mandy, what do you think?

Mandy Matney 1:09:48

Yeah, thank you. This was awesome. That went by really fast and is there anything that we didn't cover that you would like to tell our audience or say anything, Vinnie?

Vinnie Politan 1:09:59

I think we got it all covered. It's one more plug. I now have a weekend show. I think the time slot may be changing but it's called Vinnie Politan Investigates. Little half hour chunks where you can just gobble up one true crime story half hour at a time. Right now it's weekends at 10am. That may change but keep an eye open for that as well and great to sit down with both of you. You know, we, we all have been through



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this unbelievable experience and it's most connect and be able to kind of process it all together.

Mandy Matney 1:10:33

Well thank you so much and cups down. That sound you've been awesome. Thank you.

Eric Bland 1:10:39

Cups down. Thank you so much. I'll see you soon on your show, Vinnie.

Mandy Matney 1:10:55

Cup of Justice is a Luna Shark Production created by me Mandy Matney and co-hosted by journalist Liz Farrell and attorney Eric Bland. Learn more about our mission and membership and lunasharkmedia.com. Interruptions provided by Luna and Joe Pesky.