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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
CHARLESTON DIVISION

_____)	Docket No. 9:22-658
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	Charleston, SC
Plaintiff,)	
)	TRIAL TESTIMONY
vs.)	OF
)	RUSSELL LUCIUS LAFFITTE
RUSSELL LUCIUS LAFFITTE,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
_____)	DATES: November 18, 2022
)	and November 21, 2022

BEFORE THE HONORABLE RICHARD M. GERGEL
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE, PRESIDING
JURY TRIAL

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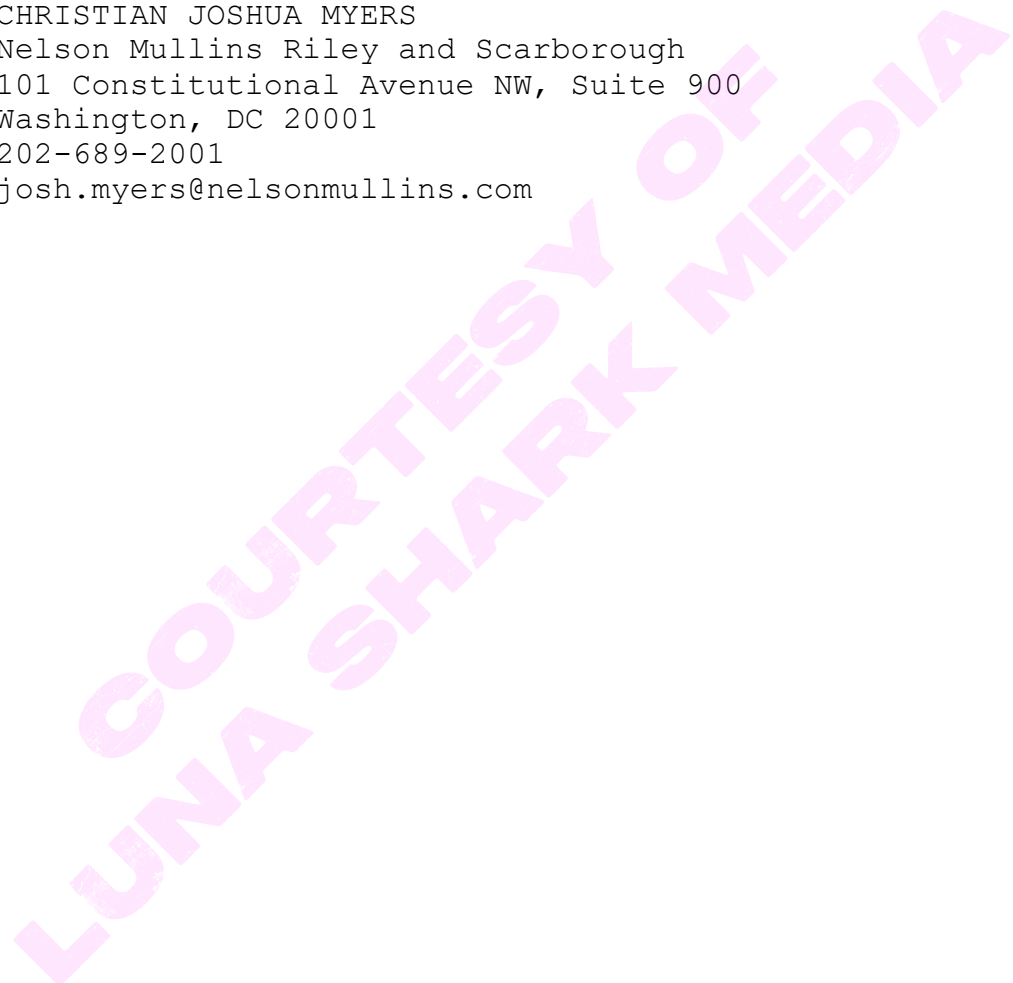
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1 THE COURT: Please be seated. Government, call your
2 next witness.

3 MR. AUSTIN: The defense calls Russell Laffitte.

4 THE COURT DEPUTY: Please state your full name.

5 THE WITNESS: Russell Lucius Laffitte.

6 RUSSELL LUCIUS LAFFITTE,

7 having been duly sworn, testifies as follows:

8 DIRECT EXAMINATION

9
10 BY MR. AUSTIN:

11 Q. Good morning, Mr. Laffitte. Can you tell the jury a
12 little bit about yourself. Where were you born and where did
13 you grow up?

14 A. I was born and raised right in Hampton County.
15 Always wanted to live right there in Hampton County. I went
16 to -- graduated from Patrick Henry Academy in Estill, South
17 Carolina. Then I went -- well, I took a break between high
18 school and college, farmed for five years. Then I went to
19 Newberry College. Graduated with a business degree in 1997.
20 And immediately came back to work at Palmetto State Bank.

21 Q. Okay. So you took a little break. Did you set out
22 to become a banker when you graduated high school?

23 A. I had no intentions of ever being a banker. I like
24 the outdoors. Always liked hunting and doing things,
25 farming. I like being outdoors. And so I didn't want to be

1 stuck in the office. And my father had asked me to come back
2 from 1997 when I was graduating. And I decided to try it.
3 And I just fell in love with it. And I really, really
4 enjoyed it.

5 Q. And what do you like in particular about banking?

6 A. I enjoyed helping people. There's nothing like, you
7 know, helping somebody start their business or save their
8 business by loaning them money when, you know, things are
9 going wrong, especially as they were in COVID, when they buy
10 their first car, or help them pay for their child to go to
11 college or something, anything, buy the house. I mean, it's
12 a wonderful feeling to get to help people in that manner.

13 Q. Okay. And since you came back from college, have
14 you lived in Hampton your entire adult life?

15 A. I have. Technically, in Varnville but Varnville and
16 Hampton are side-by-side towns.

17 Q. Okay. And can you just trace your work history at
18 Palmetto State and explain what different roles you filled?

19 A. Well, as was testified earlier in this trial, I was
20 the gofer when I started back in '97. You know, I never
21 worked in the bank, not a day in my life, other than to move
22 files or haul stuff to the dump or something along those
23 lines. So when I first started, just like everybody, you
24 know, we go through the teller line just to learn the basics.
25 No, they didn't think I was going to be a teller my whole

1 life. And it's a good thing, because I am not really that
2 good at it. So we went through the teller line. And I moved
3 through different spots. But along that same -- around that
4 same time that I came, one of our loan officers quit and
5 moved to another bank. So I was sort of thrust into loans,
6 consumer lending fairly quickly.

7 Q. And would you say that's your sweet spot in banking?

8 A. I would say commercial lending. As I developed
9 throughout the years as a lender, you know, you just don't
10 let people start out. I mean, there's a lot to look at. And
11 so much of it, especially in community banks, as you heard
12 over and over, it's relationship banking. You have to know
13 the people, know their business. And my sort of niche was
14 the timber industry and the agricultural. I understand the
15 timber industry, whether it be logging, purchasing, and
16 buying and selling timber, or even such as the saw mills in
17 our area, which is -- just so you know, timber is our number
18 one industry in Hampton County. So you need to learn it if
19 you want to be a banker in Hampton County. And so that's
20 what I sort of focused on. And that was where the majority
21 of my loans were, with either purchasing land,
22 timber-producing properties, farms, purchasing the heavy
23 equipment for the loggers themselves or production loans for
24 them.

25 Q. Okay. And tell me about your own family. We've

1 heard from your dad, your sister, and your brother. But what
2 about your family; how many children do you have?

3 A. I have two children. And, you know, I've got to
4 give my wife credit. She's done a great job with them. I
5 hope I've helped some. You know, back in January when I was
6 fired, it made me -- chokes me up to think about this, about
7 how much of my life, of my children's lives that I threw
8 away, that I should have spent more time with them. And I
9 wish I had. I wished I hadn't worked all the time, because I
10 will tell you, I'm a workaholic. I love to work, always
11 have, and still work a lot. But when something of this
12 magnitude happens, it totally changes your priorities. And
13 you see things through a different set of eyes. So, no, I am
14 not glad to be sitting here, but I am glad that I've gotten
15 those priorities straight now.

16 Q. All right. And tell me about your community
17 involvement in Hampton.

18 A. We're a community bank. Palmetto State Bank is a
19 community bank. We stress community involvement, whether --
20 and I think people need to be involved in the community
21 regardless of whether you are a banker. I mean, that's part
22 of being in the community. It makes your community a better
23 person -- a better place. I've started out in the Rotary
24 Club. I was in the Rotary Club for 20-something years. I'm
25 not sure how long, a long time. That was a good club. And

1 also we did -- I did Little League. I coached baseball,
2 which is sort of ironic, because I never played baseball.
3 But I helped -- let's qualify Little League, T-ball. It was
4 T-ball. I was the person that directed them which way to
5 run. And, you know, I also did the concession stands for our
6 Little League football. I ran all the concession stands
7 helping them. You know, we would get there -- if it was
8 Saturday games, games start at three o'clock, I would be
9 there about 7:30 and we would get going all day long.

10 I was also involved with our Economic Development
11 Commission. And I was -- I had resigned from it because I
12 did not realize you couldn't be on two state -- quasi-state
13 county commissions. I was on our Hampton County Disabilities
14 and Special Needs Board. And that was first. And then I got
15 on the Economic Development Commission. And I was notified
16 by the County that I couldn't be on both and to pick one. I
17 think they thought I was going to take the Economic
18 Development Board, being a banker. But I chose Disability
19 and Special Needs. It was just a special -- you know, to be
20 able to help those individuals, to sort of shape the kind of
21 services that they will get in the county, it meant a lot to
22 me. So I did that. I was also involved with my church. I
23 did a lot.

24 Q. And we talked about your kids. And your wife,
25 Susie, what does she do for a living?

1 A. You really are going to put me on the spot now.
2 She's a teacher, sort of.

3 Q. Can you explain that?

4 A. I'm trying to think of the exact term. Reading
5 recovery, she helps -- I know exactly what she does, but I'm
6 not sure what they call her. Reading recovery, she helps
7 students that don't read up to grade level, get up to grade
8 level. She pulls them out of classroom and puts them in
9 small groups and helps get them up to grade level.

10 Q. Okay. Has she always lived in Hampton or the
11 surrounding areas?

12 A. She took about a three-year detour and went to
13 Mississippi, but other than that, she's been there.

14 Q. All right. We've obviously heard a lot about Alex
15 Murdaugh in this. Can you just tell the jury, please, about
16 your relationship with him growing up and professionally?

17 A. Alex -- I don't know if y'all realize this, but I
18 know y'all realize we grew up next-door to each other,
19 literally across the street. And he is my father's godson
20 and I'm his father's godson. So, you know, we have tight
21 ties. I never was really close to him. I was close to his
22 younger brother, John Marvin, which you all met the other
23 day. Alex is three or four years older than me. I think
24 three years older, to be exact. So when I was coming in to
25 getting big enough to play basketball or football and all,

1 you know, they were a lot older. You know how the growth
2 differences are in kids. And I never went -- like, if I was
3 coming in freshman in high school, he was a senior. So we
4 never really did a lot; whereas, with his brother, I was the
5 same age. However, being in the same town, we know each
6 other.

7 And he was a partner at the law firm, PMPED. And
8 so, obviously, I knew him since they are our largest private
9 customer in Hampton County, and probably might be in the
10 whole bank, bank-wide. So I did know him from there. And we
11 had -- you know, I banked him. I was his banker or whatever
12 you want to call it. You know, one of my things, I catered
13 to the law firm. You know, they were good clients. And I
14 wanted to cater to them and make sure that they stayed good
15 clients. We kept a lot of loans, a tremendous amount of
16 deposits. I actually know that, but I don't know if I can
17 say that in public or -- I don't think it's really necessary.
18 Y'all understand, they had a lot of loans and a lot of
19 deposits and we wanted to keep them. So, yes, he was one of
20 my clients, along with many, many of the other attorneys. It
21 wasn't just Alex.

22 Q. And were you the only person at Palmetto State that
23 would help him with banking needs?

24 A. He would sometimes come to my father because that's
25 where it started. He started banking with my father, I'm

1 assuming. And, you know, Chad Westendorf would help him
2 sometimes, depending on what he was needing. If he wanted to
3 open an account, he definitely was not going to talk to me,
4 he was going to talk to one of our customer service people,
5 because I just wouldn't even begin to know how to do that.
6 But, you know, we all would help him if they needed it. But,
7 yes, primarily, I would say I was definitely his primary
8 banker.

9 Q. Okay. And can you tell the jury a little bit about
10 the Murdaugh family and their -- the way they were viewed in
11 Hampton County?

12 A. Well, the Murdaugh family in Hampton County growing
13 up, when I say "growing up," when I was young, their
14 granddad, Mr. Buster Murdaugh, he was the solicitor. And as
15 I grew up, Mr. Randolph III was the solicitor, Mr. Randolph
16 Murdaugh III was the solicitor, and I don't know how else to
17 say it, they were the law in Hampton County. I mean, they
18 were very influential, is an understatement when it comes
19 to -- they helped the judges get elected. They helped the
20 sheriffs get elected. You know, they were -- they had their
21 fingers in it. So I would say they were definitely
22 synonymous with law enforcement. Having been a solicitor,
23 you know that happens.

24 Q. During the time that you had -- were in a
25 professional relationship with Alex, was he also working at

1 the Solicitor's Office?

2 A. I am not real sure. You know, his father was a
3 solicitor when Alex started banking with me. And I'm not
4 sure. I know Alex was an assistant solicitor -- I think he
5 was an assistant solicitor until 2021 when all of this broke.
6 But I'm not sure when he became that. But, yes, I would see
7 him numerous times with his father. And I don't think he was
8 real active, but I think he would do some smaller cases every
9 once in a while for the Solicitor's Office in Hampton.

10 Q. Okay. And to your knowledge, did he have any
11 banking relationships with other banks besides Palmetto
12 State?

13 A. Yes, he did. I know he banked at Bank of America.
14 I know he had credit cards at other places. Those are just
15 two offhand I can think of real quick.

16 Q. You said that other lawyers from PMPED also were
17 customers of the bank?

18 A. Yes, sir, most of them were. Not -- I wouldn't say
19 all of them, because they have other offices. But most were
20 customers of our bank.

21 Q. Okay. And can you tell us a little bit about the
22 compensation structure at PMPED as you saw it from when you
23 were banking at Palmetto State?

24 A. We are going to talk just of compensation of the
25 attorneys. They were paid a salary. I think their final

1 salary last year I remember seeing was somewhere around 100-,
2 \$110,000 a year, which is a pretty good salary. That's a
3 drop in the bucket usually or not a substantial amount for a
4 lot of them. And the way they get the balance is they
5 get a -- it's all done by the amount of business or
6 settlements that they bring in, business. I'm not sure how
7 to the term this, the amount of fees that they collected
8 during the year. They take that, put it in a pool. They
9 have a certain amount for overhead, let's just say -- I think
10 Ronnie Crosby said, what was it, about 7 1/2 percent, they
11 will take that 7 1/2 out, their expenses for their
12 paralegals, their part of the rent on the office building,
13 because they rented it from themselves, and then the rest
14 would be theirs.

15 Q. And so when would they typically get the bulk of
16 their income from PMPED during the year?

17 A. Late December, 1st of January.

18 Q. That's when the bonuses came out?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. And so there's been a lot of testimony about Alex
21 Murdaugh and he's living large here. Did you ever see any
22 red flags with him over the course of your life knowing him?

23 A. I didn't. I'm still, you know, just shocked when I
24 see all of what took place. It's just how did you miss it?
25 You know, it's sort of like -- I used this analogy of maybe

1 of a girlfriend or a husband and wife that are cheating on
2 each other, and when they catch them, and all of a sudden you
3 are like, how did I miss all the signs? They were right
4 there in front of me. They were. They were right there in
5 front of me. Not just me, the whole -- as you've heard over
6 this court, it was right in front of everybody. And we
7 missed it, and I wish I hadn't. I promise you, I do.

8 Q. Well, you said the red flags. What are you talking
9 about?

10 A. Just like with the checks, you know, that he would
11 bring in, he would always have a story. You know, he was
12 loud. He was gregarious. He was -- I mean, as Jeanne said,
13 chaotic. When he came in the office, it was -- I could hear
14 him when he hit the door. Granted, I am sitting in the
15 lobby, but I could hear him when he hit the door. And he
16 would walk in and say, hey, I need you to do this, I need you
17 to do that, loud, always in a rush, talking on the cell
18 phone, walking in and out to go talk to people. And it was
19 his way to disarm you. And you just thought that was him.

20 Now, with the benefit of hindsight, it was all an
21 act. I mean, he absolutely -- every action or every contact
22 that I had with him now I suspect that it was -- what was the
23 ulterior motive? You know, because now we are seeing him in
24 a whole different light than anybody saw him.

25 Q. And what was your impression of Alex professionally?

1 A. He was a very successful attorney. He and his
2 brother practiced together. And I get a little off subject
3 right here. And I will get to that exactly. And I also say
4 his brother, very organized, very detailed, will analyze
5 something to death. Alex was the loud, the -- I wouldn't say
6 bully, but in some ways, he would be, but he was gregarious.
7 I mean, he was full of life, or so he seemed to be. And I
8 always would tell, you know, if I had a really detailed case,
9 I would go to Randy. That would be Randy Murdaugh IV. But
10 if I had a case that I needed a little bit of bull thrown in
11 there, you know, because it was a little shaky, go to Alex,
12 he was full of it. I mean, he could -- it was unbelievable
13 how he could just talk, how he knew everybody.

14 I mean, if you ever had to ride somewhere with him,
15 I did one time -- first of all, he's a terrible driver;
16 second, he stops everywhere to talk to somebody. And it's
17 just like, come on, man, we've got to go, I've got things to
18 do today. And that's just Alex. That's the way he was.
19 Never met a stranger. He was very, very outgoing.

20 Q. And where is PMPED, or I guess their former offices
21 now, in comparison or in relation to Palmetto State Bank?

22 A. I wish I could draw it. You know, if you look at
23 that plastic whatever shield right there in front of you,
24 let's say that plastic shield is the courthouse or the
25 courthouse square, we are on one side, they are on the other.

1 So we are literally quarter of a mile, maybe a little more
2 than that across from each other. We are very close.

3 Q. What about the courthouse?

4 A. It's between us.

5 Q. And is the probate court in the courthouse?

6 A. Yes, sir, it's in the courthouse.

7 Q. So let me go back to the fall of 2021, particularly
8 in September, October, time frame. When did you first start
9 to suspect that Alex was involved in something bigger than
10 what you knew at the time?

11 A. Well, as they've testified, Jeanne and those came
12 over and said that, you know, they were investigating him for
13 missing fees somewhere in September. I don't remember exact
14 dates. Until then, I never, never would have suspected
15 anything. I mean, I saw his tax returns. He made a lot of
16 money. I mean, I couldn't imagine it. It's still hard to
17 believe it.

18 Q. And how much money was he typically earning per
19 year?

20 A. My sister testified to that. She said over the last
21 decade it was a million and a half a year. You know, there
22 were a lot of years he made multiples of millions. And then
23 some years he would make just a couple of hundred thousand,
24 which is a lot of money. However, for his lifestyle and
25 what -- I wouldn't say his lifestyle. But, yeah, that's

1 right. It cost a lot. I mean, it cost a lot to keep up a
2 farm and a beach house and other things. But he made a lot
3 of money.

4 Q. And how did you view his financial risks as they
5 were presenting themselves to the bank during that time?

6 A. You know, he wasn't like A-1 credit. I mean, there
7 was no way, you couldn't even argue that. But I wouldn't say
8 that he was a really risky credit. He had a lot of debt.
9 However, he also -- with the income, cash flow statements.
10 He was terrible at managing his checking account. I mean,
11 it's been well-documented across this case. But he was a
12 very low-risk, because, one, his job, his ability to earn
13 money and, you know, just we didn't -- and our longevity. I
14 want to say he had been banking with us since the late '80s.
15 So we have a lot of history which gives you a lot of comfort,
16 which also in hindsight, opened us up to a lot of things, or
17 me up to a lot of things.

18 Q. So there's been a lot of testimony about overdrafts.
19 And was it common for him to be in overdraft status in any of
20 his accounts?

21 A. Absolutely. He just would write checks and we would
22 just cover them. And it's not that cavalier, but he did. He
23 overdrafted frequently. Lots of times he would have three or
24 four accounts. He had a farm account. He had two personal
25 accounts. And those are basically his three accounts. He

1 maybe would have \$100,000 in one account and be overdrawn in
2 the other. And I would transfer money. And a lot of times
3 we would lend him money, as you've heard over and over. We
4 would lend him money to cover the overdrafts until the end of
5 the year or until he got money from selling property. I
6 mean, we definitely helped him cover those overdrafts on
7 many, many occasions.

8 Q. Do you think you gave him more leeway than other
9 customers?

10 A. I think we did. I would say yes, we did, because of
11 our longstanding history, his ability to -- his ability on
12 repayment, ability on earning. I mean, so we didn't feel
13 there was a risk, but, yes.

14 Q. And throughout your time dealing with him
15 professionally at the bank, fair to say the FDIC examiners
16 were performing their regular examinations?

17 A. Absolutely, as you've heard numerous times. They
18 would be in there every 12 to -- they are supposed to be in
19 there at least every 18 months, but just to be realistic,
20 every 12 to 24 months we would have an examination. Alex
21 Murdaugh being one of our largest borrowers would be looked
22 at. His loans were looked at. And I believe there were
23 actually some e-mails that have gone around that has shown,
24 hey, I need to come cover this, FDIC. We are trying to, you
25 know -- everybody wants to put the good foot forward with the

1 Government. So we were trying to make sure that we didn't
2 have a \$100,000 overdraft. Would they see it? Absolutely,
3 because they are going to see his account, but they will also
4 see it get covered. But, yes, they looked at him numerous,
5 numerous times.

6 Q. And did they ever raise any concerns about him?

7 A. Maybe before I really started dealing with him, but
8 I never recall them ever really raising any concerns. I knew
9 that one report you saw from Risk Management Group where
10 these were internal auditors downgrading him, where the bank
11 had him as a 3 to a 4. That was the only thing. But he was
12 still an acceptable credit.

13 Q. So, in fact, do you know how much money in interest
14 the bank earned from him over the years?

15 A. I did not until yesterday.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. It was \$4 million. I knew it was a lot, though.

18 Q. So going back into September, when did you first
19 start to suspect he was involved in a criminal activity?

20 A. Well, when all of this started going on, Jeanne, as
21 you all heard, she is my sister-in-law, was the CFO or the
22 accountant for PMPED, Mark Ball, Ronnie Crosby, there were
23 several of them that came over to talk to me. And when they
24 told me they were missing fees, that's criminal activity. So
25 I would safely say then, but more so when I started doing the

1 research for them, and they would say, hey, we've got a case,
2 blah, blah, blah, and they quickly asked me not to e-mail
3 anything, to either come over in person or call, because they
4 did not want it on e-mail because that would be --

5 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. Hearsay.

6 THE WITNESS: It's not hearsay.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Laffitte, I get to do the rulings
8 here.

9 THE WITNESS: I know. I'm sorry, sir.

10 THE COURT: Sustained.

11 BY MR. AUSTIN:

12 Q. Do you remember when the first conversation was you
13 had with them about missing funds, just the date?

14 A. No, sir, I do not remember the date.

15 Q. Okay. Do you remember the approximate time frame?

16 A. It was -- it would have to be September. I remember
17 there was so much going on during this time in September.
18 Labor Day weekend was when the accident happened. He got
19 shot. And I remember because that was when I first realized
20 that he did drugs. I never thought he did drugs. But, no, I
21 can't remember the exact date.

22 Q. And how did you realize he did drugs at that point?

23 A. You know, there was that rumor floating around --

24 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Your Honor, hearsay.

25 THE COURT: Sustained.

1 MS. LIMEHOUSE: And irrelevant.

2 THE COURT: Hold it just a minute. What you got to
3 say with that, Mr. Austin?

4 MR. AUSTIN: I believe -- well, I don't want to put
5 words in his mouth.

6 THE COURT: Here's my concern. If he has a reason
7 that affects his actions, he can testify to that.

8 MR. AUSTIN: Thank you.

9 THE COURT: But he needs to lay a foundation of his
10 basis for that. This is not offered for the truth of the
11 matter. It's offered for his state of mind. Go ahead.

12 THE WITNESS: When Mr. Murdaugh went to the hospital
13 in Savannah, he was taken there. They published -- I guess
14 Freedom of Information Act, and it was published in the paper
15 his toxicology report. Until then, I would have never, ever
16 dreamed that he would have ever done drugs.

17 Q. So you don't have any direct knowledge yourself?
18 That's just your understanding from what you saw in the
19 paper?

20 A. That's correct. I've never seen him do drugs, never
21 been around him, never anything.

22 Q. And how much would you all socialize in your adult
23 lives?

24 A. Very little. We had a neighborhood Christmas
25 between the three families on our street. We had a

1 neighborhood Christmas. We would get together. And the last
2 few years, Alex had actually quit coming. I'm not sure why.
3 But we still would get together like the week of Christmas.
4 Christmas Eve we would all get together. And I would see
5 him -- obviously, if there was a wedding, we might see each
6 other at a wedding. We might pass each other on the river or
7 something. We rarely socialized. We just ran completely
8 different circles, different age groups.

9 Q. Okay. And so you testified about starting research
10 for the law firm. What did that consist of?

11 A. They would deliver a check either a handwritten note
12 as we've seen in evidence with checks listed out, and they
13 would ask me, hey, can you research these checks, see where
14 they went. And, you know, we will pull the check, see the
15 offset, and then try to trace it on down the best we can, you
16 know. If it goes to an outside bank, that's the end of it,
17 we can't see it. But if it's a money order, if the check
18 comes in and there's a money order and then the money order
19 was cashed, we can see whether it was cashed, whether it was
20 deposited into a checking account. And that's what we were
21 doing for them, we were trying to track the money, who got
22 benefit of the money.

23 Q. And when you say you were trying to track it, would
24 you also produce documents?

25 A. Lots of documents.

1 Q. And do a lot of these documents come from your
2 personal files?

3 A. Not so many for the law firm. For SLED, ODC, FBI,
4 those, many of those came from my personal documents from
5 when I was serving as conservator. But for the most part,
6 when we were doing the research for PMPED, those were bank
7 documents that were on our image system.

8 Q. And why would they come to you for that help with
9 the research?

10 A. I had been -- you know, I was probably one of the
11 main contacts for PMPED. I mean, usually most of the lawyers
12 came to see me. And Jeanne Seckinger, their CFO, is my
13 sister-in-law. So I believe that's why.

14 Q. You mentioned providing documents to law
15 enforcement, too. Starting with SLED, when do you first hear
16 from SLED?

17 A. It was either September or October at the latest.
18 And, I mean, David Williams from SLED, I think he was out of
19 the Beaufort office, we were in frequent contact doing
20 research for them on different things and them requesting
21 documents and us providing them to them.

22 Q. And did Palmetto State hire an attorney or attorneys
23 during that time to assist with anything related to what was
24 going on with Alex and this growing storm?

25 A. We hired attorneys when -- actually, I do know when

1 I know. We hired attorneys when we were served with a
2 lawsuit or served with a potential -- I am not exactly sure
3 what you call it. We were served papers of intent to sue or
4 whatever by Bland and Richter on Gloria Satterfield's case
5 that's been talked about several times. That would actually
6 be the first time that I realized he did some criminal
7 activities.

8 Q. And do you know approximately what date that would
9 have been?

10 A. No, sir, I don't, but it was September.

11 Q. Okay. And so you said that you were in touch with
12 David Williams at SLED. Did you ultimately sit for an
13 interview with them?

14 A. I did. It was SLED and FBI. And there was a
15 videoed interview of me.

16 Q. And was that in November?

17 A. I'm not sure if it was October or November, sir.

18 Q. Did you provide them documents during that interview
19 and any other time?

20 A. I did. I provided them documents any time they
21 asked. I mean, I was happy to help them try to figure out
22 whatever I could.

23 Q. And did you have attorneys at the time?

24 A. We did.

25 Q. And when you met with SLED, the FBI, did you bring

1 an attorney with you?

2 A. I did not.

3 Q. Why not?

4 A. Didn't think I needed them. You know, I had -- I
5 knew what we had done. And so I was just providing the
6 documents. You know, there wasn't anything to hide, do
7 what -- you know, give it to them, help them fix it, whatever
8 we have to do, let's get it right.

9 Q. And have you seen a number of those documents in
10 evidence during the trial?

11 A. Most of these documents we are looking at, not all
12 of them, but a vast majority.

13 Q. Okay. And do those include documents that you
14 provided to law enforcement and to PMPED?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. All right. And you mentioned that you had met
17 with -- or you provided documents to ODC. Did you ultimately
18 meet with them as well?

19 A. I did.

20 Q. Let me back up real quick. What is ODC?

21 A. Office of Disciplinary Counsel. They are -- my
22 understanding is that they are the FDIC for the lawyers.
23 They are the ones that, you know, if you overdraw your trust
24 account at a bank, we have to report it. That's who we
25 report it to. And they are, I guess, the governing body if

1 they have to be sanctioned, pull a law license. That's who
2 handles it, to my understanding. And I sat for an interview
3 with them over three days back in this past summer, June or
4 July.

5 Q. Okay. And you are not a lawyer, though, right?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. So why would you meet with Office of Disciplinary
8 Counsel?

9 A. You want to help them. You want to help get to the
10 bottom of what took place, why did it take place, how did it
11 take place so that it doesn't happen again. And I mean, I
12 had no obligations to sit with them. You know, I wanted to
13 do what was right and to try to tell them what took place and
14 see if I could help them in any way.

15 Q. All right. And did you end up meeting with the U.S.
16 Attorney's Office and the Attorney General's Office?

17 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Your Honor, may we approach?

18 THE COURT: You may.

19 (Whereupon, a bench conference takes place off the
20 record.)

21 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

22 MS. LIMEHOUSE: We've been very clear in our filings
23 that he lied to us during his interview. And if they intend
24 to use his coming and meeting to us to his benefit, we will
25 impeach him with the lies he told us during the proffer.

1 THE COURT: Sure, you will. That's your -- that's
2 entirely your right.

3 (Whereupon, the bench conference ends.)

4 THE COURT: Mr. Austin, please continue.

5 BY MR. AUSTIN:

6 Q. So you met with the U.S. Attorney's Office and AG's
7 Office?

8 A. I did.

9 Q. Where did you meet with them?

10 A. In Columbia at -- I'm going to assume that was the
11 U.S. Attorney's Office. I'm really not sure. But it was one
12 of their offices.

13 Q. And were there agents from SLED and FBI there as
14 well?

15 A. Yes, sir, there were.

16 Q. All right. And when did that take place?

17 A. That was in February of '21, I believe. Might have
18 been March, but February, March, April, right -- first part
19 of '21.

20 Q. And did you sign any documents or agreements with
21 the U.S. Attorney's Office and the AG's Office?

22 A. It was a proffer -- my understanding, it was a
23 proffer agreement. And I signed whatever that document was.

24 Q. What was your understanding of your obligations
25 under that agreement?

1 A. I was to tell the truth. And that's pretty much it,
2 yeah.

3 Q. And to this date, have either the AG's Office or
4 U.S. Attorney's Office moved to hold you in breach of those
5 agreements?

6 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Your Honor --

7 THE COURT: I sustain that objection.

8 BY MR. AUSTIN:

9 Q. All right. So you talked with those offices then.
10 You said you had three meetings with ODC?

11 A. Three days of meetings, yes.

12 Q. And did you also participate in a civil deposition
13 after -- I guess during 2022?

14 A. I did. I was being deposed by the estate -- the
15 lawsuit on the estate of Mallory Beach, which was the boat
16 wreck that Alex Murdaugh's son was involved in. And I was
17 deposed by -- I'm not sure which lawyer, but one of the
18 lawyers involved with that lawsuit. There were a lot of
19 lawyers in the room that day.

20 Q. You didn't assert your Fifth Amendment right?

21 A. I did not.

22 Q. Seems like you are giving a lot of statements. Why
23 did you want to do that?

24 A. I don't feel like I have anything to hide. I mean,
25 I made some mistakes, which we will go through in great

1 detail today. You know, but I didn't feel like there was --
2 I definitely, without a doubt, thought I had civil liability.
3 And so the best thing you can do when you make mistakes,
4 stand up, own up, and fix it.

5 Q. And is it your testimony that you did not know Alex
6 Murdaugh was stealing from anybody?

7 A. Absolutely did not know he was stealing from anybody
8 until we did research, no.

9 Q. Okay. So let's get into some of these
10 conservatorships since it's such a big part of the case. How
11 did you come to be involved in any of these conservatorships?

12 A. I believe the first conservatorship that I ever
13 dealt with was the Plyler family. Let's not just say the
14 girls, because there was the PR with Angela and Justin and
15 then there were the two Plyler girls, which I saw in court.
16 He contacted me, asked me, said, hey, we've got this big
17 case, we need to get a conservator for the girls and PR to
18 handle the -- work with on the case, can you do it? And you
19 know, I had no idea whether we could do that. I never been
20 approached by it. So I looked in the handbook, or policy
21 book or whatever, and it says that we would be discouraged
22 from doing, but didn't say we couldn't do it. So then I
23 walked back to my father's office, who is in the same
24 building as us. And I asked him, I said, can we do this?
25 And I got permission to do it. And so that started it.

1 Q. And was it your understanding that permission was
2 for you to do it as part of your role as a banker or was it
3 outside that role?

4 A. It was outside of the bank, absolutely not part of
5 the bank. The bank could not be a fiduciary.

6 Q. All right. Why not?

7 A. We weren't registered. Our trust department, we
8 didn't have a trust department registered as a fiduciary with
9 the Board, South Carolina State Board of Financial
10 Institutions.

11 Q. So it's your understanding that other banks are
12 registered and can serve as fiduciaries?

13 A. I would think there are some. I wouldn't think
14 there are a lot.

15 Q. But Palmetto State isn't it?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. In your mind when you were serving as conservator or
18 PR, were you doing it in your role as a banker or something
19 outside of that role?

20 A. I was doing it as a role of an individual to help my
21 friend, my customer.

22 Q. Okay. And what in your understanding your general
23 obligations to be as conservator or PR?

24 A. Generally, very generally, I was to get the money
25 from the settlement, the estate or whatever, and protect that

1 money and take care of it, hopefully and make it grow. But
2 that didn't always -- was not always the case, depending on
3 the expenses that you had, whether it grew or not. And when
4 the people -- the minors turned 18 or whatever happened, then
5 you disburse all the money back to them, to the family.

6 Q. Okay. You mentioned people turning 18. Is that the
7 case with the Plyler sisters?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. And can you take us through the process of becoming
10 a conservator? If we can pull up Government's Exhibit 137.
11 So after you got permission from your father, what happened
12 after that?

13 A. I spoke to Alex Murdaugh and said, you know, hey, I
14 could be the conservator. And he said, all right. And we
15 went from there. And he said, you know, they file the
16 petition for us. I mean, just like you heard from Tiffany,
17 we don't file the petition, the lawyers, the law firm does.

18 Q. I'm sorry. Are you done?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. So when you received -- tell me about signing this
21 document. Do you remember signing it?

22 A. I don't remember signing it, but I did do it.

23 Q. Okay. What year was it that this would have been
24 presented to you?

25 A. Yes, sir, this one would have been.

1 Q. What year would you have received this?

2 A. This is Hannah Plyler. That would have been
3 somewhere '06, '07.

4 Q. Okay. And up here you are listed as applicant or
5 petitioner. Was it your understanding at the time that you
6 were the person applying to the probate court?

7 A. No, sir. I was the person that was being appointed.
8 I wasn't the one that was doing the petition.

9 Q. Okay. You had never seen this document before, had
10 you?

11 A. Not until I signed it, no, sir, or until the first
12 one.

13 Q. All right. And what do you remember about how Alex
14 would bring documents like this to you for signature?

15 A. He would walk in, make a big to-do. You know, just
16 like any other document, he would have it flipped open and,
17 you know, hey, I need you to sign right here, this is
18 such-and-such. And you would sign what he said, because, you
19 know, he's your attorney or the attorney in the case and he's
20 representing these people and you are trying to help him.
21 And he just marched -- it's much like if you had come into me
22 for a mortgage loan. I'm going to say, hey, sir, this loan
23 is set up just as we discussed for 60 months, payments are
24 such-and-such, you know, and give you the basics. And then
25 say, I need you to sign here, here, and here. And typically,

1 most people are not going to sit there and read every page or
2 look through every page. They would just glance at it.

3 Q. And did you go through every bit of information in
4 this form when you received it?

5 A. No, because I wouldn't know all of this information
6 on them at that time. But --

7 Q. Did you know the Plyler girls or their parents prior
8 to working on their case?

9 A. No, sir, I did not.

10 Q. All right. And so let's go to, I believe, page 3.
11 All right. And these are your signatures here?

12 A. They are.

13 Q. I don't know why I'm circling them. I think you can
14 see them. Why would you sign in these places?

15 A. That's where I was told to, honestly.

16 Q. And why would you just sign it without knowing for
17 sure?

18 A. It's part of the trust. You know, you trust that
19 somebody is doing it right. Just like if I was doing a loan,
20 you would trust me that I'm doing the loan right.

21 Q. Okay. Once you signed it, what happened after that?

22 A. They would take it and file it with the probate
23 court, or I assume it all went through probate court for
24 the -- to have it petitioned. And I would be appointed
25 conservator and then we would start.

1 Q. All right. And once you are up and running as
2 conservator, were you involved in any of the legal
3 proceedings?

4 A. I was. On the Plylers, you know, I actually came
5 down here several times, you know, for mediations and
6 different things. And that was actually the first time I
7 ever met them. They were very young. We were down here in
8 mediation way before settlement.

9 Q. Okay. And were you in touch with their father?

10 A. He would call me every so often, more so after the
11 settlement, but I did definitely talk -- touch base with him.

12 Q. And without getting too deep into it, was he a
13 steady source of support for the daughters, from what you
14 could tell?

15 A. No. When he called me, he was wanting money.

16 Q. And, again, what was your understanding of what your
17 job was with the conservatorship funds?

18 A. I was to protect them until they were 18, and have
19 them and, you know, invest them, put them in deposits, just,
20 you know, and I had to pay their bills and living expenses
21 and all of that.

22 Q. And the money that came into the conservatorship,
23 did you keep it all at Palmetto State Bank?

24 A. I didn't. I split it up between the different --
25 several different banks, BB&T, South Carolina Bank and Trust,

1 which is now SouthState, well, I guess BB&T is now Truist,
2 and Bank of Walterboro, which is now Bank of the Lowcountry,
3 and Palmetto State Bank.

4 Q. Why did you do that?

5 A. Because the FDIC, at that time, the insurance limits
6 were \$100,000. So we were trying to watch that \$100,000
7 limit.

8 Q. And is that all to protect the money?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. So at the time this conservatorship started and the
11 money comes into Palmetto State, what kind of account was it
12 put in?

13 A. It was originally put in -- I guess when it first
14 came in, it probably went into their checking account. I
15 would have to go back to look at the records to see that.
16 But we put it into either CDs, money markets, or saving
17 accounts. Those are the only three options that we have at
18 Palmetto State Bank.

19 Q. And I believe you became, according to this
20 document, conservator in around the end of 2006. And when
21 was the first loan that you took out of the account?

22 A. July something, 2011.

23 Q. Okay. And you are talking about purchasing a
24 certificate of deposit. Did you purchase one for the
25 Plylers?

1 A. Yes, sir, I did.

2 Q. What were the rates that CDs were getting at that
3 point?

4 A. When we first got the money, the case was not
5 settled until 2009. And when we first got the money, CDs,
6 some were one eight, somewhere right in there, I believe is
7 what they were.

8 Q. 1.8 percent?

9 A. Yes, sir. And we were in a falling rate environment
10 at that time. We were -- the economy -- this is 2009. As
11 y'all well remember what happened between -- with the
12 recession or whatever you want to call the Great Correction.
13 And so we actually went from there into one of the lowest --
14 longest running low-rate environments ever in the country.

15 Q. Okay. And so when -- how did you end up taking the
16 loans out? Can you just walk through? First you thought
17 about it and how did it come to your attention that that's a
18 possibility?

19 A. Mr. Murdaugh came into my office or spoke to me one
20 day about it. And he said, you know, I was wondering about
21 getting a loan. And he asked me. And I said, well, I just
22 don't know, I would have to go over to the judge. When I say
23 the judge, the probate judge. She was over between our
24 offices. And so, you know, I told him I would get back in
25 touch with him. And I walked over and spoke to the judge.

1 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. Hearsay.

2 THE COURT: You can't say what the judge said.

3 BY MR. AUSTIN:

4 Q. Based on your conversation with her, did you believe
5 that you could take out a loan from the conservatorship
6 account?

7 A. Absolutely.

8 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. Hearsay.

9 THE COURT: That's violating my order.

10 MR. AUSTIN: Sorry.

11 THE COURT: You know, if you want to have the
12 testimony of a person, you call that witness. I sustain the
13 objection.

14 BY MR. AUSTIN:

15 Q. What did you do based on your conversation with
16 Judge Odom? I mean, let me back up there. What is the name
17 of the probate judge in Hampton County?

18 A. Sheila Odom.

19 Q. And you said you walked over and spoke with her.
20 What did you do next?

21 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. He's trying
22 to do the same thing.

23 THE COURT: You know, don't try to skirt my ruling.

24 MR. AUSTIN: I am not, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: You can call the witness. You can call

1 any witness you need. But you can't get in testimony of
2 people by hearsay. I sustain the objection. Move on.

3 BY MR. AUSTIN:

4 Q. So you started taking loans out, correct?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. And you don't deny that?

7 A. No, sir.

8 Q. And do you deny any of the documents you've seen in
9 this case being accurate and authentic documents?

10 A. None that I've seen so far.

11 Q. And you are not denying that you ever engaged in any
12 of these transactions you are accused engaging in?

13 A. Hm-mm, no, sir.

14 Q. But you are saying that you just didn't steal or try
15 to steal or try to help steal?

16 A. Did not know in any way that I was helping
17 facilitate the theft by Alex Murdaugh.

18 Q. Okay. So when Alex came to you to talk about the
19 loan, did he get a loan first or did you get a loan first?

20 A. I did the first one. One of the reasons behind
21 that, you know, he asked me about it, and then never followed
22 up. So I waited. I want to say it might have even been like
23 six months before he got one. I'm not sure. It's on the
24 sheets.

25 Q. And how do you view or how did you view the loan in

1 this situation?

2 A. It was an investment for the girls. You know, we
3 were -- I was always trying to make them money. And I would
4 do -- like, I could speak for what I was doing. I was -- I
5 knew I was going to borrow money. So I borrowed it from
6 them. I paid them a higher rate than -- I always tried to at
7 least make sure it was twice what they would have earned
8 anywhere else. And I wanted to make sure that, you know,
9 they were earning money.

10 Q. And what kind of rate did you pick for their --
11 these loans?

12 A. I paid anywhere, I want to say, 3 1/4 percent to 1
13 1/2 percent.

14 Q. At the time you said, for CDs, was around 1.4 to
15 1.8?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. So, effectively, you doubled it?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. All right. And why would you think that that would
20 be a suitable risk to take with these girls' money?

21 A. Well, I wasn't in default, one. I'm not sure as a
22 bank officer that I could default on a loan. I mean, let's
23 qualify that. Things happen. You get hit by a bus, you've
24 got a problem. But they wouldn't have had a problem because
25 it was memorialized everywhere. I mean, there was no

1 shortages of where it was memorialized. But I also had it
2 secured, like you've heard multiple times, 2,741 or 2,471
3 shares of Palmetto State Bank stock.

4 Q. Did you document all of this with the probate court
5 in your yearly accounting?

6 A. Yes, sir, I did. It was in the annual accounting.

7 Q. Okay. And why did you do that?

8 A. Wasn't anything to hide. It was just, you know, she
9 knew what was going on with the thing. So, I mean, we put
10 it -- I am not trying to hide anything. This is the
11 conservator's money. You have to account for it and account
12 for it accurately. So that's -- I mean, it's in there. It's
13 on the -- you would see it on the annual accountings. You
14 would see it listed in annual income that would show
15 interest. And it clearly would say loan interest or interest
16 on loans. And then you would have expenses. And then I
17 would have assets. And it would clearly show loans if there
18 were any out there.

19 Q. But wasn't there an order in place saying you had to
20 run any expenditures past the probate court?

21 A. There was.

22 Q. Did you do that?

23 A. Absolutely.

24 Q. Did you do that with the loans?

25 A. I did not.

1 Q. Why not?

2 A. Because it's not an expenditure. It's an
3 investment. As you heard Tiffany say earlier, Tiffany
4 Provence say earlier, you know, an expenditure, that money is
5 gone, it's not coming back. These loans were coming back,
6 either in the form of payments or payoffs.

7 Q. Okay. And how does that documentation that you
8 filed with the probate court compare to documents that you
9 would see on file with the bank in similar loans?

10 A. They are very similar.

11 Q. And how so?

12 A. I mean, you have a promissory note that is signed by
13 the borrower. I do know there are several that we could
14 not -- that I could not find. I don't know where they are.
15 I wish we could find them. When we were doing the research,
16 I found them, and found that we had several that we couldn't
17 find. But we also -- regardless of that, we had it
18 documented on a spreadsheet that was filed with the probate
19 court. And we also had it listed out through checking
20 accounts and on the asset, the balance sheet.

21 Q. And did you save copies of these documents for
22 yourself as well?

23 A. I did. Every year when I did my annual accounting,
24 I made three copies, one for the conservatee, one for the
25 probate court, and one for myself.

1 Q. And when the girls turned 18, did you provide these
2 documents to them?

3 A. I did. I provided all the documents. It was a box
4 of documents. I mean, there was a big binder for each year.

5 Q. And did you set up annuities for the girls as well?

6 A. I did. We set up a structured settlement when
7 they -- when we were first going through mediation, we wanted
8 to put -- we wanted to protect the money. And we set it
9 up -- a lot of the money in a structured settlement so they
10 could have income over their -- for the rest of their life,
11 which they do. And that was actually the first time I had
12 ever done, on the Plylers, was the first time I ever had to
13 go through and do a structure. And just like she -- we
14 talked about earlier this morning about having to look at the
15 different types of insurance, when you want payments to start
16 and different options.

17 Q. Okay. Setting up an annuity by itself, would you
18 say that that is a decent amount of work, or no?

19 A. It's not a lot of work. But, you know, you have to
20 look at it. You have to read it and study it and think about
21 what you are trying to do or what your goal is with the
22 money, is what you are trying to figure out.

23 Q. Okay. So let's talk about loans to Alex Murdaugh.

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. There's been a lot of testimony about him receiving

1 unsecured loans at a higher rate than what you gave yourself.
2 Can you explain that for the jury, please?

3 A. Simply, they were unsecured. They were going to be
4 at a higher rate than what a secured loan would be.

5 Q. And is it common for the bank to make unsecured
6 loans?

7 A. As the bank, we made them all the time, unsecured,
8 partially secured, and secured. I mean, that's what we do.

9 Q. What about in amounts as much as you gave to Alex
10 here?

11 A. Absolutely.

12 MR. AUSTIN: Will you pull up Government's Exhibit
13 130.

14 BY MR. AUSTIN:

15 Q. All right. Now, are these -- can you explain, what
16 is this document?

17 A. This is a spreadsheet that I started so we would
18 have it. If you see -- if I touch the screen, does it write
19 on it?

20 Q. I think so. I'm not sure.

21 A. It does. Up here is the loan number. That
22 corresponds and, really, original corresponds with the date
23 the loan was made. And this shows how the loan works. This
24 loan shows the payoff. These numbers down here just shows
25 the principal. When I say "down here," down here, shows the

1 principal and interest. And each loan should have really a
2 little number, that way you can follow it down.

3 Q. And how would Alex go about paying back these loans?

4 A. He would bring in a check. There were different
5 ways. But, you know, now that I see, now that I've done the
6 research, he paid a lot of them back with stolen funds.

7 Q. And at the time, did you have any idea that that's
8 how he was paying them back?

9 A. Absolutely not.

10 Q. Would you have used stolen funds to pay them back?

11 A. No, sir.

12 Q. And how did you go about paying off the loans that
13 you made personally?

14 A. I used several different ways. I either paid -- I
15 didn't pay a lot out of my pocket, but I did pay some. When
16 I say "out of my pocket," out of my normal work income from
17 Palmetto State Bank at the time. But I would also -- any of
18 my fees that I earned as PR or conservator, I used that as
19 fees to pay the loans down. And then at the end, I borrowed
20 the money from a -- I refinanced it through Mr. Parker and
21 paid it off.

22 Q. When you got a loan from Mr. Parker, why didn't you
23 just get a loan from the bank?

24 A. Well, I couldn't borrow from the bank.

25 Q. Why not?

1 A. It's called RegO.

2 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. It's called what?

3 A. Regulation O. We could only borrow for very limited
4 things, primary residence, and I think you can borrow to send
5 your kids to college or something like that, but that's about
6 it.

7 Q. Why didn't you go to another bank?

8 A. I would rather pay somebody that banks with me and
9 supports me. I would rather support them than versus
10 somebody else.

11 MR. AUSTIN: And let's pull up Government's Exhibit
12 129.

13 BY MR. AUSTIN:

14 Q. And what information would you provide to the court
15 each year, the probate court?

16 A. This is just one of the pages. This would be
17 provided every year, because this is a great summary sheet.
18 Just like Tiffany Provence said, they are busy. I mean, all
19 of us are busy. You want just a summary. This is a quick,
20 fast, summary of everything. Shows all your income up here,
21 all your expenses. This number right there is the beginning
22 balance that would have been, let's say, '11, 2011, shows
23 income would have been balance of these numbers right there.
24 That's the income, which is annuity and the interest and any
25 expenses. It should total up to \$450,000. Then you take

1 your assets, which are your CDs, your DDAs, your savings,
2 your money markets, your loans, your other investments, which
3 we didn't have any others, other than loans. And those
4 numbers are to total 5 -- \$450,594.19.

5 Q. Let's go up to the income piece of it. Can you
6 explain what those differing items are there?

7 A. These different items here are SCB&T savings
8 account. That's money that was in a savings that earned 34
9 cents in interest in a year. The money market account earned
10 74 cents. I want to qualify those. Those were not -- we
11 didn't think they would earn a lot. We had a money market
12 and a savings account so I could transfer money to them.
13 Those were basically wash accounts that would -- I would --
14 when the money market account would get low, I would fund it.
15 And we would go through -- that was how I transferred money
16 to them for their allowances or expenses that they needed.

17 Then we had interest on the Bank of Waltherboro CD,
18 certificate of deposit at Palmetto State, money market at
19 Palmetto State. You had annuity payment, that's from the
20 structured settlement, and then the interest that was paid
21 during 2011 on loans.

22 Q. All right. So the loans that you started making in
23 2011 made 1,300, thereabouts, for the girls?

24 A. That was what was paid during the year. They would
25 have accrued more than that.

1 Q. Sure. Zoom out, please. And over here, it says
2 beginning balance. So you -- you start out the year 371,000
3 and change, and ended up at 463,000; is that correct?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. Is that consistent with the types of gains they got
6 over the course of your time as conservator?

7 A. I never put it out on a spreadsheet to see, but I
8 will say that's probably right. This is Hannah's. She
9 started out at around 290,000 when I first got -- that amount
10 when we first got the settlement. And I want to say it was
11 somewhere in the neighborhood of 650 on the last year.

12 Q. So it went from 371 to 650?

13 A. You also have to realize that we had annuities of 84
14 and a half -- \$84,500 each year coming in.

15 Q. Okay. And how much do -- do you know how much
16 Hannah receives per year, or per month I should say, with her
17 annuities now?

18 A. Just over \$7,000 a month. There's a statement
19 somewhere in these records.

20 Q. What about Alania?

21 A. Hers, she was hurt worse. So more money went to
22 her. And I want to say hers is around 9- or 10,000 a month.

23 Q. Okay. You said she was hurt worse in the car
24 accident?

25 A. In the car accident. So she had more damages

1 awarded to her.

2 MR. AUSTIN: Zoom out, please.

3 BY MR. AUSTIN:

4 Q. Okay. And then if we go down to this to the assets,
5 can you explain items there?

6 A. December 31st, 2011, we had a Bank of Walterboro CD,
7 54,000. She had nineteen hundred and thirty-five thousand
8 dollars (sic) in a DDA account. We tried to keep that as low
9 as possible because that was a noninterest -- just normal
10 DDAs are noninterest-bearing. The money market account was
11 the bulk. And you see South Carolina Bank and Trust savings
12 account with \$128,000 money market, and then \$225,000 in
13 loans.

14 Q. And what is that \$225,000 figure? What does that
15 reflect?

16 A. Those reflect my loan.

17 Q. The personal loan?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Why would you list that in assets?

20 A. The loan is an investment. It's an asset of the
21 conservatorship.

22 Q. And as a banker, or I guess, for a bank, how do they
23 make money, bank like Palmetto State Bank?

24 A. We loan money at a higher rate than what we are
25 paying.

1 Q. Okay. And you were a loan officer throughout your
2 time there?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 MR. AUSTIN: Let's go to Government's Exhibit 126.
5 I'm sorry. Can we go back to 129? I missed one part.

6 BY MR. AUSTIN:

7 Q. All right. And let's go to the left side. Can you
8 talk through some of these expenses?

9 A. Sure. The top line, obviously, as you see, is
10 allowance. This was the conservator fee, the 2,058.22, that
11 was done for 2010. And, you know, we had different fees,
12 different -- not fees, different expenses throughout the
13 year, cell phone, bank fees, which should have been refunded,
14 clothes, Busch Gardens, that was where she went with a trip
15 down in Florida, Christmas expenses.

16 We were talking about her dad earlier. This is
17 where we had to pay for a well at his house to get it fixed,
18 cell phone claim, new cell phone, I mean, just different
19 things. So total expenses for Hannah during that year were
20 \$12,809.35.

21 Q. Okay. And you said you set up an allowance. Is
22 that 5,700 there?

23 A. That's right. It was \$150 a week, I believe.

24 Q. And would you say you did a lot of work for the
25 Plyler sisters?

1 A. I did. You know, it's a lot -- there was a lot of
2 work involved with them just for the fact they were young
3 girls. And I actually learned something in testimony this
4 week. I never knew she was living out of her car. I wish
5 she had called me and told me that. We would have fixed
6 that.

7 Q. When you say she -- I don't mean to interrupt you.
8 Who are you talking about?

9 A. When Alania said she was living in her car, I mean,
10 that was shocking to me. I absolutely knew they bounced
11 around between family members. They had a tough life, a
12 tough upbringing. And they've really done a great job
13 raising themselves. But, yes, we would -- with them, it was
14 a lot of work just because, you know, they are young
15 children. I mean, once you are over 18, you can go do a lot
16 of things, you can go get a cell phone. When you are younger
17 than 18, you cannot go sign a contract. So we would have to
18 go get cell phones. We would have to go get cars, insurance,
19 all kinds of things, because they really did not have much
20 family support. So I did a lot more than I would have with
21 somebody with a lot of family support.

22 Q. Now, let's go to Government's Exhibit 126. All
23 right. Let's do the same thing we did with 2011 accounting.
24 We don't have to go through each line. On the income side,
25 see interest and loans, \$19,000. What is that?

1 A. That was the interest paid during that year. This
2 is 2014 and just a piece of 2015, depending on -- because she
3 turned 18 and we had to close out. So those are the
4 interests that we paid that we, myself and Alex Murdaugh,
5 paid on those loans during that year. We have to account for
6 it. And that's what that was at closeout.

7 One thing, if you look on the right side over here,
8 you will see all of these are zero. It's because we have no
9 more. We are closing the conservatorship. The
10 conservatorships assets have to go to zero. That's why you
11 see the expenses over here. You see wire transfer to Hannah
12 and then a money order for Hannah. And that's what those are
13 right there.

14 Q. Okay. Listed as expenses, but is that money that
15 you are transferring to them?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. And why were you transferring that money to them?

18 A. She was 18.

19 Q. All right. And -- but where do those figures come
20 from?

21 A. You take your beginning balance -- I mean, you have
22 to go through up there and all of that. This is a little
23 confusing. You take in the income, beginning balance,
24 income, minus your expenses, and then come up with it. That
25 was what it took to zero all of the accounts.

1 Q. And the end balance was 731 -- 731,000?

2 A. \$651,956, that was including all of her expenses,
3 yes. You can see it was a pretty expensive year. We had to
4 pay taxes to close out conservator fees, car. So it was a
5 pretty expensive year.

6 Q. Okay. I see the allowance at the top of \$10,325.
7 Tell us about that.

8 A. I would really have to see a breakdown. Remember I
9 said it was a little bit longer than one year. 52 weeks at
10 150 is 5,200 -- about 7,000 roughly. I am not really great
11 without a calculator. But if you figure out, that's how it
12 came up. I'm just assuming it was 150 a week.

13 Q. So that's what you had set up for a weekly
14 allowance?

15 A. That's right, automatically go every week.

16 Q. And then what about all these other expenses, where
17 would that money come from?

18 A. I would have to go and get -- I had -- with the
19 Plylers, I was going back and forth over to the probate judge
20 all the time. So we actually set up a \$2,000-a-month normal
21 living expense, where I could spend it without having to get
22 more -- higher approval. And so other than that, as long as,
23 you know, it was something normal, I could just go over there
24 and I didn't have to get all the approvals. Other than that,
25 we've got those petition for expenditures to get things that

1 were, like, special, like a car. You know, I couldn't
2 authorize that.

3 And, you know, Christmas, we would talk to them
4 about the conservator fees. Those were approved by the
5 probate judge. And, you know, we would go through. And I'm
6 nextdoor to the probate judge, even if we didn't -- we were
7 in close contact.

8 Q. Okay. So tell me more about the car. Did you buy a
9 car for Alania besides this one?

10 A. This is Hannah.

11 Q. I'm sorry. I meant Hannah.

12 A. No. I believe this is the only car. And I did buy
13 two for Alania.

14 Q. So when did you buy those cars?

15 A. The first car I bought her was mid-February 2009. I
16 want to say she was -- just turned 16 and she could actually
17 get herself to school. February, somewhere right in there, I
18 went to the judge. And we knew she was having trouble, as
19 you heard me say earlier. I knew she was bouncing around.
20 She was having trouble getting, you know, to school. And so
21 I went to judge, she was 16, so she would be able to drive to
22 school. So I got permission to go look for a car. And, you
23 know, the judge and I would discuss. And I thought that it
24 would be in the best interest to buy a good used car, was
25 what we did. Yes. She had the money to buy a new car. But

1 as most of us realize, most people get in a wreck as new car
2 drivers, unfortunately. And so we didn't want to buy a new
3 car. But when we bought the car in 2009, February of 2009,
4 we had not settled in the case. So Alania Plyler's
5 conservatorship did not have any money. So the bank,
6 Palmetto State Bank, did a loan for the conservatorship.

7 March, mid-March, 1st of March, somewhere right in
8 there we got all the settlements. And she actually received
9 about -- well, she received I think almost \$5,000,000, about
10 4.7 million, but 690,000 or somewhere right in that
11 neighborhood came into the conservatorship loans paid off
12 immediately. So she paid about three weeks of interest. But
13 anyhow, that's enough story.

14 Back on the car. But she kept that car for a couple
15 of months. And, unfortunately, was in a wreck, thankfully
16 unhurt. Totaled the car. And then we ended up buying her a
17 2009 Malibu.

18 Q. Okay. And you said she paid two or three weeks of
19 interest. How much do you think that was; do you know?

20 A. It's probably about -- the loan, I want to say, was
21 somewhere around 31,000, this is going off memory; \$100, 150
22 at the most.

23 Q. And you testified about Alania living in her car at
24 one point. Did you help her at some point purchase a house?

25 A. I did.

1 Q. And can you take us through that process?

2 A. I will. I'm still shocked that I've learned that
3 this week, because we would have made some type of
4 arrangement. I mean, I know it's hard when somebody is
5 living 100 miles from you, which is what we lived apart
6 roughly. But once she came to me and we were having -- like
7 I said, I knew she was bouncing back and forth. I went to --
8 I spoke with the judge about getting permission to buy a
9 house. Got permission. Got a budget. And I don't remember
10 what the budget was now, but let's just say \$150,000. And so
11 we started looking for houses. No, she started looking for
12 houses. And she would send me different things. And I would
13 go back and forth over to probate and look at them. And the
14 biggest thing that I was worried about with her buying a
15 house was resale. She's 17 years old. She's not going to
16 live in this house forever, I would highly doubt and so --
17 especially not with the budget she had. So I was real
18 concerned about resale. So, you know, she would find a
19 house, we would look at it. And on one of the houses, I
20 don't remember where it was, but we liked it. She liked it.
21 So, personally, when I say "we liked it," I really don't have
22 anything in it other than I'm buying it. I am not living
23 there. I am not -- you know, I will go up there and see it,
24 but that's the extent of it. But once she picked it out and
25 we got a rough approval for it, I got a home inspection on

1 one of them, and it failed because it had a gas leak. The
2 people wouldn't fix the gas leak from under the house. So we
3 backed out of the contract. And then we ended up buying the
4 house that she bought. And I want to say it was like 140,
5 160,000.

6 Q. What were some of the factors you looked for in
7 helping her pick a house?

8 A. I wanted something that she would be able to get out
9 of without absolutely taking a bath and lose a lot of money
10 when she resells it. You know, except in Charleston, you
11 need three bedrooms, two baths minimum. It was just hard to
12 sell if you have a three-bedroom and a one-bath house. It's
13 a pretty hard sale. You look at kitchens, is the kitchen
14 updated? You don't want an outdated kitchen. But other
15 than -- that was my thought, how's she going to get out of
16 this when she's 21, 22, 23, or whenever she decides to sell
17 this house, because she was going to have the funds that she
18 could buy a much nicer house or whatever she wanted when she
19 turned 18.

20 Q. Why did you care about trying to get her set up with
21 a house like that if she could sell?

22 A. I wouldn't want her to lose money. You know, she
23 was -- first time I had ever done this. I mean, you care
24 about them. I mean, you are not really close to them,
25 because you don't see them. You are not like your next-door

1 neighborhood or your good buddy that you see all of the time,
2 but I talked to her regularly. And, you know, you are
3 helping them and you want to see them succeed and not waste
4 money and do whatever.

5 Q. And what happened -- well, I guess, did you think
6 you were acting in their best interest in purchasing the
7 house?

8 A. I do.

9 Q. And everything else you did with the loans and all
10 that?

11 A. I do. Can I qualify that?

12 Q. Sure.

13 A. I do think I was acting in the best interest with
14 the loans; however, now I wish I hadn't done mine just for
15 optics. And that's the only reason.

16 Q. You made the girls money or you made Hannah money
17 from your loans?

18 A. That's right.

19 Q. And for Alex?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. You never thought you were paying any of them off
22 with stolen funds?

23 A. Absolutely not.

24 Q. What happened when Alania turned 18?

25 A. When Alania turned 18, we went -- obviously, we were

1 closing out the accounts. And I got her and actually went
2 and met with her up at -- I'm not sure when we absolutely
3 closed everything out. But I met with her up in Harbison at
4 the SouthState Bank. I got her introduced to a lady up there
5 that I didn't know, but I wanted her to have a bank, informal
6 relationship with a bank. So I met with her. And I took her
7 all of her documents. They were laid out. And I explained
8 to her what her income would be from the annuity. And, you
9 know, it was very clear documents on what she had and what
10 she didn't have.

11 Q. Okay. And up until that point, did she know how
12 much money was in any of her accounts?

13 A. She did not. We had discussed this between myself,
14 the attorney, and the judge, that we didn't want them to know
15 exactly what they had at that time. Her dad knew. He was
16 well aware of what they had. But we didn't want to tell them
17 because, I mean, they were 11 and 15 at the time when it
18 started. I mean, just, you know, they would have thought it
19 was just like an endless supply of -- and we made a decision
20 not to tell them at that time.

21 Q. So you didn't make that decision unilaterally?

22 A. No, no, sir.

23 Q. Okay. And did you file any of your accounting?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Have you stayed in touch with either of the Plyler

1 girls since then?

2 A. I would speak to Alania every once in a while. When
3 I say every once in a while, every couple of years now. I
4 spoke to her right -- I don't know whether she called me or I
5 called her right after the shooting with Alex. And, you
6 know, we talked about it. And she said, I can't believe it,
7 you know, just normal conversation. Because we were both in
8 shock. And -- but I would touch base with her every so
9 often. For years I was getting something from Hannah's
10 annuity every end of the year, and I would have to call and
11 get Hannah's address and write it down and mail it to her.

12 Q. You are talking about money or just documents?

13 A. No, it was just a document. I don't know what it
14 was. I didn't open it because it was not mine at that point.

15 Q. Okay. Pull up Defendant's Exhibit 71. All right.
16 Do you recognize this document?

17 A. I do.

18 Q. Okay. And who's Angela Plyler?

19 A. That was Hannah and Alania Plyler's mother.

20 Q. And --

21 THE COURT: Is this going to take a little while?
22 We are getting towards the lunchtime. If it's going to be
23 brief, I would like to finish it.

24 MR. AUSTIN: I can finish this document real quickly
25 and then we can move on and take a break.

1 BY MR. AUSTIN:

2 Q. This is a Certificate of Fairness and
3 Reasonableness, settlement wrongful death and survival
4 action. And the important part right here, so it says: The
5 beneficiaries, as represented by the named party herein,
6 Russell Laffitte, is fair, reasonable, and in the best
7 interest of the estate of Angela Lynn Plyler.

8 So were you representing -- are you that
9 representative that's referenced in this statement?

10 A. Yeah. They are representing that I would be a fair
11 and reasonable -- you know, I would be a good representative
12 for Angela.

13 Q. And who signed down below?

14 A. Ronnie, Ronnie Crosby is here. That's Alex
15 Murdaugh's signature, though it looks like Ronnie Crosby's
16 name line.

17 Q. And -- but were Ronnie Crosby and Alex Murdaugh
18 involved in that case?

19 A. They were.

20 Q. And when you became conservator or PR here, did you
21 believe that they were your attorneys?

22 A. I did.

23 Q. And we've talked about Hannah's conservatorship.
24 Did you steal any money from Alania's conservatorship?

25 A. Steal money?

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. Absolutely not.

3 Q. Did you make any loans?

4 A. Not from Alania's.

5 Q. Okay. And you didn't steal any money from Hannah,
6 right?

7 A. I didn't steal any money from anybody.

8 Q. Did you help anybody steal any money?

9 A. Not intentionally. I did absolutely
10 unintentionally.

11 Q. Okay. So you don't deny any of the basic facts in
12 this case. You just are saying that you did not intend to
13 help anybody steal?

14 A. That's correct.

15 MR. AUSTIN: Probably a good point.

16 THE COURT: Let's take a lunch break. It will be
17 about an hour.

18 (Jury leaves open court at 12:53 p.m.)

19 THE COURT: Okay. You may be seated. Any matters
20 that the Government needs for me to address?

21 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Nothing from the Government, Your
22 Honor.

23 MR. DANIEL: Nothing from the defense.

24 THE COURT: Be at ease for an hour.

25 (Whereupon, a recess transpired.)

1 THE COURT: Any matters we need to address?

2 MS. LIMEHOUSE: None from the Government, Your
3 Honor.

4 THE COURT: From the defense?

5 MR. AUSTIN: No, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Bring in the jury.

7 (Whereupon, the jury returns to open court at 2:03
8 p.m.)

9 THE COURT: Please be seated. Mr. Austin, please
10 continue your direct.

11 MR. AUSTIN: Thank you, Your Honor.

12 BY MR. AUSTIN:

13 Q. All right. Mr. Laffitte, right before lunch we were
14 talking about the Plyler sisters. And just circle back real
15 quick. You never took any loans from Alania's account; is
16 that right?

17 A. That is correct.

18 Q. And why was that?

19 A. She turned 18 before we ever did the first loan,
20 which was in July of 2011.

21 Q. Okay. And did Hannah lose any money over the course
22 of her conservatorship?

23 A. No, sir.

24 Q. In fact, you made her money; is that right?

25 A. Yes, sir, we did.

1 Q. Now, let's turn to Donna and Arthur Badger. How did
2 you become involved in Donna Badger's case?

3 A. Alex Murdaugh came over or called me and asked me if
4 I would be PR for Donna Badger. She had been killed in a
5 tragic accident involving a UPS truck in Allendale County.

6 Q. Did you know the Badgers prior to this?

7 A. I did not.

8 MR. AUSTIN: Can we please pull up Government's
9 Exhibit 218D and E.

10 BY MR. AUSTIN:

11 Q. Okay. Left-hand side here, Arthur Badger is removed
12 via this document on February 8th, 2013; is that correct, as
13 PR?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. All right. Do you know why he had to be removed as
16 personal representative?

17 A. I heard from earlier testimony, I believe it was
18 from Ronnie Crosby --

19 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Your Honor, I just want to point
20 out, he said February 8th, 2013, but these records show the
21 14th of September, 2012.

22 MR. AUSTIN: I was just reading the date right here.

23 THE COURT: So noted.

24 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Okay.

25 THE WITNESS: Earlier, Ronnie Crosby had testified

1 that they would get --

2 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. He's
3 testifying based on another witness's testimony.

4 THE COURT: Only if he knows himself.

5 BY MR. AUSTIN:

6 Q. Do you have any independent understanding of why
7 Arthur Badger could not be a PR?

8 A. Why he could not be a PR? No, I do not.

9 Q. Okay. Then on the right side here, please tell me
10 about this document. Is this just the statement, resignation
11 for Arthur Badger?

12 A. Yes, sir, there's his resignation as personal
13 representative.

14 Q. All right. And then is this when you became
15 involved in the case?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. All right. So let's go to 218F, please. All right.
18 So if you could please tell the Court what's going on here
19 with this document?

20 A. It's just a verification that -- my understanding,
21 it's just a verification that says that Alex Murdaugh would
22 have brought and had me sign.

23 Q. Okay. And is that Alex's signature at the bottom?

24 A. Yes, sir, I think -- I believe so.

25 Q. Okay. And do you remember signing this?

1 A. I don't.

2 Q. You had never met either of the Badgers before?

3 A. No, sir.

4 Q. Let's go to Government's Exhibit 23, please. Do you
5 recognize this document?

6 A. I do now. It's a disbursement sheet for Arthur
7 Badger.

8 Q. Okay. Did you ever serve as personal representative
9 for Arthur Badger?

10 A. I did not.

11 MR. AUSTIN: Okay. Let's zoom in, please, the
12 personal representative line.

13 BY MR. AUSTIN:

14 Q. All right. See where it says Russell Laffitte,
15 personal representative fee, \$35,000. You said you've never
16 seen this document before everything happened with this case;
17 is that right?

18 A. I believe the first time that I saw it was in Jeanne
19 Seckinger's office when we were doing research.

20 Q. Do you have any idea why it would say Russell
21 Laffitte as personal representative for Arthur Badger?

22 A. No, sir, I don't.

23 Q. And did you have any involvement in drafting this
24 document?

25 A. No, sir.

1 MR. AUSTIN: And could we zoom out, please. Could
2 we zoom in bottom three lines.

3 BY MR. AUSTIN:

4 Q. All right. You see where it says Palmetto State
5 Bank payment to fund structure per client request, and the
6 \$1.325 million we heard a lot about?

7 A. I do.

8 Q. Does Palmetto State Bank do structured settlements?

9 A. No, sir.

10 Q. Has the bank ever done structured settlements?

11 A. No, sir, I don't -- I'm not sure what you would have
12 to do to even do a structured settlement.

13 Q. Okay. And is it your understanding that PMPED does
14 structured settlements fairly often in their practice?

15 A. They do.

16 Q. Would you expect that they might know that Palmetto
17 State doesn't do structured settlements?

18 A. I would safely say they would know that we do not do
19 structured settlements.

20 Q. You don't know for sure, but it's never happened to
21 your knowledge?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. Okay. Okay. Did you ever get paid any fees from
24 Donna Badger's estate?

25 A. I got a \$35,000 check, but that came from the -- now

1 we see it came from the Arthur Badger settlement.

2 Q. What did you think when you got that?

3 A. I just thought it was the agreed-upon fee. When
4 Alex asked me if I would be PR, he told me they would pay me
5 \$35,000. And so I didn't -- I wasn't shocked when I got it.

6 Q. Okay. And did you ask any questions?

7 A. I didn't.

8 Q. Why is that?

9 A. Because I was expecting it. I knew that we had
10 agreed to that.

11 Q. All right. And you said you think the first time
12 you saw that sheet was at Jeanne Seckinger's?

13 A. I believe so.

14 Q. And that would have been in September 2021?

15 A. Probably October or November.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. October, it would have definitely been in October.

18 Q. Did you have any role in setting that fee at all?

19 A. No, sir.

20 Q. All right. Let's go to Government's Exhibit 37.

21 And this is an e-mail we've seen a lot. The jury has already
22 seen it. So can you tell the jury what you thought when you
23 received this e-mail? Do you remember?

24 A. I don't remember exactly what I thought, but I know
25 I would have been -- you know, I would have thought, why is

1 he sending me this? But, you know, just knowing Alex,
2 nothing surprises me. And I just -- because I would have
3 said, why didn't he just call Jeanne or whoever to re-cut
4 whatever check he wants re-cut for himself. But I did
5 realize right there that I needed to give him the number for
6 what he owed on the Hannah Plyler loans.

7 Q. Okay. And was that alarming to you at all?

8 A. No, it was not. I did not know what the check was
9 for or anything about the check.

10 Q. All right. And you said that you had not seen that
11 disbursement sheet that listed the 1.325 million on it for
12 Arthur Badger?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. So did this number here, again, same number 1325,
15 did that have any significance to you at the time?

16 A. It does not.

17 MR. AUSTIN: And can we zoom out, please.

18 BY MR. AUSTIN:

19 Q. Is Arthur Badger referenced in this e-mail chain?

20 A. He is not.

21 Q. And did you recognize that check number, 43162?

22 A. I did not.

23 Q. And did you ever receive a check for \$1.325 million?

24 A. I did not.

25 Q. So let's go real quick -- why did you think that

1 Alex was getting \$1.325 million at the time?

2 A. I really didn't think about it. You know, there's
3 no telling what he's doing. I didn't know whether he was
4 borrowing money from somebody else or -- you know, I just had
5 no idea as to why he had a check for a million 325.

6 Q. And this is in February. So this is after the bonus
7 checks typically go out?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. But did you have any suspicions with regard to Alex
10 at that time?

11 A. I did not.

12 Q. All right. And he was making, you said, average
13 \$1.5 million a year?

14 A. That is correct.

15 Q. And when you eventually did see this e-mail,
16 obviously, you saw it when you wrote it, but years down the
17 road in Jeanne's office, what did you think?

18 A. When I saw this, I didn't see this e-mail in
19 Jeanne's office. I was doing research. And I was
20 actually -- I found it in one of the loan files of the
21 Plylers. And when I found this e-mail, I printed it, because
22 I had to figure out how much he owed. And I did my
23 calculations and all on the actual e-mail. And I just stuck
24 it in there. And when I found it, I gave it to SLED, and I
25 said -- can I say that in court?

1 Q. How did you feel at the time?

2 A. I felt -- I wanted to -- I'm trying to think how to
3 put it nicely, politely. I realized what it looked like.
4 And I realized how it implicated me. And I was nauseous,
5 furious, and every other emotion that you could imagine went
6 through me just that quick.

7 Q. Who were you mad at?

8 A. Alex, I mean, he set me up, right there.

9 Q. Okay. And you sent an e-mail to Jeanne after this;
10 is that right?

11 A. I did.

12 Q. And why did you do that?

13 A. He had asked me to figure it out and whatever the
14 amount I owe Hannah, and he asked me to e-mail him back. I
15 didn't know why he wanted me to e-mail him. So I e-mailed
16 him back, but I did know Jeanne -- I added the part in about
17 Jeanne, because I knew Jeanne cut all the checks for the law
18 firm. And I think I mistyped and wrote "the Jeanne" to
19 re-cut the checks. And I gave the four amounts, 388,687.50,
20 whatever it was, I think it was 151 and some change, 75,000
21 and the 709.

22 Q. Okay. And did you end up writing these checks for
23 him?

24 A. I wrote -- what do you mean "write"?

25 Q. Okay. So you asked Jeanne to write these checks.

1 And then did Alex ever come to you with re-cut checks?

2 A. He did. He brought in three checks, \$388,687.50,
3 the 151 that went to Hannah Plyler, and the 75,000 that went
4 to Randolph Murdaugh.

5 Q. So you never received four checks from him in one
6 bundle?

7 A. Never.

8 Q. And let's go -- so this is --

9 A. I --

10 Q. I'm sorry?

11 A. I'm also not sure that I received all three at one
12 time.

13 Q. And we've heard previous testimony already about how
14 they were spaced out over coming months and almost to a year;
15 is that right?

16 A. He did. He would hold them or, I don't know, piggy
17 bank them somewhere, his desk drawer. I don't know what he
18 would do with them, but he would just sort of bring them in,
19 I guess so you would forget about it and wouldn't think about
20 it. I really don't know what he did.

21 Q. All right. You see these numbers down here; do you
22 recognize those?

23 A. RAM000147?

24 Q. Do you know what those signify?

25 A. I assume that means Ralph (sic) Alexander Murdaugh

1 and Randolph -- whatever his name is, Randolph Alexander
2 Murdaugh.

3 Q. This is not the e-mail that you produced to PMPED?

4 A. No, it is not.

5 Q. You did produce the e-mail but this is just a
6 printed copy of it? Is that what you are saying?

7 A. That is -- I believe this one came off of the --
8 from the law firm, either from us, but it didn't come -- that
9 was not what I provided SLED.

10 Q. Okay. So the jury has seen this one. The
11 Government put it up. Let's go to Government's Exhibit 29.
12 I'm sorry. Let's go to Government's Exhibit 39. Excuse me.
13 Are these your notes?

14 A. Those are. This is the e-mail that I pulled out of
15 my file and I turned over to SLED. It shows the breakdown.
16 Do you see where I wrote the 151? And then you see my
17 calculations down at the bottom and you also see the
18 calculations for the two loans that were paid off.

19 Q. Okay. So how do you know that this e-mail you
20 provided to SLED?

21 A. I remember giving it to them.

22 Q. Okay. And -- but when you gave it to them, did you
23 give them a hard copy or did you scan it and e-mail it to
24 them?

25 A. I don't remember that. If I had to take a guess, I

1 scanned it and sent it to David Williams.

2 Q. Okay. Do you have a scanner in your office?

3 A. I did.

4 Q. And is that how you would upload a lot of the
5 documents you found through your research?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Okay. And do you see at the bottom here, it will
8 have the RAM Bates number?

9 A. That's correct.

10 MR. AUSTIN: So let's go to the Badger checks,
11 Government's Exhibit 29, please. If we can zoom in on the
12 checks.

13 BY MR. AUSTIN:

14 Q. All right. When you look at this, on the left side
15 you will see these initials there; are those yourself?

16 A. They are.

17 Q. And did you write those initials?

18 A. I did. I wrote them when I was doing the research.
19 I wanted whoever looked at this research to know who signed
20 the checks. So when I was doing it, I just would write my
21 initials, because I actually went and viewed the actual check
22 itself. And I wanted them to know that Russell Lucius
23 Laffitte, RLL, was the signer of the check.

24 Q. How can you tell that these initials came at the
25 time you were providing this document over to PMPED or SLED?

1 A. Because they are in blue and not -- I would write
2 everything in blue so if you scanned it, you actually could
3 see the blue ink versus if it was done when we originally did
4 it, it would be black as the image is.

5 MR. AUSTIN: Zoom out, please. Zoom in on the
6 bottom check.

7 BY MR. AUSTIN:

8 Q. Is that what you are talking about, has some black
9 and white there?

10 A. That's correct. That's a picture of when it runs
11 through the machine. It images the front and the back.

12 Q. So just like Government's Exhibit 39, there's a
13 color scan, you can tell them apart because of the colors?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. All right. Do you know why Alex would be paying
16 Johnnie Parker \$388,000?

17 A. He would borrow money regularly from either Mr.
18 Parker or his father. I mean, that was not an unusual and
19 not an unknown fact to me.

20 Q. And does Johnnie Parker loan money out routinely?

21 A. He does. I mean, he's financed houses and
22 everything else for people at the law firm. That is not an
23 uncommon practice for him.

24 Q. And you've taken a loan from him?

25 A. I have.

1 Q. I believe there's some testimony from Ronnie Crosby
2 that he didn't get a break. When you borrowed money from
3 him, did you get any kind of break?

4 A. No, sir, normal rate.

5 Q. All right. How many checks do you receive each day,
6 just ballpark, as a banker in Palmetto State Bank?

7 A. I don't have any idea how many checks the bank
8 receives a day. I would say a thousand or more. I would
9 look at probably anywhere from 50 to 100. You know, depends
10 on the day. You know, A Friday or a Monday, it could be a
11 lot busier. People are coming in to get money orders and we
12 have to have an officer sign it. And me being the officer on
13 the lobby, I've signed a lot of them. And if somebody had a
14 problem with a check, a lot of times they would just come
15 directly to me because, again, I'm sitting in the lobby.

16 MR. AUSTIN: Can we zoom back in on the check,
17 bottom left, please.

18 BY MR. AUSTIN:

19 Q. So, do you remember actually receiving this check?

20 A. I don't remember actually receiving it at this
21 point. I remember when I looked at it, I knew I did it. I
22 saw that I did it. I did the transaction.

23 Q. Okay. You don't deny that in any way?

24 A. No, sir, I did every one of the transactions.

25 Q. Would it be strange just in your normal day-to-day

1 work life to receive a check like this to Palmetto State Bank
2 from a client asking you to do something with it and purchase
3 a money order?

4 A. No, if you want to get a money order or make a loan
5 payment or anything else, you make the check to Palmetto
6 State Bank, that would not be unusual in itself. Looking
7 back on this check, there's some unusual irregularities, but
8 we didn't see at the time.

9 Q. Do you recall whether you saw Arthur Badger's name
10 in the memo line?

11 A. I wouldn't have looked at the memo line. The memo
12 line is for the writer of the check to remember what they
13 wrote the check for and, you know, if I would have seen this,
14 I would have -- because I've had a lot of time to think about
15 these. I mean, I would have thought something like, you
16 know, maybe they wrote it to remember that he got maybe in
17 advance on the fees from Badger or something along those
18 lines. I wouldn't have connected it.

19 Q. Is that something that would happen with Alex from
20 time to time?

21 A. You know, I don't know whether he did. I'm assuming
22 he would have told me something. He would have come in with
23 a story. And that's just the way he was. And you know, now,
24 2021, 2022, we see it. You know, 2011, '12, '13, '14, '15,
25 when all this was taking place, we never suspected it.

1 Q. Did you ever intend to steal \$388,000 from Arthur
2 Badger?

3 A. I didn't steal it. Mr. Murdaugh stole it. And no,
4 sir, I would not have been in any part of it if I would have
5 known.

6 Q. All right. And you were not a fiduciary for Arthur
7 Badger; is that right?

8 A. No, sir, I was not.

9 Q. Let's go to page 2, please. And do you recognize
10 this check?

11 A. I do.

12 Q. When did you see it? When do you recall seeing it
13 for the first time?

14 A. He brought that in to pay the loans on Hannah Plyler
15 as on that e-mail he had asked me about. I sent it back to
16 him.

17 Q. But do you actually remember when he did bring it in
18 physically?

19 A. I don't remember. But just seeing the date, it says
20 2/12/2013, so I'm assuming that was the date I did the
21 transaction.

22 Q. And same deal with the last one, did it stand out to
23 you that that Arthur Badger's name was on there, it was to
24 Palmetto State Bank?

25 A. It did not. And I actually have copies of a lot of

1 these checks in the probate file.

2 Q. Okay. And why is that?

3 A. Well, I didn't keep every one, but if I got a
4 payment, I wanted to keep a record of how they paid it so you
5 could go back and look and see and there would be the check.

6 Q. And we touched on this really briefly, but I think
7 it bears repeating. You found that e-mail, the re-cutting
8 e-mail for lack of a better term, in Hannah Plyler's account,
9 or not account, but in her file; is that right?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. And why would you put that in her file?

12 A. Because that was where I calculated her payoff on
13 the loan and I just -- I guess I threw it in there with this
14 check. And it was just sitting in it because it was in the
15 loan part section of the probate -- well, not the -- the loan
16 section of my file of Hannah Plyler.

17 Q. All right. And this goes back to -- did you think
18 that there was anything wrong with your involvement in these
19 checks?

20 A. I did not.

21 Q. Is that why you filed them in probate court?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. All right. Let's go to the next page, please. And
24 is this the deposit slip?

25 A. That is the deposit slip. I want to say one thing

1 about it.

2 Q. Sure.

3 A. I should have cut a money order. When the check
4 came to Palmetto State Bank, I should have cut a money order
5 to the Hannah Plyler conservatorship. And I didn't feel like
6 cutting a money order, so I just had them run it through.

7 Q. Is there any significance to that?

8 A. Well, it was the bank's money, because it was made
9 to Palmetto State Bank, even though we knew what it was going
10 for because he told me what it was going for. So that way, I
11 should have -- to make it clean, I should have done it the
12 other way.

13 MR. AUSTIN: Okay. Let's go to the next page,
14 please. Zoom in on the top. Do all four of the images,
15 please.

16 BY MR. AUSTIN:

17 Q. All right. And we've got initials again?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Are those just like the other initials we saw?

20 A. They were. I put them on during research.

21 Q. And throughout, this is a pretty long exhibit,
22 throughout the entire exhibit there are a number of initials
23 that we saw in court here and they are all in blue like that?

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. Does that apply to all of them?

1 A. It does.

2 Q. And all of these checks, we don't need to go through
3 every single one, but did you know that any of them were
4 stolen -- would effectively help Alex steal funds from Arthur
5 Badger?

6 A. I would not have helped him in any way steal funds.

7 Q. And as bad as these memo lines look, your testimony
8 is that you don't remember seeing it?

9 A. I don't. And I wouldn't have looked at the memo
10 line. I mean, I saw a lot of checks. I mean, and I write
11 things in my memo lines in my personal checks, but I wouldn't
12 expect anybody to look at it.

13 MR. AUSTIN: Okay. Let's go to page 4 please. Zoom
14 in on the four images.

15 BY MR. AUSTIN:

16 Q. All right. What do you see here? Does this fall in
17 the same lines as the other ones?

18 A. It is, \$75,000 money order.

19 Q. And who is this made payable to?

20 A. Randolph Murdaugh III, which is Alex's father. I'm
21 assuming he paid him for something, a loan.

22 Q. Did he tell you what that was for?

23 A. No, sir.

24 Q. All right. Did you ask?

25 A. No, sir, I wouldn't have asked.

1 Q. Why wouldn't you?

2 A. I've been dealing with Alex for 30 years, I just
3 wouldn't have -- there was no need to. The check was made to
4 Palmetto State Bank. He was an authorized signer of Peters
5 Murdaugh Parker. He could direct how that money went. I
6 wouldn't have thought anything of it.

7 Q. An important point, he's an authorized signer. Can
8 you explain the significance of that term?

9 A. You see signature down here, the authorized signer
10 can sign the check and direct where it goes. I mean, he was
11 a partner in this law firm.

12 Q. And so that gave him the authority to direct the
13 money anywhere?

14 A. I would think so, yes, sir.

15 Q. Is that your understanding at the time?

16 A. That's my understanding.

17 Q. Okay. Let's go to page 5. All right. This is a
18 little different. We've got initials here just like the
19 other ones. And, obviously, they are substantial sums. But
20 the bottom says, estate of Donna Badger.

21 MR. AUSTIN: And can we zoom in on the bottom check,
22 bottom two checks, the image on the left and right of the
23 very bottom.

24 BY MR. AUSTIN:

25 Q. Okay. So this says estate of Donna Badger, and

1 \$101,000, and just like the other checks, it's going to
2 Palmetto State Bank. And did Donna Badger's estate have
3 \$101,000 in it?

4 A. No, sir.

5 Q. How much did it have in it?

6 A. 500.

7 Q. 500?

8 A. 500.

9 Q. And you were the PR for her estate?

10 A. I was.

11 Q. And you didn't notice this?

12 A. I did not.

13 Q. Okay. If you had, what would you have thought?

14 A. I would have thought it was pretty odd that there's
15 a check coming to us with the estate of Donna Badger. But
16 like I said, I would have probably asked him, hey, why does
17 it say this? Because I know he doesn't have 5 -- but -- but,
18 you know, I would have had to have known that it was this
19 money, which I wouldn't have -- like I said, I would have
20 thought he was getting advance on fees. I don't know what I
21 really thought.

22 Q. Okay. And if it truly was for her estate, would
23 that check have cleared?

24 A. It wasn't going to be from her estate. I mean,
25 couldn't have been.

1 Q. Again, you would have noticed it because of that
2 reason, right?

3 A. Yes, sir, I believe so.

4 MR. AUSTIN: All right. Let's go to next page,
5 please. I'm sorry. Let's keep going. Go to the next one,
6 please. I'm going to keep scrolling until I get to Southern
7 Crane. I forgot to write the page number down. Let me zoom
8 in on the top two inches.

9 BY MR. AUSTIN:

10 Q. We've heard a lot about loans not on system. Can
11 you put this -- can you describe what that means and the
12 significance of it to the jury?

13 A. Loans not on system is a general ledger account.
14 Palmetto State Bank at one point in time was having some
15 issues. I mean, we make loans, something might get tied up
16 or, you know, we need to account for our money, all of our
17 money orders that are outstanding and everything. And this
18 is typically how you fund a loan, is a money order or a wire.
19 So we put wires and money orders in this account. But what
20 was happening is we were -- continually, our money order
21 account would show up on our nonsufficient list, because a
22 loan's here waiting to be booked, let's just say a million
23 dollars, the money order goes through, the money order
24 account is not going to sit there with a million dollars. So
25 we needed to fix that. So we came up with this idea. I

1 believe I was the one that actually came up with the idea,
2 with the help of some other people, that we made this account
3 so we could clear money orders immediately. So that would
4 fund the money order account. So if I did a loan, I would --
5 or a wire, you know, that would pay for the money order, that
6 loans-not-on-system account.

7 Q. And who images the loans-not-on-system account?

8 A. Jay Gray Peebles in the Estill branch, he manages
9 that account.

10 Q. Is there one account for the entire bank?

11 A. There's not. There's an account for each branch.
12 This number right here 1017569, the 69 indicates our branch
13 number. That is the Hampton branch; 70 is Bluffton; 85
14 Estill; and so on and so forth for all seven branches. So we
15 knew exactly where to look for it. And so you have to be
16 able to keep up with it.

17 Q. Loans not on systems kind of sounds weird if you are
18 not involved in banking. Is there anything nefarious or is
19 it any sort of attempt to hide things?

20 A. Not at all.

21 Q. Within the bank, people know what that means?

22 A. Absolutely.

23 Q. All right. And you touched on it. Wires go through
24 the LNOS down here, loans not on system, account?

25 A. They did. The wires were down out of our Bluffton

1 office. And they would actually get the -- fund the wire.
2 Like, if I was sending wire to Southern Crane, I fund loans
3 not on system with the money, and they would debit it to pay
4 for the wire.

5 MR. AUSTIN: Okay. Can we zoom out, please. Can we
6 zoom in on the bottom check too.

7 BY MR. AUSTIN:

8 Q. All right. Again, this is estate of Donna Badger.
9 Could her estate have ever funded a \$50,000 check?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. As a PR, you would have known that?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. Yet, it made it through?

14 A. Well, we didn't think it was Donna Badger's money.
15 We thought it was Alex's.

16 MR. AUSTIN: All right. Go to the next page,
17 please. Go one more. Keep going. Right here.

18 BY MR. AUSTIN:

19 Q. Edward Smith, who is that?

20 A. I have no idea.

21 Q. Have you come to know who Edward Smith is?

22 A. This is going to be an assumption from what I've
23 learned, but I'm assuming Edward Smith is the C.E. Smith that
24 you will see in his checking account that he wrote numerous
25 checks to.

1 Q. Okay. And so you've never met C.E. Smith, Edward
2 Smith, the Cousin Eddie I think a lot of people call him?

3 A. I am not going to say I've never met him. He had
4 numerous lawyer loans with the bank. So he has been in my
5 office. I would make -- I rarely made lawyer loans; however,
6 if everybody else was busy or Carrie Sauls was the lady that
7 mainly did those loans for us, if she would have been busy
8 and he came in, I would have done it, but I don't ever recall
9 meeting him.

10 Q. Okay. So did you intentionally send \$800 to buy a
11 Jeep for Eddie Smith knowing it was stolen money?

12 A. No, sir, I did not.

13 Q. All right. And the last two checks went to Bank of
14 America out of the Badgers' accounts. Did you ever see those
15 checks at the time?

16 A. I did not.

17 Q. Okay. And did you have anything to do with those
18 funds, it's 101,000 and 50,000, approximately, any knowledge
19 they were stolen and that Badger was out any money?

20 A. I didn't know what they were until we were doing
21 research. I never knew anything about this money that was
22 coming in from Arthur Badger until we did the research. When
23 I say "we," I did -- I'm sure I did a lot of it. I'm sure
24 John Peters, who y'all met earlier, did a lot. I mean, we
25 were all -- it was a crazy time for us and the PMPED law firm

1 trying to research and get stuff. We were getting subpoenas
2 from everybody and trying to get all this information.

3 Q. You are talking about the research you did in the
4 fall of 2021?

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. So you all were working with the law firm trying to
7 figure everything out?

8 A. The law firm, ODC, attorneys that are suing the law
9 firm and Palmetto State Bank.

10 Q. And you are working with John Peters, you mentioned;
11 anybody else at the bank to do any research?

12 A. I know my sister Gray Henderson did some. I would
13 think just about a little bit of people did a little bit of
14 everything. I would -- absolutely safe to say, Nancy Drawdy,
15 she would have done the loan side, because she runs our loan
16 department. And definitely, like I said, John Peters, Mark
17 Altman, if we needed to get old images, because we were
18 trying to pull up images from 2011, '09. You know, they are
19 not sitting there. We are having to go and physically load
20 old disks or CDs or tape. I am not exactly sure which one it
21 is. I should know, but I don't. But they would actually
22 have to physically go load them, bring them up on the system
23 to get that images from that long ago.

24 Q. So you are doing this research not by yourself? You
25 are doing it with a whole team of people?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. So it wasn't a secret to anybody at Palmetto State
3 Bank?

4 A. No, sir.

5 Q. Y'all didn't know -- or did you know the full extent
6 of what Alex had done at that time?

7 A. We did not at the time. And I'm not sure we still
8 do.

9 Q. All right. So in that initial e-mail, the
10 re-cutting e-mail, there's a \$709,000 check, or he had asked
11 for one to be cut. Did you ever receive that check?

12 A. Did not.

13 Q. And do you know what happened to that check?

14 A. You know, when I sent that e-mail, when I was doing
15 research and getting ready for all of this, I was like, you
16 know, I didn't get a \$709,000 check. And then, you know, you
17 look and you break it down, all those different checks, I
18 don't think you want to pull them up and go through all of
19 them, and then you see. But on there, the law firm's general
20 ledger, journal, whatever that was put up here, you can see
21 where it was voided. I don't know who authorized the voiding
22 of it. I can tell you I did not. And then there were a
23 bunch of checks that came out of that, like 9 or 10 or so.
24 And then you see two more checks that were voided that I did
25 not authorize. Those ended up being the Bank of America

1 checks.

2 Q. All right. So, originally, there was going to be --
3 1.325 was going to be split into four different checks or
4 money orders or whatever?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. And then the 709 got split up into even more checks?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. Okay. Can we pull up Government's Exhibit 31. Do
9 you recognize this document?

10 A. It's a Palmetto State Bank's stop payment order.

11 Q. All right. Did you have anything to do with this?

12 A. Never saw it until all of this discovery and
13 research with this case.

14 Q. You mentioned the general ledger at PMPED and the
15 voided checks on that. Did you have anything to do with the
16 voiding of those checks?

17 A. Did not.

18 Q. Okay. Was it a surprise when you found out that
19 there were all these voided checks?

20 A. It really did. But, you know, now looking back on
21 it, it doesn't surprise me at all, because that's -- if he
22 had walked in with that million 325, I don't know that I
23 would have recognized it. I would have recognized it as
24 matching what that e-mail said, because it would have been
25 just right then. But by separating it out, it was just a way

1 for him to hide it.

2 Q. Okay. And, again, did you try to help anybody steal
3 money?

4 A. No, sir, I did not.

5 Q. And Alex Murdaugh in particular?

6 A. I wasn't going to help anybody steal money.

7 Q. All right. Let's move on to Natasha Thomas. How
8 did you get involved in her conservatorship?

9 A. Just like the other ones, Alex contacted me and gave
10 me a brief rundown, just like he would have on all of them.
11 He would give me a brief summary of the case, you know, said,
12 hey, there's a terrible car wreck and these victims were all
13 from Yemassee area. And, you know, give me -- tell me what
14 was going on. And just said that he needed me to serve as
15 conservator and they asked me if I would and I told him I
16 would.

17 Q. And did he get a lot of clients from the Yemassee
18 area?

19 A. He got a lot of clients from all over, but, yes, he
20 did. I mean, he did a couple of them. He had a knack for
21 getting some really good, big cases.

22 Q. Can you elaborate a little bit more on that?

23 A. I was always under the understanding that, you know,
24 he would give -- like, if law enforcement sent a case to him,
25 I wouldn't say they really sent it, but if I had gotten in an

1 accident and they are asking who do I need to talk to, they
2 might would say call Alex Murdaugh. And I basically was told
3 he would give them like a finder's fee or something.

4 Q. You don't know that for sure? You don't have
5 independent knowledge of that?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. And did you ever meet Natasha Thomas?

8 A. I did.

9 Q. Where did you meet her?

10 A. I would have met her at the mediation.

11 Q. Okay. And would Alex have been there; do you
12 remember?

13 A. Yes, sir, he would have been.

14 MR. AUSTIN: Let's pull up Government's Exhibit 110.

15 All right. Let's go to page 3, please.

16 BY MR. AUSTIN:

17 Q. Do you recognize this document?

18 A. I do. It's the renunciation of rights.

19 Q. I'm sorry?

20 A. It's the renunciation of right and waiver of bond.

21 Q. And this is what cleared the way for you to become
22 conservator?

23 A. That's correct.

24 MR. AUSTIN: And let's go to the next page, please.

25 Next page.

1 BY MR. AUSTIN:

2 Q. All right. And this is petition, just like some
3 others we've seen already. Were you responsible for filling
4 out any of the information on this page?

5 A. No, sir, I was not.

6 Q. Who filled that out?

7 A. Alex Murdaugh or PMPED. I would assume that one of
8 his paralegals would have filled it out for him.

9 Q. You heard testimony about the age being incorrect on
10 this?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Did you have anything to do with writing in age?

13 A. Absolutely not.

14 Q. And you never met Natasha Thomas before?

15 A. No, sir.

16 MR. AUSTIN: And if we can go to the next page,
17 please. I'm sorry. Go to the third page.

18 BY MR. AUSTIN:

19 Q. Yet you signed it?

20 A. I did.

21 Q. In the verification portion at the top, why did you
22 sign there?

23 A. That's where I was told to sign, so I signed there.

24 Q. And so you didn't know what her actual age was at
25 the time?

1 A. I never met her. I mean --

2 Q. And why didn't you get out -- make sure you got her
3 driver's license and verify all the information?

4 A. Just like everything else, hindsight, I wish I had.
5 I would have had to drive down to Yemassee and found her and
6 gone and met with them and gotten the actual age. But we
7 didn't fill out these forms. Yes, I signed them. Yes, I
8 signed the verification. But I did not verify that she was
9 15 years old.

10 Q. Okay. And it says -- if we can zoom in on the
11 verification -- says the facts set forth in the foregoing
12 statement are true to the best of undersigned's knowledge,
13 information, and belief; is that true?

14 A. That's right. I mean, to the best of my knowledge
15 and belief, it was correct at the time. From what they
16 filled out and told me, I would assume that it's correct.

17 Q. And you still signed it. Were you just relying on
18 Alex?

19 A. I was -- yes, sir.

20 MR. AUSTIN: Okay. Zoom out.

21 BY MR. AUSTIN:

22 Q. And, again, but your understanding was that you were
23 accepting the appointment to become her conservator at the
24 time?

25 A. That's correct.

1 MR. AUSTIN: And let's go to Government's Exhibit
2 20. If we can zoom in on the fee portion.

3 BY MR. AUSTIN:

4 Q. Did you ever receive a \$15,000 conservator fee?

5 A. I did.

6 Q. But did you do any work for her?

7 A. I helped them set up the structure and that was
8 about it.

9 Q. All right.

10 A. That was it.

11 Q. I'm sorry?

12 A. I said that was it, I set up the structure.

13 Q. And we talked about structured settlements before.
14 Is there much work that went into this one similar to what
15 you described earlier?

16 A. No, there's not a lot of work. And it seems like a
17 large fee until you are sitting here in the situation I am
18 right now and you see the civil side of it, the civil
19 liability that you are taking on for that fee. But, no, I
20 did not do that. Attorney and I went to a mediation or two,
21 and I'm sure I've got a bunch of lawyers, letters from
22 lawyers, and helped set up the structured settlement.

23 Q. All right. How do you decide what kind of
24 structured settlement to buy?

25 A. You listen to the advice of lawyers. And Forge

1 Consulting was who they would always use.

2 Q. Again, Palmetto State Bank did not have the ability
3 to do structured settlements?

4 A. Not at all.

5 Q. Let's zoom out.

6 A. Of the structure, \$650,000.

7 Q. All right. Let's zoom in on the disbursement to
8 client. There you go. All right. Disbursement to client;
9 you see Natasha Thomas, Palmetto State Bank, \$325,000. Do
10 you know, did Palmetto State Bank receive \$325,000?

11 A. We did not. Well, you know, that's a tough one to
12 answer. We did not knowingly receive it. It was just like
13 Arthur Badger, he came in with this check made out to
14 Palmetto State Bank, told me where he needed it to go, and I
15 did the transaction for him. So I guess, you know, in
16 theory, the bank did receive it. In reality, we did not know
17 what we were receiving. We thought we were receiving money
18 that he had.

19 Q. Okay. And can we go to Government's Exhibit 21.
20 Okay. And what is that \$25,000 Palmetto State Bank loan?

21 A. I don't know the loan, but I know the check now that
22 we've seen it and done it. And this one was the one that we
23 broke up into several 9,000, 9,500, whatever the numbers
24 were. We've seen it multiple times. That's what that check
25 was.

1 Q. You said "we" broke it up, this has come up at other
2 points --

3 A. We, we -- whenever we talk about Palmetto State
4 Bank, there's no -- as I know y'all have heard it, there's no
5 I in team, it's always "we." I couldn't cash a check as a
6 PR. I couldn't cash a check as an individual. I guess I
7 could, a small one, but I couldn't cash a big check. So when
8 I say "we," we as in Palmetto State Bank, me as an employee
9 of Palmetto State Bank, that's what I mean.

10 Q. And you heard your sister Gray talk about what that
11 means at the bank?

12 A. Right.

13 Q. And that's something your dad has talked to you
14 about?

15 A. That's correct. I mean, just like any -- I'm going
16 to use a football team as an analogy. Yeah, you might have a
17 superstar, but it takes the others to win a game. And that's
18 the same way at any business. You know, you are going to
19 have your high performers, you are going to have some that
20 you pulled along. But it takes all, you are a team. You've
21 got to be together. If you are not together, then you have
22 problems.

23 Q. Is that core philosophy at Palmetto State Bank?

24 A. Absolutely.

25 Q. Is that something that you attribute the bank's

1 success to over multiple generations of Laffittes?

2 A. I do.

3 Q. Your dad, how many brothers did he have, your dad?

4 A. Oh, you thought you were talking -- I have one
5 brother. My dad has two, two brothers. One has passed away
6 now.

7 Q. But they all -- they all worked as bankers together?

8 A. They did.

9 Q. I'm around lawyers all the time, so used to saying
10 "practice."

11 Did you steal any money from Natasha Thomas?

12 A. I did not.

13 MR. AUSTIN: All right. Zoom out.

14 BY MR. AUSTIN:

15 Q. Okay. Did you ever help Alex steal knowing that he
16 was stealing money?

17 A. I would not have done that.

18 Q. All right. Let's turn to Hakeem Pinckney. Let's go
19 to exhibit -- Government's Exhibit 109. Go to page 9. All
20 right. I know it's getting repetitive. We've got to work
21 our way through. And we are almost done. Do you remember
22 this, when you were appointed to be his conservator?

23 A. I do.

24 Q. And like the previous form, did you fill out any of
25 the information in this document?

1 A. I did not.

2 Q. And do you know who did?

3 A. PMPED, Alex Murdaugh, or one of their employees.

4 Q. Let's go to the third page, please. Okay. And,
5 again, says Pamela Pinckney renouncing her rights?

6 A. That's correct. That was his mother.

7 Q. Did you know when Hakeem Pinckney died?

8 A. I did not.

9 Q. And had you ever met him before?

10 A. I had not. He was very seriously injured in this
11 wreck and was a quadriplegic. I want to say he was in North
12 Augusta or Augusta in a nursing home. I wouldn't swear to
13 that, but he was in a home.

14 Q. And let's go to -- well, I guess there's previous
15 testimony about an e-mail where Alex texted you or e-mailed
16 and said, 911, please call me. Do you remember getting that
17 from him?

18 A. I saw that in discovery. And I have no idea what
19 that -- you know, I have no clue why he sent that. But I
20 would have called him. I mean, if he sent me that, I would
21 have absolutely have picked up the phone and called him.

22 Q. And he didn't bring up Hakeem Pinckney?

23 A. I don't recall anything about it.

24 Q. All right. Let's go to Government's Exhibit 21,
25 please. All right.

1 A. Didn't we just look at this one?

2 Q. All right. So did you try to pay any of the money
3 back to Malik Williams -- I mean, Hakeem Pinckney that was
4 taken by Alex Murdaugh?

5 A. Oh, Hakeem Pinckney, after I did the research with
6 Hakeem Pinckney and Natasha Thomas, it was just like on the
7 Badger, I mean, you just wanted to throw up when you saw what
8 truly had transacted when you had that -- you know, when
9 you've got that hindsight and you could see what's going on.
10 And I met with Mark Ball and several of them. And I also met
11 with my father. And I wanted us to settle or try to settle,
12 just like we had done with Arthur Badger. So when I met with
13 them, they had said that they weren't -- they were not going
14 to even consider paying any of it. And so I went back to the
15 bank and, you know, 634,000, plus the 25,000, so 659,
16 \$660,000, and I went to them and I said, let's pay it, let's
17 get out of this. And we definitely were not going to write a
18 check like we did, even though we had the authority that was
19 -- caused a big hoopla before. So we would take it to the
20 Board. We had already sent an e-mail to the attorney and
21 explaining to him what was going on, what we wanted to do.
22 And when we got to our Board meeting, the day we got to the
23 Board meeting to discuss it, we were served with the notice
24 of intent to sue.

25 MR. AUSTIN: Okay. Could we pull up Government's

1 Exhibit 22, please.

2 BY MR. AUSTIN:

3 Q. Do you recognize this disbursement sheet?

4 A. I do.

5 Q. And zoom in on the fees, please. Did you receive
6 \$60,000 conservator fee?

7 A. I did.

8 Q. And did you do any work for Hakeem Pinckney?

9 A. I helped set up the structure just like before, go
10 to the mediation.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Not -- you know, that was probably too much of a fee
13 now, looking back.

14 Q. All right. Let's go down to the disbursement to
15 client, and 309,000 to Palmetto State Bank. Do you recall
16 that coming through?

17 A. I do not. Now, looking back, I know where it came
18 through on doing the research. But one thing I want to say
19 here, I was the conservator, not Palmetto State Bank. If you
20 look at the top of the one behind you, it says clearly
21 Russell Laffitte. And on the settlement statement or
22 disbursement statement it shows Palmetto State Bank. And I
23 believe that's how that was -- that was the start of the
24 theft because he would write it to Palmetto State Bank
25 knowing we wouldn't recognize it. If it came in Russell

1 Laffitte as conservator, we wouldn't be sitting here today.

2 Q. And you didn't have anything to do with drafting
3 this disbursement sheet?

4 A. No, sir, I did not.

5 Q. Did you sign off on it?

6 A. I did.

7 Q. Why did you if it had that Palmetto State Bank
8 there?

9 A. He would come in, just like I said earlier, he would
10 have it marked, he would send a runner or he himself would
11 come in and say, I need you to sign here. Years, decades of
12 trust and experience and took advantage of you, of me.

13 Q. All right. Now, moving on to Malik Williams, how
14 did you get involved as conservator for him?

15 A. Paul Detrick asked me to be conservator for him.

16 Q. Who is Paul Detrick?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Who is Paul Detrick?

19 A. He was a partner. He's passed away now. He was a
20 partner at PMPED.

21 Q. All right. So how did Alex get involved with that
22 case?

23 A. He was not involved at all with the case. But, you
24 know, they are in a building together. So they know what's
25 going on on different cases.

1 Q. And he was a partner?

2 A. Yes, sir, they were both partners.

3 Q. Alex and Detrick?

4 A. And Paul.

5 Q. And how many lawyers did the firm have at the time?

6 A. In the Hampton office at that time, 10 maybe.

7 Q. Okay. And that was a pretty big fee that he got
8 from that case, wasn't it?

9 A. Yes, sir. Well, on Malik Williams?

10 Q. Sure.

11 A. I don't think it was that big, but it was --

12 Q. Okay. Let's go to Government's Exhibit 108 and go
13 to page 3. All right. So is this letter asking you to be,
14 or the petition, for you to be appointed as conservator?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. And let's go to the next page. Next page. All
17 right. And this is -- do you recognize this letter?

18 A. I know what it is. It was a letter done to Peters
19 Murdaugh Parker from the probate.

20 Q. Let's go to page 9, please. I believe this is the
21 last one.

22 A. Right. That's the appointment.

23 Q. Okay. It's the same form you've seen before. And
24 did you have anything to do with filling out any of this
25 information?

1 A. I did not.

2 MR. AUSTIN: Let's go to the third page, please. Go
3 back one. Sorry. All right. There we go.

4 BY MR. AUSTIN:

5 Q. And this one is a little bit different than the
6 other ones. Can we zoom in on the top third. All right.
7 Has Paul Detrick sign -- I guess that's Paul Detrick. Do you
8 recognize the signature?

9 A. I don't recognize the signature, but I'm going to
10 assume that also.

11 Q. But this one appears to be filled out correctly;
12 does that look right?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Zoom out. And on the verification here, you don't
15 have your signature?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Is that Paul Detrick's?

18 A. I'm going to assume it's the same as above, so, yes,
19 sir.

20 MR. AUSTIN: Zoom out, please. Zoom in on the
21 bottom part.

22 BY MR. AUSTIN:

23 Q. All right. So here, this is your signature; isn't
24 it?

25 A. That is mine.

1 Q. All right. And you don't know how Alex got involved
2 in this, but somehow he found out, is that what you are
3 saying?

4 A. I mean, it's a small office. They are going to
5 talk. They know about cases. I mean, he very well could
6 have -- Paul could have said -- been down in the lunchroom
7 or --

8 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor, this is
9 complete speculation.

10 THE COURT: Sustained.

11 BY MR. AUSTIN:

12 Q. Let's just wrap this up. Did you ever intentionally
13 try to help Alex or anybody else steal from Malik Williams?

14 A. No. No, sir.

15 Q. All right. So I just want to talk real briefly
16 about Palmetto State Bank Board. When did you first join the
17 Board?

18 A. Somewhere -- I don't remember exactly, but I would
19 probably say between 2005, 2010.

20 Q. Okay. So was there sort of an older generation
21 still in leadership at the bank at that time?

22 A. Absolutely.

23 Q. And who was in leadership at the bank?

24 A. My father, Charlie Laffitte, was chairman and CEO.
25 We had Mark Laffitte. He was in Estill. He was -- I don't

1 remember what his title was, chairman something. But he was
2 more like vice chairman. And Monty Laffitte out of Bluffton
3 was vice chairman. Henry Laffitte in Allendale, he was
4 the -- he was executive vice president. He ran the branches
5 up there. Jan Malinowski, and that's about it.

6 Q. Okay. And there's been testimony about newer family
7 members joining the Board in the past few years; is that
8 right?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. How would you just generally describe the Board's
11 approach just when you were coming up in the bank --

12 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection. I think this is going to
13 go towards some of Your Honor's prior rulings.

14 THE COURT: I'm listening.

15 MR. AUSTIN: I'm trying hard to stay away. I have
16 no intention to go there.

17 BY MR. AUSTIN:

18 Q. Was there a different approach to handling issues
19 from the older generation?

20 A. Absolutely. The older generation, they would sit
21 around and they would talk about it, they were done. That
22 was it. We didn't have as many formal meetings. Yes, we had
23 our formal Executive Committee meeting on the second Tuesday
24 of the month. Yes, they had their formal Board meeting, but
25 if there was something in between, they would pick up the

1 telephone and call and they'd work it out and they would add
2 it to the minutes or vice-versa.

3 And 2021, we were struggling with that changing over
4 from having strict, formal -- strictly, you know, more
5 informal to a strictly formal setting. You know, you are
6 doing things, here's how you do it, when you do it, and
7 everything else.

8 Q. So the bank was trying to formalize their procedures
9 more and not be quite so -- I guess it's a family,
10 conversational in handling things --

11 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor, he's
12 testifying.

13 THE COURT: I believe you are testifying.

14 MR. AUSTIN: I felt it. Sorry. I didn't mean to.

15 THE COURT: Just ask a question. You can't lead the
16 witness.

17 MR. AUSTIN: I'm watching the clock and trying to
18 move along.

19 THE COURT: Well, let's get it right.

20 MR. AUSTIN: Yes, sir.

21 BY MR. AUSTIN:

22 Q. So was it something -- was it a priority of yours to
23 formalize the procedures?

24 A. I wanted it to be a lot -- just do loans. I
25 wanted -- we needed to grow loans. We were one of the

1 lowest, or at the time in 2021, we were I think about second
2 or third lowest in the state of South Carolina in loans to
3 deposits. We needed loans. And we were trying to grow
4 loans. And to grow loans, you've got to go out there and get
5 them --

6 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. Relevance.

7 THE COURT: I'm not sure where this is going.

8 MR. AUSTIN: I think we've made our point. So I
9 will keep going.

10 BY MR. AUSTIN:

11 Q. So let's go to Government's Exhibit 6. If we could,
12 please go to -- I need glasses, I'm realizing more and more.
13 The very bottom here it says that the loans outstanding of
14 Richard Alexander Murdaugh were discussed. The copies
15 attached. What's going on there? What's that mean to you?

16 A. This is August 17th, 2021. And so we had had an
17 Executive Committee meeting, according to the minutes, on
18 August 12th. And it discussed Alex Murdaugh's -- all of his
19 loans. Obviously, we had a Board member send an e-mail
20 wanting to get a list of it. So I presented a list of all
21 loans and everything else so we could talk about it.

22 MR. AUSTIN: All right. Let's go to page 2. And
23 zoom in, please, on the second paragraph. Thank you.

24 BY MR. AUSTIN:

25 Q. All right. Tell us what's going on here.

1 A. This is just a summary that said, Charlie Laffitte,
2 Chairman Laffitte, reviewed all the loans of Alex Murdaugh.
3 And I was saying that his intention was to sell the farm and
4 that we had mortgage on the properties that supersede the
5 property being transferred into Maggie's name. That was
6 obviously in error. And that we didn't add in the
7 charged-off loans. We were just explaining what took place.
8 And we also talked about the \$750,000 loan, because Elizabeth
9 Malinowski didn't see where it was in the formal Executive
10 Committee.

11 Q. And did you agree with her assessment of that
12 \$750,000 loan process?

13 A. Of the -- that it did not go through the formal
14 Executive Committee? Yes, I did.

15 Q. You did agree?

16 A. Yes, I explained that three of the five members
17 approved the loan, which in my way of thinking, you've got
18 three of the four voting members, the loan was approved by
19 the Executive Committee. But we did not -- on our third --
20 second Tuesday of the month meeting, that was not brought in
21 to it, no, it was not.

22 Q. Okay. Were you hiding that loan from anybody?

23 A. Absolutely not.

24 Q. And are you familiar with Credit Leader?

25 A. I am.

1 Q. How do you know anything about Credit Leader?

2 A. I was the one that purchased the program.

3 Q. All right. So what did you understand about when
4 you purchased Credit Leader?

5 A. We were trying to be more responsive, get more --
6 just, you know, get our processes in order. We were trying
7 to grow the bank. And we needed a way for us to be able to
8 look at loans and look at them quickly from other offices.
9 So you could go in there and put it in. And, like, if
10 somebody in the Bluffton office, they could type in it, scan
11 in any documents they wanted to it, they could e-mail me and
12 say, hey, can you look at this, and I could look at exactly
13 what they are looking at right then. And just makes us be
14 more responsive to our customers, which is always what you
15 want to be. You know, community banks, it's not necessarily
16 any cheaper than a big bank, or oftentimes it's more
17 expensive than a big bank because it's more of a boutique.
18 So we've got to sell ourselves on speed and responsiveness to
19 customers.

20 Q. And what was your understanding of when you would
21 log in to Credit Leader and enter information or do anything?

22 A. If you change anything or do anything, it logs it
23 and tells when it was, time, date, stamp, everything.

24 Q. So you were fully aware of that when you purchased
25 the system?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. There's been a lot of talk about some of this
3 information on the \$750,000 loan put in. Can you explain any
4 of that?

5 A. The 750,000 loan, we approved it. My father, my
6 sister, and I approved it. As you've obviously heard
7 numerous times, it was funded, the 350 was funded with wire
8 in July to Chris Wilson. And then we covered -- deposited
9 \$400,000 in a money order. A money order was cut for the
10 \$400,000 balance of the proceeds deposited into Alex
11 Murdaugh's account to cover his overdraft. And then we had
12 the loan documents signed. Then we actually went in to do
13 Credit Leader. So it had already been approved, but it was
14 not a -- it's not memorialized until you see the August -- I
15 think it was August 18th that shows on Credit Leader that
16 that was the day of approval. It was approved way back
17 before we ever funded the wire. Otherwise, we couldn't have
18 done -- I couldn't have done the wire, because he was so far
19 above my lending limit. But that's when it was put into the
20 Credit Leader.

21 I would have had Carrie Sauls or one of the other
22 ladies type it in. I believe it was Carrie Sauls. I think I
23 saw her name. And then we would have gone in -- I would have
24 gone in after she told me she had all the documents in there
25 and all the notes, I would have hit approve, knowing it's not

1 been approved because it was over my lending limit. And then
2 since I had myself, my father, and Gray Henderson, we would
3 all, as three of the four voting members of the Executive
4 Committee, then I went in and approved it as Executive
5 Committee.

6 Q. All right. And again, y'all were not trying to hide
7 that loan from anybody?

8 A. No. We had already notified them about it.

9 Q. When did you notify them?

10 A. We talked about it in the Board meeting. I mean, in
11 the Executive Committee meeting, and when we talked about
12 those -- I mean, we weren't trying to hide it at all.

13 Q. Your brother testified to the appraisal process
14 starting in April; is that right?

15 A. That was right. We were getting an appraisal done
16 on the house. I'm not sure that's when the actual 750
17 started. But we knew the primary -- the first mortgage was
18 maturing. So we knew we did it. And at some point, he had
19 come in and said he needed some money. The actual loan
20 started off at 500,000. And then it moved as he asked to
21 increase it to 750, said he was doing some work and other
22 things. And so we did it. And we assumed, as y'all would
23 know how assuming ends with Alex Murdaugh, we assumed that
24 the C.E. Smith that he was writing checks to every week or
25 so, I mean, large checks, that was -- that looked to us like

1 normal checks that you would be writing to a contractor.
2 And, yes, we did know that we were doing a \$750,000 loan on a
3 house that had appraised previously at 730. So, no, we were
4 not under the -- we didn't think it was all going to the
5 house.

6 Q. All right. And based on your understanding of
7 what -- the way loans worked, was there any concern on your
8 part that some of this money was not going to the stated
9 purpose?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. Why not?

12 A. You know, just like y'all -- somebody said in here,
13 you know, 750 -- the original appraisal that we had at the
14 time was 730,000. You are not going to do a \$750,000
15 renovation on a 7-, 8-, \$900,000 house. And that's why we
16 were taking additional collateral. We wanted that Green
17 Swamp share of stock, which was worth about 230- to \$250,000.
18 And we knew that house was worth a lot more than 700,000. So
19 we weren't that concerned. We felt like we would be, once we
20 got the second mortgage in place, which, unfortunately, we
21 never did, that we would be -- be collateralized at least
22 dollar-for-dollar.

23 Q. And did that beach house end up selling?

24 A. It did, for \$955,000.

25 Q. Okay. If I'm understanding correctly, even though

1 Alex was overdrawn on his account by a substantial sum, close
2 to 3 --

3 A. \$367,000 and some change. But we knew what the
4 funds were for. We were in close contact -- no, we didn't
5 know -- we thought we knew what the funds were for. We knew
6 what he was telling us the funds were for.

7 Q. And so the initial \$350,000, what was your
8 understanding where that money was going?

9 A. He asked me to -- said he needed the money, needed
10 to send a wire to Chris Wilson. He had a lot of irons in the
11 fire at this point in time in his life, lawsuits with the son
12 and, you know, his wife and son had just been murdered. I
13 really didn't question it, you know, I guess a lot because of
14 that. You know, I really didn't ask him. Now, right after
15 September, we knew exactly what had happened with it.

16 Q. When he came to you all asking for this loan in
17 July, what was his demeanor? How was he acting?

18 A. He was distraught. I mean, he just lost his wife
19 and son. It really had started before that. But when we
20 talked to him in July, I mean, as you would expect, somebody
21 that just lost their wife and son violently, I mean, he was
22 real pale, you know, just seemed upset. But we knew -- we've
23 had a long running history with him. We weren't concerned.
24 He had a strong earning history. You know, we didn't -- we
25 felt comfortable loaning him money when he needed it.

1 Q. We've heard testimony about him not working during
2 that time. What was your understanding?

3 A. He was still receiving a paycheck. He was -- they
4 had him go get counseling. I mean, obviously, you know,
5 something tragic like that happens, you need to be able to
6 talk to somebody. And I know that they wanted him to see a
7 counselor. And I think he was just taking like -- stepping
8 back, taking a leave, and turning some things over while he
9 processed this and while he processed his grief and
10 everything else.

11 Q. Okay. So we fast forward to the fall. Was the
12 Board worried about lawsuits during that time?

13 A. During July?

14 Q. In the fall.

15 A. Well, we were already in a lawsuit on the
16 Satterfield case.

17 Q. Okay. And without going into specifics, did you
18 settle that case?

19 A. We did. And that was -- going on the Badger side on
20 the 680, that's why we got -- we wanted to settle it. We,
21 Palmetto State Bank -- I did the transactions; nobody else.
22 I did them. When I did the research and I saw all those
23 transactions, and I was like, you know, you know what, we've
24 got liability. The money went through Palmetto State Bank.
25 We had just settled a lawsuit. We didn't touch the money.

1 And it was a lot more than \$680,000. And they also were
2 adamant about the PR fee in the settlement. So that's why,
3 you take the million 325 plus the 35,000, that's why we did
4 the PR fee. And that's -- I was like, you know what, if we
5 can get out of here for \$680,000 versus a million-plus, we
6 were going to be on the hook on that for a million 1, because
7 that's what truly went through us. The rest went through
8 Bank of America. It would be a hard sell to -- hard to prove
9 that we had any liability there. And that would be the --
10 that's why we did that.

11 Q. You said Satterfield settled for substantially more.
12 We don't want to hear exactly how much. But you said no
13 money came to PSB?

14 A. None of the money flowed through any of our Palmetto
15 State Bank or bank accounts.

16 Q. Why did you all settle it?

17 A. That was under the advice of our attorney, Trenholm
18 Walker, and his firm.

19 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. I believe
20 he's going to divulge privileged communications.

21 BY MR. AUSTIN:

22 Q. Did you think it was in the best interest of the
23 bank?

24 A. Absolutely.

25 Q. Okay. And so were you factoring that into your

1 decision when you wrote the \$680,000 check?

2 A. Absolutely. I mean, I wouldn't have done it except
3 for I knew how much we could possibly be on the hook for
4 after dealing with Satterfield. This was substantially more,
5 in my opinion.

6 Q. And we've heard a lot about bylaws of Palmetto State
7 Bank. And what was your understanding of your authority
8 under the bylaws?

9 A. I had the authority to settle, you know, make
10 contracts, conduct business for the bank. It's not -- and I
11 knew I had the authority. I looked at it.

12 Q. And what about your dad, what authority did he have,
13 or what was your understanding?

14 A. He had the same authority. He could settle, make --
15 do anything for the bank that was needed.

16 Q. Okay. And what about the Executive Committee?

17 A. Same thing.

18 Q. Okay. So y'all didn't discuss it with Jan
19 Malinowski; is that correct?

20 A. We did not, not at that time.

21 Q. Did you think that you needed to?

22 A. Oh, no, we didn't. I didn't think we needed to at
23 that time. We were trying -- you know, time is of the
24 essence. Our thoughts were, let's -- first of all, we had
25 made a mistake. I had made a mistake. A client that thought

1 he had money at Palmetto State Bank had lost money. We
2 needed to make him right. That's the right thing to do.

3 So I went over and made the agreement. I
4 immediately funded it. And, you know, as soon as I funded
5 it, I'm not sure whether it was before or during or the same
6 time, I mean, I notified the Executive Committee on the same
7 day we funded it, and I notified the Board the following
8 morning.

9 Q. Okay. And let's back up to October 25th. Do you
10 recall meeting at PMPED?

11 A. Was that a Monday?

12 Q. I'm not sure.

13 A. I was out of the state when I got the phone call
14 about the checks of Arthur Badger. And I told -- Jeanne
15 Seckinger called me. And I told her, Jeanne, I'm out of
16 town. I said, no, we don't want e-mail. I said I will be
17 there Monday morning to pick it up. Got a handprinted out
18 list, which is in one of the exhibits, that goes through all
19 the checks. We immediately go back, start researching it.
20 As soon as we have it, you know, I take all the checks, the
21 copies, where it went, go back over to the law firm. By this
22 time, I've already talked to my father, because when I'm
23 researching, I realize, oh, my God, what is going on? Talk
24 to him. I went over there and said, hey, let's split it.
25 And we agreed to it. Came back, cut a money order.

1 Q. Okay. And in the Satterfield case, Chad Westendorf
2 had been the conservator in that, right?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. And the bank, nonetheless, settled the case, though
5 he had screwed up personally?

6 A. You know, I don't know whether he screwed up
7 personally, but it was messed up, yes.

8 Q. Okay. That was a bad choice of words.

9 A. I understand.

10 Q. Is that part of how it works with a bank, you settle
11 cases sometimes?

12 A. Banks, businesses in general, will settle a lot of
13 cases because they don't want to be just splashed all over
14 the news, as I have been. I mean, you just -- nobody wants
15 that. And you are trying to mitigate the bad press. You are
16 trying to mitigate losses. So you try to settle.

17 Q. Okay. All right. Let's pull up Government's
18 Exhibit 12, please. I believe we've seen this already. This
19 is the e-mail you are talking about where you are notifying
20 the full Board?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. All right. And you say here, we covered this over
23 and over, we converted 1.172, and explain everything here.
24 Again, when you said "we converted," you weren't shifting
25 blame, were you?

1 A. Absolutely not. "We" is me and all of us at
2 Palmetto State Bank. I was the actual person that did the
3 transactions. When we say "we," it's part of Palmetto State
4 Bank, because I couldn't have done those transactions if I
5 was not an employee of the bank.

6 Q. Have you ever denied your involvement writing that
7 check or involved in any of the underlying checks that led to
8 the need to do this?

9 A. No, sir.

10 Q. Okay. And why didn't you include more detail about
11 what happened?

12 A. We were told not to. As I've told you all, we were
13 getting subpoenas, and lawsuits are flying around, or threats
14 of lawsuits are flying around. Our attorneys had asked us
15 not to --

16 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. Is hearsay.

17 THE COURT: Sustained.

18 MR. AUSTIN: I don't want what anybody said.

19 BY MR. AUSTIN:

20 Q. Okay. Let's go to Government's Exhibit 78. Is this
21 the check that you delivered to PMPED?

22 A. No, that's their check.

23 Q. Okay. And you did write the check to them, right?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. And when was that deposited into Palmetto State

1 Bank?

2 A. They deposited their -- the check, the money order,
3 cashier's check that I took over there on the 29th of
4 October.

5 Q. Okay. So we've heard testimony about that being the
6 date that the money is out the door and it was a done-deal.
7 But that was not your understanding; is that right?

8 A. That's correct. That was not -- just funded the
9 deal, but --

10 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. He's
11 testifying for the witness.

12 THE COURT: Sustained.

13 MR. AUSTIN: Let's go to Government's Exhibit 74,
14 please. Let's zoom on the second e-mail there from Russell,
15 October 28th. Right there.

16 BY MR. AUSTIN:

17 Q. All right. Can you explain what's going on in this
18 e-mail here?

19 A. This is the e-mail that I sent Thursday morning when
20 we had agreed to settle this or made the agreement to split
21 the loss with PMPED to try to make Arthur Badger whole and
22 try to avoid a lawsuit.

23 Q. Okay. So the check was deposited the next day on
24 the 29th, but the day before, you were letting people know
25 about the check?

1 A. Yes, sir. This is -- the "to" line is the Executive
2 Committee.

3 Q. Okay. And did anybody raise concerns then and ask
4 that you put a stop payment order on it?

5 A. They did not.

6 Q. And then you sent the e-mail to the full Board the
7 next day?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. And why didn't you just do them both at the same
10 time?

11 A. I'm not sure. I really don't know.

12 Q. I'm going to show you what's marked as Government's
13 Exhibit -- Defendant's Exhibit 83.

14 MR. AUSTIN: May I approach, Your Honor?

15 THE COURT: Yes.

16 BY MR. AUSTIN:

17 Q. Take a look at that. Do you recognize those checks?

18 A. I do.

19 Q. Or that check, I should say. Did you write it?

20 A. I did.

21 Q. And if you could, please explain, how do you
22 remember that check?

23 A. It's \$17,500 out of my pocket. This was, if y'all
24 remember the Donna -- not Donna, Arthur Badger agreement
25 between us and the law firm, is million 325 that was stolen.

1 There was \$35,000 in PR fees, million 360, we divided by two.
2 So Palmetto State Bank had paid \$680,000. In that \$680,000
3 is \$17,500 in PR fees that they did not earn, get or anything
4 else. I got them. So I was repaying Palmetto State Bank the
5 17,500.

6 Q. \$680,000 figure is not entirely accurate; is that
7 correct?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Did the bank accept this check?

10 A. They did. It was -- this check was written and done
11 on 11/1.

12 Q. Okay. So the first e-mail of the Executive
13 Committee is on October 28th. 680 check is written on the
14 29th. And then you wrote this on the 1st?

15 A. I wrote it on the 1st, but the bank did not run it
16 through, as I see on the back, until December 17th. And I
17 can't answer why the difference in dates.

18 MR. AUSTIN: All right. Your Honor, at this time we
19 move Defendant's Exhibit 83 into evidence.

20 THE COURT: Is there an objection?

21 MS. LIMEHOUSE: No objection, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Defendant's Exhibit 83 is admitted
23 without objection.

24 (Defendant's Exhibit 83 is received in evidence.)

25 BY MR. AUSTIN:

1 Q. I think you've described this already, but let's
2 just do it real quick for the jury. Reference PR fee, half
3 in settlement at the bottom?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. And this is the \$17,500 you wrote to the bank?

6 A. Yes, it is.

7 Q. For half of the conservator fees?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Or PR fees. Was it part of your understanding with
10 Ronnie Crosby that they would pay the other half?

11 A. That was correct.

12 Q. That was the deal they all struck?

13 A. That is right.

14 Q. And we've heard a lot about this November 3rd
15 meeting of the Board. Can you describe -- and I don't want
16 to talk about anything outside of just the \$680,000 payment.
17 What was the Board's reaction at that time to the check?

18 A. There was a lot of discussion about it. Obviously,
19 a lot of people were upset, I mean, as we all were.
20 \$680,000, that's a lot of money to just write off. And they
21 were asking if there was any more, which we are doing
22 research as hard as we can, trying to get -- and I'm
23 constantly in contact with the law firm trying to get
24 clarity, hey, we've researched all the case that we were PRs,
25 conservators, or anything. And, you know, there was just a

1 lot of concern. And they asked us to put a pause on the
2 check. So we did.

3 Q. And is that what you discussed on October 31st
4 meeting, the pause?

5 A. You know, there was so many meetings in that time,
6 it's hard to go through and tell you exactly. But there was
7 a pause put on the check.

8 Q. Okay. And were you concerned for your own status at
9 the bank around that time?

10 A. I was. I had gotten an e-mail, I believe it went to
11 the full Board, asking when I was going to resign.

12 Q. And did you think that you had done anything wrong
13 at that point?

14 A. I don't think I did anything illegal. I definitely
15 had made a mistake.

16 Q. And did you say as much to the Board?

17 A. You know, I really don't remember. I'm sure I did.
18 I mean, it was crazy times.

19 Q. I think it's been described as damage control mode?

20 A. Absolutely.

21 Q. And when you are at the November 3rd meeting, did
22 you record the meeting?

23 A. I did.

24 Q. And why did you do that?

25 A. I really don't know. We recorded our meetings for

1 minute purposes. And I'm not sure if my sister, who was the
2 secretary for the Board, was going to be late or something,
3 so I recorded it. I actually didn't realize that I had
4 recorded it until several months ago at the latest or
5 earliest. I just -- I would record them.

6 Q. So was it your sister's practice to record Board
7 meetings?

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. You said for minute purposes?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. And then what was her practice with that?

12 A. I assume she just deleted them at some point in
13 time. I don't think she would do it every month, just delete
14 them.

15 MR. AUSTIN: Your Honor, I would like to play
16 Government's Exhibit 60 -- I mean, Defense Exhibit 60.

17 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Your Honor, this exhibit is not yet
18 in evidence.

19 THE COURT: Well, let's take our afternoon break.

20 (Jury leaves open court at 3:29 p.m.)

21 THE COURT: Let me ask, I take it this is the audio
22 where you previously admitted the transcript; is that
23 correct?

24 MR. AUSTIN: I believe the transcript is already in,
25 Your Honor. I misspoke. I should have moved to enter it

1 into evidence.

2 THE COURT: Please be seated. And please be quiet.

3 MR. AUSTIN: We were going to move it into evidence
4 now and then publish it to the jury.

5 THE COURT: Publish what to the jury?

6 MR. AUSTIN: The audio of the record recording.

7 THE COURT: Have you edited it down so it's
8 consistent with the redaction?

9 MR. AUSTIN: Yes, sir. So Defense 60 has the
10 original part that Your Honor approved. And then we have a
11 snippet that the Government wants included as well. We can
12 play that. We are happy to accommodate there.

13 THE COURT: Well, I'm confused. What does that
14 mean?

15 MR. AUSTIN: There's a little --

16 THE COURT: If we are going to play it, you are not
17 going to play the Government's part at the same time, or how
18 are you going to do that?

19 MR. AUSTIN: We are prepared to. We could do it
20 easily. We wanted to play our part.

21 THE COURT: Ms. Limehouse.

22 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Your Honor, we never heard any of
23 these recordings before this moment. And so there's a
24 transcript --

25 THE COURT: She's saying she hasn't heard the

1 redacted version.

2 MS. LIMEHOUSE: None of them, they've never been
3 provided to us. We have a transcript that has been admitted
4 into evidence.

5 THE COURT: Let me ask this. Has the -- I had
6 ordered long ago that the audio be provided. Has it not been
7 provided?

8 MR. AUSTIN: Obviously, it was. We wanted to
9 everybody to hear it.

10 MS. LIMEHOUSE: We have never received the --

11 MR. AUSTIN: That's news to me.

12 MS. LIMEHOUSE: We never received --

13 THE COURT: Here's my concern. You know, there are
14 complex privilege issues here. We've spent a lot of time
15 resolving them. And what I don't want is, oops, we violate
16 it. That's why you show this to the other side so they have
17 an ability to screen it, and if there's a problem, to raise
18 an objection. We've been through this a lot. And I've
19 ordered very specifically -- I believe the word was promptly
20 in my order, promptly, provide this to the Government.

21 MR. AUSTIN: My understanding is that we did, but,
22 we have no desire not to share. We were trying to get it out
23 the whole time.

24 THE COURT: I'm cognizant we've given them a
25 transcript, so you are not going to hide the thing.

1 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Of course. And, honestly, Your
2 Honor, I don't believe that you ever ordered them to turn it
3 over to us. They were ordered to turn it over to the
4 privilege holder, who was then required to provide the areas
5 of the recording that they were not going to assert privilege
6 over.

7 THE COURT: I don't have an ambush problem here.

8 MS. LIMEHOUSE: No, that's not what we are alleging,
9 Your Honor. The problem is more so that I think this
10 recording that we have never heard may risk confusing the
11 jury. There's snippets of redacted portions that we haven't
12 listened to. And we already have a transcript in evidence
13 that says exactly what the defense wants the jury to hear.
14 And so I think it's a waste of the jury's time. And I think
15 it's going to risk confusing them.

16 MR. AUSTIN: Judge, it's a really short snippet.
17 And we could play it during the break here.

18 THE COURT: Let's take a break. And we will come
19 back, play it first for Ms. Limehouse before you play it for
20 me. If it's short, over the break, and then when I come
21 back, let me hear from Ms. Limehouse.

22 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Very good, Your Honor. Fair enough.

23 (Whereupon, recess transpired.)

24 THE COURT: What's the scoop?

25 MS. LIMEHOUSE: We've now had an opportunity to

1 listen to the recording. Our concern is that the portions we
2 wanted included are not coordinating in time. So what they
3 are working on now is finding a way to include those portions
4 the way they appear in the transcript and during the meeting.
5 As long as they can present the jury in the way that those
6 statements took place and as long as the transcript can roll
7 with the recording, we have no objection.

8 THE COURT: Okay. That makes a lot of sense.

9 Now, Matt, how much longer?

10 MR. AUSTIN: I think this part should take 10
11 minutes. And then I have like two minutes of questions.

12 THE COURT: What concerns me is this. How long is
13 your cross?

14 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Long.

15 THE COURT: I don't know we should start a cross.
16 You know, I mean, there's a lot of detail here. You've done
17 a lot of detail. And I'm inclined to send the jury home. I
18 don't think we start at 4:30 on Friday afternoon
19 cross-examination. I don't think it's -- first of all, I
20 don't think it's fair to your client to be at the end of the
21 day like this. And it's not fair to the Government. So I'm
22 inclined to send them home and do the cross Monday morning.

23 Now, let me just confess, if I were in y'all's
24 shoes, I wouldn't want to give the Government all weekend to
25 work on it.

1 MR. DANIEL: I never thought of that, Judge.

2 THE COURT: I wouldn't give them that much time
3 myself.

4 MS. LIMEHOUSE: I also just want to be clear that no
5 communications over the weekend.

6 THE COURT: No, I am not worried. We will tell him
7 that. No, he can't talk. He's on the stand. He can't do
8 that.

9 MR. AUSTIN: We think we are good to go with the
10 slice.

11 THE COURT: Y'all got the slice?

12 (Whereupon, the bench conference ends.)

13 THE COURT: Have we resolved our differences
14 regarding the audio? We are mutually satisfied, Ms.
15 Limehouse?

16 MS. LIMEHOUSE: I believe so, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Mr. Austin?

18 MR. AUSTIN: I believe that's right.

19 THE COURT: When he's finished, let me know.

20 MR. AUSTIN: I think we are good, Judge.

21 THE COURT: Bring in the jury, please.

22 (Whereupon, the jury returns to open court at 3:53
23 p.m.)

24 THE COURT: Please be seated. Mr. Austin, please
25 continue your direct examination.

1 MR. AUSTIN: Thank you, Your Honor. At this time,
2 Defense would move Defendant's Exhibit 89 into evidence.

3 THE COURT: Is there an objection?

4 MS. LIMEHOUSE: No objection, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: 89 is admitted without objection.

6 (Defendant's Exhibit 89 received in evidence.)

7 MR. AUSTIN: We would like to publish it to the jury
8 and also 223, which is the transcripts, and we will play it
9 at the same time the audio is playing.

10 THE COURT: Any objection?

11 MS. LIMEHOUSE: No objection.

12 THE COURT: Very good. Please proceed, sir.

13 (Audio playing.)

14 BY MR. AUSTIN:

15 Q. So what was your understanding of what was going on
16 there and what the Board was or was not onboard with?

17 A. My understanding after that meeting, that we had all
18 agreed to pay the \$680,000, that they were working --
19 Trenholm Walker was working towards getting a release for the
20 bank from PMPED, and that we were going -- moving forward.

21 Q. And I asked this several times through witnesses, to
22 your knowledge, had anybody filed any written dissent to that
23 payment?

24 A. Not to my knowledge.

25 Q. And you informed the Executive Committee, not just

1 your dad, your sister and yourself, obviously not yourself,
2 but on the 28th, you wrote that e-mail to the Executive
3 Committee?

4 A. That's correct, the full Executive Committee.

5 Q. And that includes Jan Malinowski and Scott Swain?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. And he was talking about Arthur Badger at the end
8 there. Is he, to your knowledge, a beneficiary of Donna
9 Badger?

10 A. He is not. He renounced that.

11 Q. Okay. I'm going to wrap this up. With the \$500,000
12 line of credit, what was your understanding of that
13 transaction?

14 A. We were doing a line of credit for Mr. Murdaugh.
15 And we were using his -- he had his property in Moselle,
16 1,700 acres, plus or minus. And we were taking a second
17 mortgage on the house and I want to say however many acres
18 the house was actually, a couple of houses, barns, et cetera,
19 and then a first mortgage on the rest of the property, about
20 8- or 900 more acres. And he was going to use it -- I think
21 for business purposes said farming, but he was going to use
22 it as he needed. And the first -- I am not saying it's the
23 first advance, but one of the first advances he took 284,000
24 and paid off Alania -- not Alania, Hannah Plyler, the loans
25 on the Hannah Plyler, and the rest he used lone to cover

1 overdrafts and other things.

2 Q. And did you have any concerns about the fact that it
3 wasn't all used for farming?

4 A. I had no concerns at all. I mean, we were well
5 collateralized, the property was worth about \$3 million, if I
6 remember correctly. And, actually, that loan was paid off
7 within 90 to 95 the days in to a million dollar line of
8 credit.

9 Q. Did the Board vote on approving that loan?

10 A. The Board voted to approve the \$500,000. We, as a
11 Board, voted every month on all the loans over 25,000 to
12 approve them. And then on the million dollars, the Executive
13 Committee took it through the Executive Committee and through
14 the Board.

15 Q. Okay. And it was asked to you about some of the
16 conservator and PR loans earlier. You didn't have any intent
17 to steal from anybody or help anybody steal from anybody
18 there?

19 A. I did not. I wouldn't have been part of that.

20 Q. With regard to the \$680,000 check, \$750,000 loan,
21 \$500,000 line of credit, did you have any intention to
22 misapply funds to the bank or hurt or injure the bank or
23 defraud the bank?

24 A. I would have been defrauding myself, seeing as I was
25 one of the shareholders, and I would not have done it. We

1 were trying to make on the 680. We were trying to make our
2 client -- not our client, the client who lost his money that
3 we facilitated part of the loss, because we did the
4 transaction. We were trying to make the client whole. We
5 were also -- at the same time, we were trying to make the
6 client whole, we are trying to protect the bank and reduce
7 our liability.

8 On the loans, we had no intentions of trying to
9 defraud or mislead. I mean, those loan purposes, you know, I
10 am not even sure who put it on the sheet, but I'm sure I
11 instructed our loan assistant to put "farming" on there. I
12 mean, he owned land. He did raise some timber out there on
13 that property. I mean, it's a significant piece of property.
14 And there was no intent to try to defraud the bank. I mean,
15 he was making payments on it and everything.

16 Q. And you are talking about Moselle, that property?

17 A. I want to clarify. He never made a payment on the
18 \$750,000 loan.

19 Q. And what is your understanding of why?

20 A. Well, it was a single-pay note, so there were no
21 payments due until January. But as we all know, he was in
22 jail before then. So there was no way he was going to make a
23 payment. The only payment is when we -- not we, the Murdaugh
24 family -- sold his share of Green Swamp stock and applied it
25 to that loan, which was \$250,000.

1 Q. Okay. And so in terms of exposure to the bank, the
2 Moselle is under contract, right? You said that the beach
3 house was under contract or --

4 A. It sold.

5 Q. O United and Red Beard, have those properties sold?

6 A. They sold.

7 Q. Do you know how much for?

8 A. I did see it. I can't remember whether it was
9 900,000 or -- you know, those O United and Red Beard LLC,
10 they are two separate LLCs, but they were done in one
11 transaction. So it's hard to tell whether -- when I said
12 they were done in one transaction, the sale, when I saw the
13 sale paper in public records, I couldn't tell whether it
14 was -- I should know that amount or not, but looked to me to
15 be about 1.6 million or something like that. I might be
16 wrong on that.

17 MR. AUSTIN: Okay. Thank you, that's all I have.

18 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, I never like to
19 start a lengthy cross-examination or a direct late on Friday
20 afternoon. So I'm going to send you home. I think everybody
21 will do better first thing Monday morning. So we will
22 resume. I want to remind you over the weekend, I don't want
23 you looking, talking to anyone about the case, not looking at
24 any Internet or any news articles or anything else. Keep it
25 within you. And, of course, when it's all over, you can talk

1 to anyone you wish and share about it. But right now, we are
2 still within the jury family. Okay? So everyone be safe.
3 We will see you first thing Monday morning.

4 (Jury leaves open court at 4:08 p.m.)

5 THE COURT: Please be seated. I want to just -- so
6 Mr. Laffitte will have good guidance here, the rule is once
7 someone is on the witness stand, their lawyers cannot talk to
8 them. So you are on your own. I'm sure you are not going to
9 mind too much not talking to your lawyers this weekend. And
10 you will probably be glad to be ordered not to do that. And
11 so he will resume Monday morning. And over the weekend, we
12 won't have any conversations with him. Any other matters I
13 need to address?

14 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Nothing from the Government, Your
15 Honor.

16 THE COURT: From the defense.

17 MR. DANIEL: Nothing from the defense, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Get good rest. We will see you Monday
19 in the morning.

20 (Whereupon, a weekend recess takes place.)

21 (Whereupon, the jury returns to open court at 9:31
22 a.m. on November 20th, 2022.)

23 THE COURT: Please be seated. While I had the
24 observation last Monday, you look a lot more rested and you
25 look a lot more rested this Monday. You know, a lot of

1 people think that lawyers sit over here, and judges, and it's
2 just sort of a piece of cake, you just sit around and listen
3 to people. But this takes a lot of work and concentration.
4 And your brain bandwidth is just about exhausted by the end
5 of every day. I want to thank you. I'm watching you. You
6 folks are paying attention, and the parties couldn't ask for
7 any more than that. Mr. Laffitte, return to the witness
8 stand for cross-examination.

9 CROSS-EXAMINATION

10 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

11 Q. Mr. Laffitte, you testified that it was Alex's idea
12 to take the loans from Hannah Plyler's conservatorship
13 account; is that correct?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. But, in fact, you took the first loan for \$225,000
16 from Hannah's account, didn't you?

17 A. That is correct.

18 Q. That was more than two months before Alex took any
19 loans from Hannah's account; is that right?

20 A. Yes, ma'am.

21 Q. You testified under oath back on September 6th of
22 this year; is that right?

23 A. What would that have been?

24 Q. The bond hearing. You testified under oath at your
25 bond hearing; is that right?

1 A. I did testify at the bond hearing.

2 Q. And at that time you testified that you did not
3 remember why you needed that loan or how you spent it, right?

4 A. Yes, ma'am, but since then I've researched it and we
5 went through it earlier from testimony.

6 Q. And the jury has heard how you used that first loan
7 to pay off other loans that you got at an independent bank at
8 a much higher interest rate; is that right?

9 A. That is correct.

10 Q. And after that first loan, you continued to take
11 \$355,000 in loans from Hannah's account, didn't you?

12 A. No, ma'am.

13 Q. How much did you take in loans total?

14 A. I took 255 -- 245,000 or 25,000, whatever the first
15 loan was, the total may have been 355, but I didn't take the
16 first loan and then continue with another \$355,000 in loans.

17 Q. So you took a total of \$355,000 in loans from
18 Hannah's accounts, right?

19 A. I am not exactly sure what the total amount was but
20 I will go with that.

21 Q. And you also testified back during your bond hearing
22 that all the loans were timely paid back with interest,
23 didn't you?

24 A. They were all paid back with interest, yes, ma'am.

25 Q. Well, you testified on Friday that you didn't

1 dispute the accuracy or the authentication of any of the
2 documents the jury has seen during this trial, right?

3 A. I'm not sure.

4 Q. And those include the records that Ms. Swinson
5 testified extensively about, the jury has seen those records,
6 didn't they?

7 A. Which records are we talking about now?

8 Q. All the records of your loan repayments without
9 interest that was due because of your backdating and late
10 payments of those loans?

11 A. All the interest was paid. Interest was done daily.
12 So if interest is paid through the date of the check and if
13 the date of the check was -- just make up a date, because I'm
14 not sure, January 4th, you could continue to pay interest
15 until it's paid off.

16 Q. And you didn't deposit those checks until sometimes
17 more than a year after those loans were due, right?

18 A. I'm not sure when I deposited them exactly, but I
19 saw what y'all said, yes, ma'am.

20 Q. And you never paid Hannah a 5 percent late fee that
21 she was owed under the promissory note that you drafted?

22 A. We did not pay any late fees, no, ma'am.

23 Q. And when it came time to pay Hannah back these
24 loans, you didn't use any of your income to pay them back,
25 did you?

1 A. No, ma'am, I did use my income.

2 Q. You used the PR fee you got from Arthur Badger,
3 right?

4 A. That is income.

5 Q. You didn't report that fee as income back in 2012,
6 did you?

7 A. No, ma'am, but I have since amended all my tax
8 returns and that was income to me. And not only that, I also
9 tried to pay the Arthur Badger fee. It's been paid back.
10 And the other fee to Natasha Thomas and Hakeem Pinkney, I
11 tried to pay the bank back and they returned it.

12 Q. You didn't report the \$35,000 fee as income on your
13 tax returns until 2021, after all this conduct had gotten
14 uncovered; is that right?

15 A. That is correct. I've amended several years' tax
16 returns.

17 Q. And you didn't pay taxes on the \$60,000 you took
18 from Hakeem Pinkney either, did you?

19 A. Yes, ma'am. I did pay taxes in 2021 on it.

20 Q. You did not pay taxes on the fee from Hakeem Pinkney
21 back in 2012, did you?

22 A. No, ma'am, I did not. I paid them in 2021 when I
23 amended all of my tax returns.

24 Q. And you didn't pay taxes back in 2012 on the \$15,000
25 that you took from Natasha Thomas either, did you?

1 A. No, ma'am. I paid taxes in 2021 when I amended my
2 tax returns.

3 Q. It wasn't until you had been confronted by the FBI,
4 by SLED, and by your bank that you went back and amended your
5 tax returns to pay taxes on the income you took from these
6 victims; is that right?

7 A. What's the question?

8 Q. It wasn't until after you had been confronted with
9 the FBI and SLED and the bank that you amended your tax
10 returns; is that right?

11 A. No, ma'am. I amended my tax returns after speaking
12 with my accountant. And we made a decision. And I called
13 him and I told him, I said, look, I did not claim all of this
14 income. And it was roughly, to be exact, it was roughly
15 \$45,000 and some change that I did not claim. And I said,
16 look, with everything going on, we need to redo my taxes.
17 And we went back and amended all of my tax returns.

18 Q. So back when you owed Hannah on all those loans, you
19 used that \$35,000 PR fee, right?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. And you used the \$60,000 conservator fee from Hakeem
22 Pinkney; is that correct?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. And then you credited yourself what you said you
25 were owed in conservator fees from Hannah, right?

1 A. Yes, ma'am.

2 Q. And then you took a private loan from Johnnie
3 Parker?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. And you are still paying on that loan to Johnnie
6 Parker today?

7 A. I am.

8 Q. Again, you testified that this was all Alex's idea.
9 But more than two months after you took your first loan, you
10 extended Alex his first loan, right?

11 A. Alex came to me and asked if he could do a loan. I
12 went over to the probate judge's office and asked the probate
13 judge. Alex did not come back to get a loan for several
14 months. And then that -- during that time I did the first
15 loan.

16 Q. And after that first loan to Alex, you proceeded to
17 extend him over \$960,000 in loans from Hannah's account,
18 total, over \$960,000 of unsecured loans that you gave Alex
19 Murdaugh from Hannah's account; is that right?

20 A. I am not exactly sure of the exact total, but we did
21 many loans that were all unsecured and they were all paid
22 back with interest.

23 Q. And every time Alex was overdrafted on his accounts,
24 wasn't he?

25 A. I don't know that.

1 Q. You received a report every morning when Alex was in
2 overdraft, didn't you?

3 A. I did.

4 Q. And you would access his account records yourself
5 and see that Alex was in overdraft and needed a deposit,
6 didn't you?

7 A. I would see the report. It's called nonsufficient
8 or nonposted transactions every morning. And we would go
9 through it. Shows all the branches. Yes, Alex was on there
10 many, many times, as you've heard over and over and over.
11 But I can't say for a fact that every time we did a loan Alex
12 was overdrafted. I am not saying he wasn't, but I can't say
13 for a fact that he was.

14 Q. But you would access his accounts when he was in
15 overdraft and transfer money from Hannah's conservatorship
16 account to cover that overdraft, didn't you?

17 A. Sometimes if we had talked and then he needed a
18 loan, yes, ma'am, but not all the time. A lot of time it
19 came from credit lines. A lot of time it came from his other
20 checking account.

21 Q. You were always in there trying to make his accounts
22 right, weren't you?

23 A. I'm not sure what the question is there.

24 Q. You were the one in Alex's accounts trying to make
25 them right, weren't you?

1 A. What do you mean, make them right?

2 Q. You said from credit lines from his other accounts,
3 from Hannah's accounts, you were in there trying to manage
4 Alex's accounts and keep them out of overdraft, right?

5 A. I wouldn't say I tried to manage it. We were always
6 watching overdrafts. Overdrafts to the banks are loans,
7 unsecured loans, any way you look at it. And we always, you
8 know, somebody is in overdraft, we would contact them and
9 say, hey, we need a deposit. And he would either say, you
10 know, get it from a credit line or transfer it from my other
11 accounts or whatever.

12 Q. Could we pull up Government's Exhibit 187, please.
13 If you could just zoom in on the records. So this shows that
14 on February the 12th of 2013, you were in Alex's accounts
15 making an inquiry; is that right?

16 A. That's what it looks like, yes, ma'am.

17 Q. And then later you would transfer \$10,000 to that
18 account; is that right?

19 A. It was one minute later. It was all at the same
20 time.

21 Q. Because you were in the account checking to see that
22 he was in overdraft and transferring the money to make it
23 right, weren't you?

24 A. On February the 12th, 2013, I was, yes, ma'am.

25 Q. Go to the next page, please. If you could do the

1 same thing, Ms. Rozsa. And, again, on March the 28th of
2 2014, you are in there checking Alex's accounts, and then you
3 transferred \$75,000; isn't that right?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. And we have records from every single time you
6 loaned Alex money from Hannah's accounts showing the exact
7 same thing? You dispute that these records are accurate and
8 authentic as you testified on Friday?

9 A. No, ma'am, I don't dispute it. I don't know unless
10 I look at each one. I am not privy to these records. When I
11 was at the bank I was, but not now.

12 Q. You saw these records during testimony, haven't you?

13 A. Not every one for every loan, but I will take your
14 word for it.

15 Q. And none of the loans that you extended Alex were
16 secured, were they?

17 A. No, ma'am, they were all unsecured.

18 Q. If we could pull up Government's Exhibit 190,
19 please. For the next three years, you continue to loan Alex
20 unsecured loans to cover his overdraft from Hannah's account,
21 didn't you?

22 A. I loaned him unsecured. He requested it, I would
23 loan it to him unsecured, yes, ma'am.

24 Q. And as this chart shows, Government's Exhibit 190,
25 when you would loan him money, he was in overdraft; is that

1 right?

2 A. I didn't make this chart. I'm going to assume that
3 it is correct. Yes, ma'am.

4 Q. Well, as you testified, the records are accurate and
5 authentic; is that right?

6 A. I'm going to assume it is correct, yes, ma'am.

7 Q. We are going to talk about how Alex periodically
8 paid these loans back. But first let's talk about the
9 \$500,000 line of credit. So in 2015, Hannah was turning 18,
10 right?

11 A. Yes, ma'am.

12 Q. And you and Alex both had to pay your loans to
13 Hannah back, right?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. And in February of 2015, Alex was in overdraft yet
16 again, wasn't he? Pull up Government's Exhibit 161, February
17 2015 records. February 2015, Alex is \$85,000 in overdraft;
18 is that right?

19 A. Yes, ma'am, on the 19th he was.

20 Q. And you know that he doesn't get paid until
21 September. So there's no way he can pay Hannah back, right?

22 A. I don't have any idea. I know when he gets paid.
23 He gets paid every other week just like everybody else.

24 Q. Not \$85,000, does he?

25 A. No, ma'am. But he gets his big bonus check in the

1 last week of December, the 1st week of January, somewhere
2 right in there, but he also could have been selling some
3 property. I don't know what he's doing.

4 Q. In February of 2015, so that he could pay Hannah
5 back, you extended him a line of credit for purpose of
6 farming, didn't you?

7 A. We did a line of credit. And it did have a purpose
8 of farming, yes, ma'am.

9 Q. And you gave him an advance?

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. Of \$284,787.52 knowing that those funds were not
12 used for farming, didn't you?

13 A. We did do an advance of 284,000 and some change to
14 pay off the loan of Hannah Plyler. But did you do the
15 research to see that all the other checks that caused the
16 overdraft and caused the -- what they were used for?

17 Q. The \$284,787.52 went to Hannah Plyler, didn't it?

18 A. Yes, ma'am.

19 Q. Hannah Plyler has nothing to do with farming, does
20 she?

21 A. But the money that he borrowed from Hannah, any of
22 that used for farming?

23 Q. Was the \$284,787.52 used for farming?

24 A. It was used to pay Hannah Plyler.

25 Q. That's right. If we could pull up Government's

1 Exhibit 57. And on February the 20th -- we've seen that he's
2 \$85,000 in overdraft on February 19th, right? And on
3 February 20th, you e-mail Alex and you say, these are the
4 loans outstanding. I have advanced \$284,787.52 from your
5 credit line to pay these off. She turns 18 and I am closing
6 the conservatorship account. Is that right?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. If we could pull up Government's Exhibit 201, page
9 40, please. And if you could just zoom on the lines 4
10 through 9. Your Honor, the Government moves to admit Exhibit
11 201. It's his testimony from the September 6th bond hearing.

12 THE COURT: Is there an objection?

13 MR. AUSTIN: Your Honor, we would object to entering
14 it into the record at this point. It's fine to use to
15 refresh his recollection but, no.

16 THE COURT: It's not hearsay.

17 MS. LIMEHOUSE: That's correct. It's a statement of
18 a party opponent.

19 THE COURT: By a party opponent. Overruled. What's
20 the number?

21 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Government's Exhibit 201.

22 THE COURT: Government's Exhibit 201 is admitted.

23 (Exhibit is received in evidence.)

24 Q. If you would pull up page 40. When I asked you
25 about this \$500,000 line of credit, I asked, so you state

1 that it's for farming even though you know he's going to
2 spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to pay off loans to
3 Hannah Plyler. And you responded, yes, ma'am. And I said,
4 and you knew that when the loan was extended, and you said, I
5 didn't know whether he was going to do that or not but I was
6 assuming that, yes, I was.

7 If we can go back to Government's Exhibit 57. You
8 did know that he was going to do it because you are the one
9 who did it for him, didn't you?

10 A. I did. But I didn't know on the 500,000 whether he
11 was going to use money for farming or exactly what he was
12 going to do.

13 Q. You knew he was going to spend the \$284,787.52
14 because you spent that money for him?

15 A. I didn't spend the money for him. I transferred the
16 money to pay off the loan.

17 Q. That's right. If we could pull up the top portion,
18 Alex's response. Alex responds to you three days later,
19 February 23rd: Please hold off on this until I return and
20 can meet with you. Hard to follow all this on my phone.

21 Alex is relying on you to figure out how much he
22 owes on his loans and get those paid back, isn't he?

23 A. Yes, ma'am, because I'm the one that knows how much
24 the payoffs are.

25 MS. LIMEHOUSE: If we could pull up Government's

1 Exhibit 58, please.

2 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

3 Q. The following month, Alex e-mails you and says, I
4 need to do whatever we have to do to activate my full credit
5 line. I didn't quite understand what you were saying, but I
6 took it that there was something else that needed to be done.
7 I had not figured the payoff for Hannah and the other loan
8 when I was planning. When we paid those, it took most of the
9 partial line you activated. I need to do it fairly quickly
10 too. There are two pieces of equipment I need for planting.
11 Thanks. And I will call after I speak to Mark.

12 Alex didn't even know that you were going to use the
13 farming line of credit to pay Hannah's loans back, did he?

14 A. I have no idea what Alex knew.

15 Q. According to this e-mail, Alex said, I had not
16 figured the payoff for Hannah and the other loan when I was
17 planning, did he?

18 A. According to the e-mail, but --

19 Q. According to Exhibit 57, the prior e-mail, you
20 notified him that you made that advance and used that to pay
21 off Hannah's loans, didn't you?

22 A. I did notify him.

23 Q. Let's talk about how Alex paid these loans off
24 periodically. Alex used settlement proceeds from Natasha
25 Thomas, Hakeem Pinkney, and Arthur Badger to pay off these

1 loans, didn't he?

2 A. Not just them, but, yes, he did use them.

3 Q. And you've testified that you negotiated every
4 single one of these checks and money orders from the Badger,
5 Pinckney and Thomas funds, didn't you?

6 A. I negotiated every one except the two to Bank of
7 America. I did not touch those.

8 Q. And the remaining checks you negotiated every single
9 check; is that right?

10 A. To the best of my knowledge, that is correct,
11 unknowingly that they were stolen.

12 Q. Let's talk about Hakeem Pinkney and Natasha Thomas.
13 You spent a considerable amount of time on Friday reviewing
14 the accounts and the records that you filed with the probate
15 court regarding your management of Hannah and Alania's
16 conservatorship accounts, didn't you?

17 A. Yes, ma'am.

18 Q. You showed a lot of those records to the jury,
19 didn't you?

20 A. Yes, ma'am, I guess.

21 Q. And you testified how you meticulously tracked and
22 managed those funds properly, didn't you?

23 A. I did track and manage them properly, yes, ma'am.

24 Q. You didn't do any of that for Hakeem Pinkney or
25 Natasha Thomas?

1 A. I never received any funds to track or manage.

2 Q. You didn't manage any money for Hakeem Pinkney or
3 Natasha Thomas, did you?

4 A. I never received any money to manage.

5 Q. So you were appointed to serve as Hakeem and Natasha
6 Thomas's conservator back in September 2010; is that right?

7 A. That's what the appointment says. I was appointed
8 to serve as their conservator, yes, ma'am.

9 Q. According to that petition for Natasha Thomas, which
10 you reviewed with the jury on Friday, there was an incorrect
11 birth date for Ms. Thomas; is that right?

12 A. That is correct.

13 Q. And you signed that petition, right?

14 A. Absolutely did.

15 Q. And you verified on that petition that her
16 birthday -- her birth, excuse me, her age was 15; is that
17 right?

18 A. Yes, ma'am. We went through this at the bond
19 hearing. And I told you I had not checked his driver's
20 license or ID, and I did not fill out that form. That was
21 filled out by our attorneys, Alex Murdaugh and PMPED. But I
22 did sign the verification.

23 Q. According to that petition, Natasha was 15, correct?

24 A. According to the petition.

25 Q. Two months after you signed the documents verifying

1 that she was 15 years old, you gave her a loan, didn't you?

2 A. Yes, ma'am, we did a lawyer loan, I believe, for
3 her.

4 Q. And at the time, she was 18 years old, wasn't she?

5 A. She had to have been to get a loan.

6 Q. That's right. In your own words, you can't enter
7 into a contract unless you are 18?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. And Ms. Thomas signed those loan documents herself,
10 didn't she?

11 A. Yes, ma'am.

12 Q. She didn't need a conservator, did she? She was
13 over 18 years old?

14 A. Not at that time, she did not.

15 Q. That's right. You testified on Friday that you did
16 not know that Hakeem Pinkney died?

17 A. No, I knew he died. I don't know the date that he
18 died.

19 Q. But you knew he died?

20 A. Yes, ma'am.

21 Q. Let's pull up Government's Exhibit 111. You heard
22 Ms. Thomas testify that Hakeem passed away October 11th,
23 2011; is that right?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. And on that day, you received an e-mail from Alex,

1 subject line: Pinckney, please call me, 911; didn't you?

2 A. Yes, ma'am, that's what it shows.

3 Q. But the settlement and the release were not actually
4 signed until November of that year; is that right?

5 A. I'm not sure.

6 Q. Pull up Government's Exhibit 213, the last page,
7 please.

8 A. I signed it 8th day of November.

9 Q. 8th day of November. So almost a month after Hakeem
10 died, you signed a release on his behalf as his conservator?

11 A. I did. And I guess we should have signed as a PR.

12 Q. You weren't the PR for Hakeem Pinkney. You were the
13 conservator?

14 A. I understand that, but it should have changed over
15 to PR.

16 Q. Hakeem Pinkney was dead, wasn't he?

17 A. He was.

18 Q. And he didn't need a conservator, did he?

19 A. No, ma'am.

20 Q. You signed the release on Natasha Thomas's behalf on
21 November the 7th, 2011; is that right?

22 A. I'm going to assume that's correct.

23 Q. At the time Natasha was 19 years old and she didn't
24 need a conservator, did she?

25 A. No, ma'am.

1 Q. Let's look at those disbursement sheets. If you
2 could pull up Government's Exhibit 20 and 22. These are your
3 signatures on both Natasha Thomas and Hakeem Pinkney's
4 disbursement sheets, right?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. And they are not dated, are they?

7 A. No, ma'am.

8 Q. But you, as their conservator, had a duty to protect
9 your funds -- their funds, didn't you?

10 A. When I received them, absolutely, yes, ma'am.

11 Q. If we could go to the first page, side-by-side,
12 please. And those disbursement sheets that you signed
13 indicated that Natasha Thomas to Palmetto State would be
14 getting \$325,000, and that Hakeem -- excuse me, Palmetto
15 State Bank would be getting \$309,581.46; is that right?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. And these disbursement sheets that you signed also
18 show that you were going to be getting \$15,000 in a
19 conservator fee from Natasha and \$60,000 in a conservator fee
20 from Hakeem; is that right?

21 A. That is correct. When these disbursement sheets
22 would come over from the attorney, they would be flipped over
23 just like we talked about Friday, about how they would just
24 have it marked where you sign. I should have looked at them
25 closer. I didn't. And that was my mistake.

1 Q. You are getting paid \$75,000 to protect these funds,
2 aren't you?

3 A. I was, yes, ma'am, but I never received any funds to
4 protect.

5 Q. Let's talk about those funds. If you could pull up
6 20 and 32 side-by-side, please. December 20th, 2011,
7 \$325,000 check to Palmetto State Bank that indicates it's
8 settlement proceeds for Natasha Thomas, corresponds exactly
9 to the amount on Ms. Thomas's disbursement sheet that you
10 signed; isn't that right?

11 A. It does. But Palmetto State Bank was not the
12 conservator. If those checks would have been made to Russell
13 Laffitte as conservator, those funds would have been sitting
14 in that bank to this day or whenever she wanted the money.

15 Q. If you could do a side-by-side with Government's
16 Exhibit 22 and 34. And, again, December 20th, 2011, Palmetto
17 State Bank check, settlement proceeds for Hakeem Pinkney,
18 corresponding to the exact same amount on his disbursement
19 sheet; is that right?

20 A. That is correct. And just like I said before,
21 Palmetto State Bank was not the conservator. That is how Mr.
22 Murdaugh, I believe, would start the thefts, because he knew
23 if a check came in, Palmetto State Bank would not have paid
24 as much attention. But if it came in as Russell Laffitte as
25 conservator, the funds would have been sitting in an account.

1 Q. We will talk about how those checks were drafted in
2 a minute. But let's go to December 20th, the date of both of
3 these checks, Exhibit 48. On that day, Alex e-mails you and
4 says, can you call me, doesn't he?

5 A. It looks like it, yes, ma'am.

6 Q. And the following day, Alex gives you those two
7 checks for 309,000 and some change and \$325,000 and change
8 and you issue money orders at his direction for people
9 totaling unrelated to Hakeem Pinkney and Natasha Thomas,
10 don't you?

11 A. I do.

12 Q. If we could pull up Government's Exhibit 35 --
13 excuse me, 30. 29. No, you were right, 35. So those money
14 orders you issue all on the same day, December 21st, the day
15 after he asks you to call him, \$10,000 to Margaret Murdaugh;
16 is that right?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. Next one, please. \$9,500 to cash; is that right?

19 A. Yes, ma'am.

20 Q. That's just a little under the reporting requirement
21 of \$10,000, isn't it?

22 A. Yes, ma'am.

23 Q. Next one, please. Over \$1,000 to Murdaugh Charters.
24 Next one, please. \$100,000 to your father, Charlie Laffitte.
25 Next one, please. This is the \$100,000 check that you signed

1 to your father from Hakeem Pinkney and Natasha Thomas
2 settlement funds, isn't it?

3 A. Yes, ma'am, it is the \$100,000 check; however, I did
4 not know it was Hakeem Pinkney and Natasha Thomas's
5 settlement fund.

6 Q. You also negotiated thousands of dollars in funds to
7 pay off Alex's unsecured loans from Hannah Plyler, didn't
8 you?

9 A. Yes, ma'am. And same thing, I did not know they
10 were stolen funds.

11 Q. You were the CEO of the Palmetto State Bank before
12 you were fired; is that right?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. And you signed disbursement sheets showing that
15 \$634,000 was going to be coming to the Palmetto State Bank?

16 A. I was not CEO back then. But I did sign the
17 disbursement sheets that, absolutely. I wish I had seen it,
18 but I didn't. And I did not recognize those were stolen
19 funds, because that's why I turned in zeros on both of the
20 conservatorships to the probate judge because we had not
21 received any funds to the probate.

22 Q. You had a duty to protect Hakeem Pinkney and Natasha
23 Thomas's funds, didn't you?

24 A. I did.

25 Q. Let's talk about what was going on with Alex's

1 finances in November and December of 2011 when you negotiated
2 \$634,000 in money orders for him. So Government's Exhibit
3 45, please. In early November, you e-mailed Alex explaining
4 how you were going to charge off 0 United and Red Beard to
5 comply with the FDIC, but that they had to be renewed; is
6 that right, and he was going to have to pay the loan renewal?

7 A. We needed to get it renewed so we could set it up on
8 a payment plan. We were setting it up on, as it says,
9 amortization three-year balloon.

10 Q. Y'all commonly referred to these properties as
11 Berkeley County properties, didn't you?

12 A. I referred to them as Red Beard and 0 United.

13 Q. Let's go to Government's Exhibit 46, Please. Two
14 weeks later, on November 14th, Alex e-mails you and says,
15 when can you meet with me to talk about the Berkeley prop
16 loans; is that right?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. Exhibit 47, please. And on December the 9th, you
19 e-mail him and say, are your partners coming up with the
20 money for the renewal? I need to do it before the end of the
21 year.

22 And Alex responds on December 12th, no, but I will
23 pay it. When we talk, I will remind you what we discussed.

24 So this is December 12th, eight days before the
25 Pinckney and Thomas checks are dated; is that right?

1 A. I think -- was the date 20th or 21st? But very
2 close to the same day, yes, ma'am.

3 Q. Exhibit 48 again, please. And on December 20th, as
4 the jury has seen, Alex e-mails you and asks you to call him,
5 doesn't he?

6 A. He did.

7 Q. If you could pull up 32 and 34 side-by-side. And as
8 the jury has seen with these checks, the same day of that,
9 can you call me, e-mail -- those checks are drafted to
10 Palmetto State Bank; is that right?

11 A. Yes, ma'am.

12 Q. If you could pull up Government's Exhibit 36. And
13 the following day, you negotiated every single one of those
14 money orders, didn't you?

15 A. I did.

16 Q. He comes to the bank with over \$634,000, owing the
17 bank hundreds of thousands of dollars, and you send them this
18 way rather than pay the bank off, didn't you?

19 A. I'm a little confused.

20 Q. When Alex comes to the bank with over \$634,000, you
21 do all this with that money, rather than pay off all the
22 banks and loans, didn't you?

23 A. I did as my customer directed. He was an authorized
24 signer on that check. He was authorized to be able to direct
25 how this money is spent, made to Palmetto State Bank, which

1 was properly written. I wish I had recognized that they were
2 stolen funds. I did these as the customer directed and --
3 yes, ma'am.

4 Q. Alex had been banking at Palmetto State Bank for
5 decades as you testified, is that right?

6 A. I believe since 1987, yes, ma'am.

7 Q. And the other partners at the law firm had also been
8 banking at the bank for decades; isn't that right?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. And as you've testified, community banking, know
11 your customer, right?

12 A. Yes, ma'am.

13 Q. They all got paid at the end of the year, right?
14 The partners all get paid at the end of the year?

15 A. Yes, ma'am.

16 Q. Alex comes in in December with \$634,000 in checks,
17 and you know it's not his bonus checks, don't you?

18 A. Ma'am, when he comes in, I don't sit there and study
19 each and every one of these checks. I looked that they were
20 made out to Palmetto State Bank. If he's running money
21 orders or if he's paying a loan that's made to Palmetto State
22 Bank -- and, you know, I didn't recognize that they were
23 stolen funds.

24 Q. You knew it wasn't his bonus checks, though, didn't
25 you?

1 A. I didn't say it ever was his bonus check. I mean,
2 he could have sold property. He could have borrowed money
3 from the law firm. He could have done numerous things to get
4 money.

5 Q. That check was drawn on Palmetto State Bank's --
6 excuse me, the law firm's client trust account, wasn't it?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. If we could pull up Government's Exhibit 49, please.
9 Six days after you negotiated all these money orders, you
10 e-mail him: When are you going to do Red Beard and 0 United?
11 And he responds, as soon as we get our bonus checks. Is that
12 right?

13 A. Yes, ma'am.

14 Q. If we could pull up Government's Exhibit 49A. And
15 on December 30th, he finally comes into the bank to pay off
16 all the loans that he owes you; is that right?

17 A. I'm not sure what day he came in.

18 Q. If we could pull up Government's Exhibit 161, the
19 2011 records. So on December 30th, Alex comes in with his
20 bonus check and he pays off 0 United, and Red Beard, the
21 Edisto loan, the house loan, his house in Littleton. He
22 negotiates his bonus check to pay off all the bank's loans,
23 is that right?

24 A. That's what it looks like, yes, ma'am.

25 Q. So after you issued all of the money orders from the

1 \$634,000 from the checks, you file documents with the probate
2 court indicating that there were no funds in the
3 conservatorship account, didn't you?

4 A. That's right. I never received any funds for the
5 conservatorship accounts.

6 Q. You received checks totaling the exact same amount
7 from those disbursement sheets, didn't you?

8 A. I did receive those checks. And at the -- what do
9 you call it? -- at the direction of my attorney, which I did
10 not recognize those checks for what they were, and at the
11 direction of my attorney, I cut them into other things.

12 Q. At the direction of your attorney?

13 A. Yes, ma'am. He was the attorney for the clients so,
14 yes, ma'am.

15 Q. If you didn't know that the funds belonged to
16 Natasha Thomas and Hakeem Pinkney --

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. -- then how were you relying on him as their
19 attorney at the time?

20 A. I didn't say I was relying on him as their attorney
21 at the time. I'm relying on what I learned now and what I've
22 learned over the last year going through this research and
23 everything else. I mean, we could go through this until next
24 year and I'm still not going to know that those were their
25 funds.

1 Q. You just testified that when your attorney came in,
2 you relied on him to negotiate those checks?

3 A. Yes, ma'am.

4 Q. Because as their conservator, he was your attorney,
5 that was your testimony; is that right?

6 A. I relied on him to negotiate those checks. He told
7 me, I need -- here are these two checks, I need this, this,
8 this, and I did that, yes, ma'am.

9 Q. You can't be relying on him as the conservator
10 unless you know that those funds belonged to Natasha Thomas
11 and Hakeem Pinkney; isn't that right?

12 A. Well, I guess I misspoke. I'm sorry. I was not
13 relying on him as my attorney. I was relying on him as an
14 attorney for PMPED, who I've known for decades, actually, my
15 whole life, we've done numerous business transactions with,
16 loaned millions of dollars, and when he brought in \$634,000
17 worth of checks, I didn't recognize them --

18 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Your Honor, can you, please,
19 instruct the witness to answer the question.

20 THE COURT: Ask him the next question.

21 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

22 Q. The same filings that you filed with the probate
23 court stating that there were no funds in the conservatorship
24 accounts, you requested that the court discharge you from
25 your duties as their conservator, didn't you?

1 A. That's correct, because there was no money in the
2 conservator accounts.

3 Q. Let's talk about that \$25,000 that Natasha Thomas
4 was supposed to receive from that second disbursement sheet.
5 If we could pull up Government's Exhibit 198 at slide 9,
6 please. Alex presented you with a check for \$25,245.08; is
7 that correct?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. On August 29th, you split up this check into a
10 \$16,245.08 money order, and you allowed Alex to cash out
11 \$9,000; isn't that right?

12 A. Yes, ma'am.

13 Q. And then he comes back to you the next day with that
14 \$16,000, money order, and you break it up for him to a
15 \$7,245.08 money order and \$9,000 cash back; isn't that right?

16 A. I signed the money order. That's correct, yes,
17 ma'am.

18 Q. As you have admitted under oath on September 6th,
19 this is structuring, isn't it?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. If we could pull up Government's Exhibit 214. If
22 you could zoom in on the middle two, please. You just
23 testified that because the Pinckney/Thomas checks were made
24 out to Palmetto State Bank, you had no idea that those funds
25 belonged to Hakeem Pinkney and Natasha Thomas; isn't that

1 right?

2 A. That is absolutely correct.

3 Q. That's exactly how your fee checks were drafted?

4 A. That is exactly right. And these checks would be
5 delivered by a runner in an envelope and say, here are your
6 conservator fees. So I knew they were my conservator fees
7 because that's what they told me.

8 Q. The memo lines on those checks show that they are
9 your conservator fee for Natasha Thomas and your conservator
10 fee for Hakeem Pinkney, don't they?

11 A. Yes, ma'am, it does.

12 Q. In the exact same way that Hakeem Pinkney and
13 Natasha Thomas's settlement proceeds were negotiated?

14 A. The difference is, I was expecting these two checks
15 because I was told that's what I was getting paid. They hand
16 delivered them over to me, the runner or Alex, and they said,
17 here's your conservator checks. So I knew that's what the
18 check was versus the \$634,000.

19 Q. And you turned the \$60,000 around and used it to pay
20 off your loans from Hannah Plyler; is that right?

21 A. Yes, ma'am.

22 Q. Hakeem is dead at this time, isn't he?

23 A. That's correct, I believe.

24 Q. Natasha Thomas is 19 years old?

25 A. Yes, ma'am.

1 Q. They don't need a conservator, do they?

2 A. They do not at this point in time, no, ma'am.

3 Q. And they don't need to pay you \$75,000, do they?

4 A. They would have paid me that because that was done
5 through the circuit court. So, I mean, that was already
6 settled at that point.

7 Q. And they didn't need a conservator?

8 A. No, ma'am, they did not need a conservator in
9 January.

10 Q. Let's talk about Mr. Badger.

11 MS. LIMEHOUSE: The Government moves to admit
12 Exhibit 199, Your Honor. It's sworn testimony from the
13 defendant during a deposition in February of 2022.

14 THE COURT: Is there an objection?

15 MR. AUSTIN: No, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Very good. Defendant's Exhibit 199 is
17 admitted without objection.

18 (Government's Exhibit 199 is received in
19 evidence.)

20 Q. You can make 51 large, please. You were asked
21 during that deposition: And for whom have you served as a
22 personal representative?

23 And you stated: I was the PR for Donna Badger.

24 And you were asked: What did you do in that role?

25 And your response was: Really didn't do a whole

1 lot.

2 Let's pull up -- let's talk about Arthur Badger's
3 disbursement sheet. You testified on Friday that you never
4 saw Arthur Badger's disbursement sheet.

5 A. I know I saw Arthur Badger's disbursement sheet when
6 we were doing research. Other than that, I don't know when I
7 saw that thing. I didn't sign it.

8 Q. Government's Exhibit 201, please, page 55. You
9 testified under oath on September 6th that you did see Arthur
10 Badger's disbursement sheet, didn't you? I asked whether you
11 had a duty to protect her funds. And you said: I had a duty
12 to protect her. And I said: And those funds, correct? And
13 you said: I never received the funds.

14 A. That's correct, I never received the funds.

15 Q. And then I said: You saw the disbursement sheet
16 that you were supposed to receive 1.325 million to manage a
17 structure per the client's request. And you said that's
18 correct?

19 A. That is correct. I saw it during -- when we were
20 doing research and everywhere else.

21 Q. You testified --

22 A. I did.

23 Q. -- on November 6th that you saw the disbursement
24 sheet. And the statement under oath on September 6th was
25 consistent with what you told the FBI back in February,

1 wasn't it?

2 A. I have no idea. But I am not saying I didn't see
3 the disbursement sheet. I'm just saying I'm not sure when I
4 saw the disbursement sheet. We have seen so many records.
5 It's all about when -- you know, whether we remembered or we
6 learned it, I'm not sure.

7 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Your Honor, please instruct him to
8 answer the question.

9 MR. AUSTIN: Let him finish his answers.

10 THE COURT: Ask your next question. Be responsive.

11 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

12 Q. You told the FBI back in February that you saw
13 Arthur Badger's disbursement sheet at the time the settlement
14 was reached, didn't you?

15 A. I don't recall that.

16 Q. Let's pull up Government's Exhibit 23, please, page
17 2. You just testified that you did not sign Arthur Badger's
18 disbursement sheet; is that right?

19 A. This one I definitely didn't. I don't recall
20 signing it. I mean, if I did, I have no idea when I would
21 have or why I would because I was not a PR for Arthur Badger.

22 Q. Arthur signs that disbursement sheet on November
23 12th, 2012; is that right?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. If we could do a side-by-side with that page and

1 Government's Exhibit 27, please. On that same day, November
2 the 19th, 2012, Alex notifies his paralegal that he has a
3 short meeting at the bank. Do you see that?

4 A. Yes, ma'am, I do.

5 Q. If we could pull up Government's Exhibit 119. The
6 next day, November 20th, you receive your \$35,000 personal
7 representative fee from Arthur Badger; isn't that right?

8 A. That is correct.

9 Q. If you could go back to the first page of
10 Government's Exhibit 23, please. And that's the \$35,000 that
11 was indicated on Arthur Badger's disbursement sheet, wasn't
12 it?

13 A. That is correct. And that was in the wrong place.
14 It should have been on Donna's. I'm not sure why it was on
15 Arthur Badger's.

16 Q. You get that check one day after Arthur signed his
17 disbursement sheet, didn't you?

18 A. Yes, ma'am, it looks like that way.

19 Q. On the following day, November 21st, you turned that
20 \$35,000 check around and you use it to pay off Hannah Plyler,
21 didn't you?

22 A. Yes, ma'am.

23 Q. Let's pull up Government's Exhibit 37 and 38
24 side-by-side, please. The jury has seen these e-mails many
25 times. In February of 2013, Alex e-mails you and asks that

1 you e-mail him and get the check dated 11/19/2012 for 1.325
2 million to be re-cut as listed above; is that right?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. And that's the exact same amount that was going to
5 Palmetto State Bank according to the disbursement sheet,
6 isn't it?

7 A. Yes, ma'am, now we do know that.

8 Q. And then you do the math for Alex, don't you?

9 A. I do.

10 Q. You didn't ask him any questions about this check,
11 did you?

12 A. I didn't know what it was. You know, he asked me to
13 e-mail him, I e-mailed him. I mean, he needed the 151.
14 There was no way he could get that, so I e-mailed it to him.

15 Q. In a separate e-mail chain, didn't you?

16 A. I don't know why it was in a separate e-mail chain.
17 I can type just as fast as I can write, so I just clicked
18 e-mail and typed it out to him.

19 Q. Rather than press "reply", you send a new e-mail
20 chain to Alex, didn't you?

21 A. I did. I mean, it's obvious.

22 Q. You didn't even call your sister-in-law, who is the
23 accountant at the law firm, to ask anything about these
24 checks, did you?

25 A. Why would I?

1 Q. If you didn't know what the check was for, you
2 didn't ask Alex and you didn't ask anybody else about this
3 check, did you?

4 A. I don't know what he's got going on. I mean, if you
5 start calling and questioning every check or every odd
6 request that you get in the bank, you would be doing that all
7 day. But in hindsight, I wish I had.

8 Q. You testified on Friday that you fully cooperated
9 with law enforcement, didn't you?

10 A. I have cooperated.

11 Q. And that you've provided thousands of documents --

12 A. I have.

13 Q. -- to law enforcement?

14 A. I have provided boxes and boxes of documents.

15 Q. And one of the documents that you showed the jury
16 talking about your cooperation is this first e-mail, right?

17 A. That is correct. This is not the one that I
18 provided, though. Mine has writing on it.

19 Q. That's right, yours has notes, right?

20 A. Yes, ma'am.

21 Q. You didn't provide this e-mail in a separate chain
22 to law enforcement, did you?

23 A. That one, no idea. I'm going to assume I did not.

24 Q. The jury has seen dozens of e-mails between you and
25 Alex Murdaugh, haven't they?

1 A. Yes, ma'am, they have.

2 Q. These e-mails were not on the bank's servers, were
3 they?

4 A. I have no idea how you get something on a server or
5 off a server. That's --

6 Q. We got all these e-mails from the law firm, not from
7 you, didn't we?

8 A. You would have to ask Mark Altman that testified
9 earlier. Ma'am, I don't know a thing about computers hardly.

10 Q. So two days after you sent him this separate e-mail
11 that he forwards to law firm staff asking that the Badger
12 checks be re-cut, Alex comes to you with over \$600,000 in
13 checks, doesn't he?

14 A. I'm not sure exactly the dollar amount but he came
15 in with a bunch of checks, yes, ma'am.

16 Q. If we could pull up Government's Exhibit 29, please.
17 This first check dated February 8th of 2013, totaling
18 \$388,687.50 drafted to the Palmetto State Bank with Arthur
19 Badger in the memo line, you negotiated that check to a
20 partner at the law firm, Johnnie Parker; isn't that right?

21 A. I did as my customer requested, yes, ma'am.

22 Q. If we could go to the next page, please. And the
23 next check, two days after your e-mail, February 8th, 2013,
24 \$151,726.05, memo line, Arthur Badger, Palmetto State Bank.
25 Next page, please. You turn that check around and you use it

1 to pay off Alex's unsecured loans from Hannah Plyler; isn't
2 that right?

3 A. I did as the customer requested.

4 Q. Third check he delivered to you on February 8th,
5 2013, Palmetto State Bank, memo line Arthur Badger, \$75,000,
6 you turned around and negotiated to his father, Randolph
7 Murdaugh; isn't that right?

8 A. Yes, ma'am.

9 Q. And later that year, he comes to you with more
10 checks from that original \$1.325 million; isn't that right?

11 A. That is correct, now that we've done the research,
12 but I would have had no way of ever realizing it back then.

13 Q. You negotiated every single one of those checks
14 exactly how he told you to, didn't you?

15 A. The ones that were made to Palmetto State Bank, I
16 absolute did, unbeknownst to me that they were stolen funds,
17 but I did not touch those two checks to Bank of America.

18 Q. If we could pull up Government's Exhibit 50, please.
19 October 22nd, 2013, you e-mail Alex and you say: Need a
20 deposit, thought you were coming in yesterday. Alex
21 responds: Sorry, I forgot. Can you make a loan from Hannah
22 and I will pay it as we discussed.

23 Isn't that right?

24 A. Yes, ma'am, that's what it says.

25 Q. And then on October 23rd, you respond in the same

1 e-mail chain and say: I transferred \$70,000 this morning.

2 Isn't that right?

3 A. Yes, ma'am.

4 Q. And then Alex responds and says: I will come by at
5 some point this week. Out of town today and in the morning,
6 so it will be tomorrow or after Friday.

7 Isn't that right?

8 A. Yes, ma'am.

9 Q. If you could pull up Government's Exhibit 29, pages
10 8 and 9 side-by-side. Five days after you extended that
11 \$70,000 loan on October the 23rd, you turn around money that
12 says it belongs to the estate of Donna Badger to pay off
13 Alex's loans to Hannah Plyler, didn't you?

14 A. Mr. Murdaugh brought in a check made to Palmetto
15 State Bank and wanted it to pay off that loan, so, yes,
16 ma'am, I did do that.

17 Q. You testified that you never saw the memo lines on
18 these checks, so that you don't know where the money was
19 coming from; is that right?

20 A. That's correct. If -- even if I saw them, I would
21 not have paid attention. Memo lines are for the writer of
22 the check, not for the receiver.

23 MS. LIMEHOUSE: If you could pull up Government's
24 Exhibit 29, pages 10 and 11 side-by-side -- excuse me. Do 11
25 and 12.

1 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

2 Q. Not only do the memo lines say the money belongs to
3 the estate of Donna Badger but the deposit slips say Donna
4 Badger as well, don't they?

5 A. It does. And that is not my handwriting.

6 Q. But you negotiated every single one of these
7 transactions according to your sworn testimony, didn't you?

8 A. I wrote that right here. I wrote "for deposit
9 only," and I would have put it with -- handed it to a teller,
10 and what they wrote, they wrote. All of this is not my
11 handwriting.

12 Q. So the teller looks at the memo line to determine
13 whose money that belongs to?

14 A. But when she put it in the system, it would have
15 showed Alex Murdaugh. So I'm not sure why it was written
16 Donna Badger. I didn't know it was Donna Badger's. Really
17 and truly, it wasn't Donna Badger's, it was Arthur Badger's
18 money. And I thought that was part of the discrepancies of
19 how Alex was so screwy with doing things. And that's why I
20 never realized it.

21 Q. You wrote this --

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. -- on the back, "for deposit only," and then the
24 corresponding deposit slip states it's for Donna Badger; is
25 that right?

1 A. Yes, ma'am.

2 Q. If you could pull up same Exhibit 18. You wrote
3 Alex's account number, didn't you?

4 A. I don't think so.

5 Q. So your testimony is that you wrote this but not
6 this?

7 A. That -- possibly, but this and this and this are not
8 my handwriting. I am not going to say whether that is or
9 not. I am not 100 percent sure, but I know this is my
10 handwriting.

11 MS. LIMEHOUSE: If you could pull up 18 and 19
12 side-by-side, please. It's the same e-mail. Sorry. 20.

13 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

14 Q. Another check dated September 13th, 2013, totaling
15 \$33,789.83, memo line indicates it's for the estate of Donna
16 Badger. You wrote, "for deposit only" with Alex's account
17 number, didn't you?

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. And the deposit slip also says the money belongs to
20 Donna Badger, doesn't it?

21 A. It does.

22 Q. If we could pull up Government's Exhibit --

23 A. But once again, that is not my handwriting on the
24 deposit slip.

25 Q. -- 32, please. You also negotiated a wire transfer

1 to Southern Crane; is that right?

2 A. That is correct. The customer asked me to transfer
3 the money.

4 MS. LIMEHOUSE: If we could do 51 side-by-side with
5 page 10.

6 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

7 Q. So, Alex e-mails you on Monday, October 28th, 2013,
8 and says: RL, this is where forty-nine five goes. I will
9 pick up the difference. Don't put it in an account.
10 Isn't that right?

11 A. He did. I'm assuming he sent this -- assume he sent
12 a check over with one of those runners or something.

13 Q. You don't know that?

14 A. No, I do not.

15 Q. And the next day, October 29th, you negotiate a wire
16 for \$49,500 to Southern Crane; isn't that right?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. And then the remaining little over \$1,000 you give
19 Alex, because he says he will pick up the difference; isn't
20 that right?

21 A. That is absolutely correct.

22 Q. And you continued to negotiate hundreds of thousands
23 of dollars from these funds however Alex tells you to, don't
24 you?

25 A. \$1,172,000 worth of them. That's why I did the

1 \$680,000 agreement with the law firm.

2 Q. And that included paying off hundreds of thousands
3 of dollars in unsecured loans that you had extended Alex from
4 Hannah's conservatorship account; isn't that right?

5 A. Yes, ma'am, as the customer requested, I did.

6 MS. LIMEHOUSE: If you could do Exhibit 119
7 side-by-side with 29, page 1, please.

8 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

9 Q. Your \$35,000 fee check drafted to the Palmetto State
10 Bank, memo line Arthur Badger personal representative fee,
11 was drafted in the exact same way as all the checks stolen
12 from Arthur Badger, wasn't it?

13 A. Yes, ma'am, it was.

14 Q. Let's move to the \$750,000 loan. So in the summer
15 of 2021, as the jury has heard, Alex's wife and son were
16 brutally murdered; isn't that right?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. As you told law enforcement back in February of this
19 year, you did not believe that Murdaugh was financially
20 responsible, and that you thought he may have a gambling
21 problem based on his financial habits; isn't that right?

22 A. You asked what we thought he did with the money. I
23 told them only thing I could think of is he gambled.

24 Q. You thought that he had a gambling problem; isn't
25 that right?

1 A. You asked what I thought where the money could be
2 and that's what I thought, that that's the only thing I could
3 figure of where he could spend the amount of money that he
4 had stolen. And we are not talking about -- almost \$2
5 million --

6 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Your Honor, can you direct the
7 witness to answer the question?

8 THE COURT: You can answer the question.

9 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

10 Q. So in the summer of 2021, Alex comes to you, his
11 wife and son brutally murdered, and he's maxed out on his
12 million dollar line of credit, isn't he?

13 A. Yes, ma'am.

14 Q. And he's maxed out on a \$600,000 line of credit that
15 he had with his father, isn't he?

16 A. That was his father's line of credit, yes, ma'am.

17 Q. And it's maxed out; is that right?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. And you had already charged off the Red Beard and 0
20 United loans for him; is that right?

21 A. Yes, ma'am, I believe those were in '15.

22 Q. And he owed the bank millions more dollars in loans;
23 isn't that right?

24 A. That is correct.

25 Q. If we could pull up Government's Exhibit 92, page 3.

1 And when he comes to you in need of money, he's more than
2 \$162,000 in overdraft; isn't that right?

3 A. No, ma'am.

4 Q. In July of 2021, Alex is more than \$162,000 in
5 overdraft?

6 A. Absolutely, but he had come to us way before then
7 telling us about what he was doing.

8 Q. If you could go to page one of that exhibit, please.
9 So his overdraft June 14th, \$16,000, he had been in
10 substantial overdraft for more than a month before you wired
11 \$350,000 for him; isn't that right?

12 A. That is correct.

13 Q. So Alex comes to you and he says that he needs money
14 to renovate his beach house in Edisto; isn't that right?

15 A. He did.

16 Q. And you already had a mortgage on that property,
17 didn't you?

18 A. We did.

19 Q. The value of that property based on your
20 representations to the Board was \$730,000?

21 A. That was the last appraisal. And we had ordered a
22 new appraisal for the renewal, I want to say in April or 1st
23 of May. So we were working on that. And that's when he came
24 in and asked about it. And I said, well, you know, we have
25 \$730,000 by the 200,000 first, so we also took the Green

1 Swamp share of stock.

2 Q. So Alex comes to you and he needs a loan for
3 renovating his beach house. And on July 15th, he asked you
4 to wire \$350,000 to Chris Wilson, an attorney in Bamberg;
5 isn't that right?

6 A. He did ask me to send the wire.

7 Q. Chris Wilson has nothing to do with beach house
8 renovations, does he?

9 A. I would not suspect that he would.

10 Q. After July 15th, Alex continues to overdraw on his
11 account by hundreds of thousands of dollars, doesn't he?

12 A. He does. We were watching that account. We see
13 every week what looks like a contractor's check which later
14 we found out it's not. It was C.E. Smith over \$264,000 worth
15 of them.

16 Q. Pull up Government's Exhibit 192, pages 3 through 5.
17 I will go through them individually. So you wire \$350,000 to
18 Chris Wilson on July 15th; isn't that right?

19 A. That is correct.

20 Q. And after that time, Alex spends money at Colleton
21 County Treasurer, Jimmy Butler Auto Sales, cash back,
22 DeBordieu Club, the law firm; isn't that right?

23 A. Yes, ma'am.

24 Q. Next page, please. Peeples-Rhodes Funeral Home,
25 two -- more than \$6,000 to Peeples-Rhodes Funeral Home; is

1 that right?

2 A. I would assume that's paying for his wife's and
3 son's funerals.

4 Q. I think that's a safe assumption. Nothing to do
5 with beach house renovations, is it?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Turner Padgett Graham and Laney, LabCorp,
8 Gastroenterology, more cash, Veterinary Specialty Care,
9 Sports Medicine Shop, nothing to do with beach house
10 renovation; isn't that right?

11 A. That is correct. But as I testified on Friday, I
12 was under no illusions at all the money was going to the
13 beach house.

14 Q. So he came to you in need of beach house renovation,
15 a loan for beach house renovations, and you knew it was never
16 going to go to beach house renovations; is that right?

17 A. No. I knew that all the money was not going to
18 beach house renovations, as you've had two other witnesses
19 testify they were going to pay some lawyer fees and --

20 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: It's improper.

22 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

23 Q. You testified under oath back on September 6th,
24 didn't you?

25 A. Yes, ma'am.

1 Q. And when I asked you about the \$750,000 loan, you
2 said that Alex came to you in need of money for beach house
3 renovations. And you didn't mention anything about any other
4 expenses; isn't that right?

5 A. I'm guessing -- I would have to see the testimony,
6 but I would probably agree that's right.

7 Q. It's not until you heard --

8 MR. AUSTIN: She's interrupting every time he's
9 trying to talk.

10 THE COURT: He's finished. Ask the next question.

11 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

12 Q. It's not until you heard your father and sister
13 testify about the use of funds other than beach house
14 renovations that you've changed your testimony; isn't that
15 right?

16 A. No, ma'am. The loan was \$750,000. You just heard
17 me testify the appraisal at the time was \$730,000. Unless
18 he's doubling the size of the house, there's no realistic, I
19 mean, way that he's going to spend \$750,000 on this house.

20 Q. Based on your sworn testimony in September, all you
21 knew it was going to be spent on are beach house renovations;
22 isn't that right?

23 A. He told me it was going to be beach house
24 renovations, yes, ma'am.

25 Q. You talked about C.E. Smith and how you thought that

1 it was a contractor who was doing work on the beach house;
2 isn't that right?

3 A. That is correct.

4 Q. C.E. Smith is actually a bank customer, isn't he?

5 A. He's a -- he has some lawyer loans, or did have
6 some, yes, ma'am.

7 Q. You've extended C.E. Smith eight loans before; isn't
8 that right?

9 A. I didn't extend, I don't believe, any of them, but,
10 yes, they were on our books.

11 MS. LIMEHOUSE: If you could pull up Government's
12 Exhibit 209, last page, please. Oh, excuse me. Move to
13 admit Government's Exhibit 209. They were in dispute
14 earlier, not for authentication purposes but for relevance.

15 THE COURT: Is there an objection to Government's
16 Exhibit 209?

17 MS. LIMEHOUSE: They are all the lawyer loans.

18 MR. AUSTIN: No objection.

19 THE COURT: What numbers?

20 MS. LIMEHOUSE: 202 through 209.

21 THE COURT: Government's Exhibits 202 to 209 are
22 admitted without on objection.

23 (Government's Exhibits 202 through 209 are received
24 in evidence.)

25 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

1 Q. If we could go to the last page of Government's
2 Exhibit 209, please. This is a lawyer loan that you extended
3 C.E. Smith on February the 23rd of 2021; isn't that Right?

4 A. No, ma'am, those are lawyer loans that Carrie Sauls
5 extended C.E. Smith.

6 Q. That's your signature on this lawyer loan?

7 A. I was the reviewing officer, yes, ma'am.

8 Q. And you were the reviewing officer on all eight of
9 the loans that C.E. Smith had gotten from Palmetto State
10 Bank; isn't that right?

11 A. That is correct. I reviewed all of them. I just
12 looked at -- this is the actual loan officer.

13 Q. And as you've testified, it's a community bank, know
14 your customer, right?

15 A. I don't know all my lawyer loans. But, yes, we try
16 to know our customers. And, no, I would not know Mr. C.E.
17 Smith.

18 Q. He was in the bank system, wasn't he?

19 A. He was, yes, ma'am.

20 Q. If we would go to Government's Exhibit 192 at page
21 4, please. So by August the 9th, Alex is more than \$367,000
22 in overdraft; isn't that right?

23 A. Yes, ma'am.

24 Q. And he's used that money, as you've testified, for
25 all these purposes that have nothing to do with beach house

1 renovations; isn't that right?

2 A. Well, he definitely used money for other things
3 other than beach house renovations.

4 Q. So on August the 9th, if we could pull up
5 Government's Exhibit 2, please, at 9:39 a.m., Norris Laffitte
6 e-mails you and the rest of the Executive Committee, and asks
7 that you prepare what the bank's total exposure with regard
8 to Alex Murdaugh, directly, indirectly, through different
9 family relationships, and/or LLCs, with his borrowing
10 practices and repayment plans if he's not working; is that
11 right?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. Within an hour, you issue a check for \$400,000;
14 don't you?

15 A. I'm not sure if it was -- I mean, I am not going to
16 argue it wasn't within an hour. But, yes, ma'am, we did
17 finish the loan and finished advantage the loan proceeds to
18 Mr. Murdaugh's account.

19 Q. After you got the e-mail from the bank asking --
20 e-mail from Norris asking what the bank's total exposure was;
21 is that right?

22 A. That was just coincidence. That wouldn't have
23 anything to do with it.

24 Q. Just a coincidence. Then you transfer the \$400,000
25 to cover his overdraft, don't you?

1 A. Yes, ma'am, because that's where we thought the
2 money for the renovations were coming from.

3 Q. As you've testified, you got the overdraft reports?

4 A. I did.

5 Q. You saw how Alex was spending his money?

6 A. Sure did.

7 Q. And you testified that had nothing to do with beach
8 house renovations, didn't you?

9 A. I also testified that I thought C.E. Smith was
10 his -- yes.

11 Q. If you could pull up Government's Exhibit 220,
12 please. So at the time of Norris Laffitte's e-mail, Alex is
13 \$14,000 in overdraft on his farm account; is that right?

14 A. I have no idea, but --

15 Q. At 11:38, two hours after Norris sends that e-mail,
16 you transfer \$20,000 into that farm account to cover that
17 overdraft, don't you?

18 A. I did transfer \$20,000, yes, ma'am.

19 Q. And then you continued to check his accounts
20 throughout the day after you got Norris's e-mail; isn't that
21 right?

22 A. That was because they had asked us to do that list,
23 which you saw my list and testimony in other witnesses, and
24 so I'm trying to come up with a list. So, yes, ma'am, I did
25 go in his accounts.

1 Q. And that's after you transferred \$400,000 to cover
2 his overdraft; isn't that right?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. So on August the 9th, there's not a single loan
5 document memorializing a \$750,000 beach house loan for the
6 purposes of renovations, is there?

7 A. I'm not sure.

8 Ms. LIMEHOUSE: Government's Exhibit 201, page 75,
9 please.

10 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

11 Q. You testified -- if you will pull up the bottom
12 half. On September 6th, I asked you: There's not a single
13 record within the bank when you wire the \$400,000
14 memorializing this agreement that you had with Alex to extend
15 the 750?

16 There's no signed documents, no loan documents. I
17 mean, in community bank, this is not -- maybe on a scale of
18 that size, that's unusual. But advanced funds prior to
19 getting loans signed is not necessarily uncommon.

20 And I asked: Were there any records that show that
21 you had decided to loan him \$750,000 prior to August 9th?

22 If you go to the next page, please.

23 And you said: I'm sure there were some e-mails and
24 maybe handwritten notes or something, but I did not sign the
25 loan. I could not loan Alex money alone; is that right?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. So after the \$400,000 on August the 9th, you direct
3 employees to backdate the loan to the \$350,000 wire transfer
4 on July 15th; isn't that right?

5 A. That's right. We backdated the loan to the actual
6 detail of the first advance, which was July 15th.

7 Q. And then on August 17th, the Board meets; isn't that
8 right?

9 A. Yes, ma'am.

10 Q. The Board has a right to know how the bank's money
11 is spent, don't they?

12 A. Yes, ma'am, they do.

13 Q. And you have a duty to tell them how the bank's
14 money is spent, don't you?

15 A. Yes, ma'am.

16 Q. And you have a duty to accurately report facts about
17 the bank's money to the Board, don't you?

18 A. To the best of my knowledge, I always have.

19 Q. And so the loan during this August 17th Board
20 meeting is reported as a \$750,000 loan for purposes of beach
21 house renovations; isn't that right?

22 A. That is correct.

23 Q. And at this point, the loan has not been approved,
24 has it?

25 A. No, ma'am, that loan had been approved way before

1 then.

2 Q. Exhibit 10L, please. The records show that that
3 loan had not been approved until August the 18th at 8:39 a.m.
4 and that's after the Board meeting; isn't that right?

5 A. Yes, ma'am. This --

6 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Your Honor, he's answered my
7 question.

8 THE WITNESS: No, this is a multiple --

9 THE COURT: Answer the question, then you can
10 explain. Answer yes or no.

11 THE WITNESS: The loan had been approved before
12 then, yes, ma'am.

13 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

14 Q. The paperwork indicates that it was approved on
15 August the 18th; isn't that right?

16 A. Credit Leader indicates it was approved August 18th.

17 Q. During the August 17th Board meeting, there's no
18 mention of the \$350,000 wire transfer, is there?

19 A. We don't discuss how loans are funded to the Board,
20 no, ma'am.

21 Q. And there's no mention of Alex's hundreds of
22 thousands of dollars in overdraft before your \$400,000 wire
23 transfer; is that right?

24 A. No, ma'am, we don't discuss the -- how we fund the
25 loan.

1 Q. And there's no mention of how Alex spent that money,
2 is there?

3 A. We may have discussed -- I can't remember August
4 17th. We may have discussed the loan, but we would not have
5 discussed how he spent the money, no, ma'am.

6 Q. Alex never made a single payment on that \$750,000
7 loan, did he?

8 A. No, ma'am. The first payment was due in January and
9 he was in jail. So, no, ma'am, he did not.

10 Q. And that \$750,000 was charged off after selling the
11 Green Swamp share; isn't that right?

12 A. That is correct.

13 Q. And the beach house was not collateral on that
14 \$750,000 loan?

15 A. That is correct. I made a mistake. When we found
16 out from Kevin Brown that -- the attorney that was going to
17 do the closing, that he transferred it into his wife and his
18 name, that I should have taken a second mortgage on his
19 one-half interest, and I made a mistake on doing that.

20 Q. So any value over that first mortgage based on the
21 sale of that beach house didn't go to the bank, did it?

22 A. No, ma'am.

23 Q. Let's talk about the \$680,000 payment. On October
24 28th, you went to the law firm and you paid them \$680,000;
25 isn't that right?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. And that 680,000 included half of your \$35,000 PR
3 fee from Arthur Badger, didn't it?

4 A. It did. And it was paid back to the bank.

5 Q. We will talk about the payment back to the bank.
6 Nearly \$400,000 of that 680, half of it was to Johnnie
7 Parker, a lawyer at the law firm, right? He had received
8 nearly \$400,000 of Badger fees, hadn't he?

9 A. 388,000 and some change.

10 Q. And that included, your 680 payment, included
11 hundreds of thousands of dollars in checks that you
12 negotiated to pay off loans that you had extended from Hannah
13 Plyler's conservatorship account; isn't that right?

14 A. That was part of the Badger money that Alex stole,
15 yes, ma'am.

16 Q. And that \$680,000 included half of the 150 and some
17 change that was negotiated at Bank of America and never went
18 through Palmetto State Bank?

19 A. That is correct, yes, ma'am.

20 Q. So you e-mailed the Executive Committee on October
21 28th; is that right?

22 A. Yes, ma'am, I did.

23 Q. Pull up Government's Exhibit 74. And you say to the
24 Executive Committee: Everyone, I just wrote up a \$680,000 to
25 losses other than loans from a 2013 case with Alex Murdaugh.

1 We converted 1.1 million plus in checks made to Palmetto
2 State Bank on a settlement that Alex stole. The law firm and
3 I agreed to split the loss and make the client whole; is that
4 right?

5 A. Yes, ma'am. We wanted to make the client whole. We
6 had just -- or were in the process. We had already agreed
7 principal for settling another account that the loan -- the
8 money did not run through us. And it was way more than this.
9 So if we could get away with getting half of a settlement, it
10 was a good deal for the bank.

11 Q. There's no mention of your father or your sister
12 having anything to do with this \$680,000 in your October 28th
13 e-mail, is there?

14 A. No, ma'am, there's not.

15 Q. There's no mention of the \$35,000 fee from Arthur
16 Badger?

17 A. No. We don't put every detail in every e-mail.

18 THE COURT: Answer the question, sir.

19 THE WITNESS: There is no mention of the \$35,000
20 fee.

21 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

22 Q. There's no mention of Hannah Plyler or the hundreds
23 of thousands of dollars that you negotiated to pay off the
24 loans you extended, is there?

25 A. No, ma'am. Only thing it says is we wrote up

1 \$680,000.

2 Q. And this amount omits your fee and the checks that
3 were negotiated at Bank of America, doesn't it?

4 A. At that point, yes, ma'am, it does.

5 Q. But the 680 included those Bank of America checks
6 and your fee, didn't it?

7 A. It did, which they were fully informed of.

8 Q. There had been no Executive Committee meeting about
9 the 680, had there?

10 A. Not a full Executive Committee, but we had
11 three-quarters of the votes between my father, my sister, and
12 I. And we thought it was in the best interest of the bank to
13 settle or try to make an agreement with the law firm to avoid
14 another lawsuit.

15 Q. Your sister testified that it was not an Executive
16 Committee action and there was no vote or decision by the
17 Executive Committee for the 680?

18 A. I didn't say -- we all agreed that we thought it was
19 in our best interest. There was never a vote, but I did not
20 need an Executive Committee action. Our bylaws give me the
21 authority.

22 Q. Let's go to Government's Exhibit 75, please. So
23 Scott Swain at the bottom, who's the CFO, responds to your
24 October 28th e-mail and he says: This sets an awful
25 precedent. Do we know of any similar situations? Have we

1 contacted our bonding company? Most bonds require us to
2 disclose any losses incurred over a set amount even if we
3 don't make a claim. So we want to check our policy. I
4 assume this was run through our income statement in the month
5 of October.

6 Is that right?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. If you could pull up the top of that e-mail chain.
9 And you respond to Scott Swain: Why would it set an awful
10 precedent? It saves us from another lawsuit. And we could
11 have been on the hook for \$1,172,945.76. We were wrong and
12 made it right.

13 That's your response?

14 A. Yes, ma'am, that is my response.

15 Q. And next day, on October 29th, you e-mail the Board
16 and notified them of the payment. If you could pull up
17 Government's Exhibit 12A, please.

18 Is that right, Mr. Laffitte?

19 A. Yes, ma'am, I did notify them on the 29th.

20 Q. And you tell the Board: I just wanted to give
21 everyone a heads-up on a charge that you will hear about in
22 detail during our next Board meeting. We took a \$680,000
23 loss to fix an issue between us and the PMPED law firm. We
24 converted \$1,172,945.76 in checks made payable to Palmetto
25 State Bank to numerous other places as part of another stolen

1 case settlement. This all involved a case with Alex
2 Murdaugh. I negotiated with the law firm to pay part and
3 they pay the balance to make their client whole. We are
4 moving \$680,000 out of loan loss reserve to offset this loss
5 since we have ample reserves at the time.

6 That's what you told the Board; isn't that right?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. You make no mention of your father or your sister
9 being involved in this 680 payment at all, do you?

10 A. No, ma'am, I did not.

11 Q. You don't mention the \$35,000 PR fee that was
12 included in the 680, do you?

13 A. No, ma'am, I did not.

14 Q. And you don't mention the Bank of America checks, do
15 you?

16 A. No, ma'am.

17 Q. And you don't mention anything about Hannah Plyler
18 and the hundreds of thousands of dollars in loans that you
19 paid back from these funds, do you?

20 A. We don't mention anything because we had been
21 instructed by our attorneys to keep our e-mails as short as
22 possible and don't put all this stuff -- that's why I said we
23 will hear about any detail during our next Board meeting.

24 Q. Attorneys weren't involved in this 680 payment
25 before you did it, were they?

1 A. No, ma'am. But we had -- they were notified about
2 it.

3 Q. You notified them but you didn't consult with them;
4 is that right?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. They had been hired weeks before to assess the
7 bank's civil liability, hadn't they?

8 A. They had been hired to work on the Satterfield case;
9 not on this case.

10 Q. Will you pull up Government's Exhibit 12C. As you
11 said: Attorneys were informed but not consulted. They were
12 consulted by phone, so nothing to share. This is not a
13 lawsuit issue. It's a banking issue of us converting checks.

14 Is that right?

15 A. That is correct. At this point in time, we had
16 negotiated a bunch of checks made to Palmetto State Bank that
17 were from a stolen settlement that we did not realize it, and
18 we had liability. So we were trying to make the customer --
19 PMPED right and Mr. Badger.

20 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Your Honor --

21 THE COURT: Repeat the question, Ms. Limehouse.

22 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Can we pull up Government's Exhibit
23 12D, please.

24 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

25 Q. Norris Laffitte responds and says: Who was

1 responsible for the conversion? Are multiple employees
2 involved? When did it -- they happen? What all was
3 involved? How many times? How many other cases like this
4 are out there? Have we let the employee who did this go?

5 Norris Laffitte was pretty upset, wasn't he?

6 A. Yes, ma'am.

7 Q. And your response, Government's Exhibit 13, top
8 e-mail, please, your response: We will discuss in the Board
9 meeting. I was responsible. Twelve checks made payable to
10 PSB converted to others. Hopefully no other cases. This
11 took place in 2013.

12 The 680 actually accounted for all 14 checks, didn't
13 it?

14 A. There were a couple of checks in 2014.

15 Q. The 680 actually accounted for 14 checks, isn't that
16 right, not 12?

17 A. But we had handled 12, I believe.

18 Q. But the payment that you made to the law firm
19 included the checks to Bank of America; isn't that right?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. Pull up Government's Exhibit 77. Of course, by now,
22 the law firm had already deposited that \$680,000 payment;
23 isn't that right?

24 A. They deposited on the 29th, yes, ma'am.

25 Q. And after the 29th, you exchange e-mails with the

1 bank's attorneys about the \$680,000 payment; isn't that
2 right?

3 A. Somewhere right there, yes, ma'am. But I called Tom
4 Gressette before then.

5 Q. And in your notification to the Board, you don't
6 mention anything about your dad or your sister being involved
7 in this payment at all, do you?

8 A. No, ma'am, I did not.

9 MS. LIMEHOUSE: If we could pull up Government's
10 Exhibit 80, please, top e-mail, please.

11 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

12 Q. On Tuesday, November 3rd, you e-mailed Trenholm
13 Walker, the bank's attorney, and said: The bank is paying
14 this amount. The verbal contract between PSB and PMPED was
15 done with the approval of the Chairman of the Board and CEO.
16 You are welcome to discuss terms, but it is not an option to
17 not pay.

18 This is the first time you mention your dad being
19 involved in that payment at all; isn't that right?

20 A. I'm not sure, but I'm going to assume that that is
21 correct.

22 Q. And in your own words, it's not an option to not
23 pay; isn't that right?

24 A. Absolutely not. I mean, we had given -- I had given
25 them my word, we were going to pay that check.

1 Q. There's a Board meeting next day on November 3rd,
2 right?

3 A. Yes, ma'am.

4 Q. And the jury has heard a recording from portions of
5 that Board meeting and they've seen a transcript; isn't that
6 right?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. On November 3rd, you didn't mention anything about
9 your father or your sister approving this payment, did you?

10 A. As has been testified to many times, Ms. Limehouse,
11 I did not need it, but I did have it. And no, I did not
12 notify them when I sent it.

13 Q. And on November the 3rd, during that Board meeting
14 when the \$680,000 payment was discussed, you don't tell the
15 Board anything about the \$35,000 you took from Arthur Badger,
16 do you?

17 A. The PR fee?

18 Q. Correct.

19 A. No, ma'am. I'm sure I gave them a breakdown because
20 the checks were a million 325, plus the 35, divided by half.
21 That's how we came up with the 680.

22 Q. You didn't tell them anything about the hundreds of
23 thousands of dollars that you used to pay off Hannah Plyler,
24 did you?

25 A. I'm not sure exactly what -- I don't even think we

1 went through all the checks. I think we went through what we
2 did.

3 Q. And we've heard a recording and seen the transcript.
4 And you don't mention any of the details about that \$680,000
5 payment, do you?

6 A. I am not sure, but I know for a fact I've given the
7 Board at some point in time every check, every research on
8 this.

9 Q. After the internal investigation they saw that,
10 didn't they?

11 A. I'm not sure when they saw it. I did not try to
12 hide anything.

13 MS. LIMEHOUSE: If you could pull up Government's
14 Exhibit 200B, please.

15 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

16 Q. You testified before the ODC back in the summer of
17 this year -- if you could pull up the bottom 17 through 25 --
18 for the first time you mention your sister and your father
19 being involved in this payment; is that right?

20 A. I'm not sure if that's the first time, but, yes, we
21 all three discussed it.

22 Q. And you tell the ODC: You know, they didn't want to
23 pay it. When I took it to the Board, the Board went
24 absolutely ballistic. They wanted to claw it back. And I,
25 part of the reason I got fired, I put my foot down. I said,

1 no. I said three of the four members of the Executive
2 Committee discussed this in-depth, which was my sister, Gray
3 Henderson, myself, and Charlie Laffitte, who was also the
4 Board chairman. We have the authority by our bylaws to
5 settle any lawsuits, whatever, or potential. We thought it
6 was in the best interest, so we did it. And they wanted us
7 to claw it back. And I told them, absolutely not. I gave
8 them my word we are paying it. And by God, we were paying
9 it.

10 As your sister testified, this wasn't an Executive
11 Committee action under the bylaws, was it?

12 A. Not under the bylaws. We didn't need it, but we had
13 three of the four voting members of the Executive Committee.
14 We had the approval by the Chairman of the Board.

15 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Your Honor --

16 MR. DANIEL: He's answering the question.

17 THE COURT: She asked the question. You will have a
18 chance to redirect. Mr. Laffitte, just simply answer the
19 question asked to you.

20 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

21 Q. You testified that you paid back the money for the
22 \$35,000 PR fee; is that right?

23 A. I paid back the half the bank paid, yes, ma'am.

24 Q. And you showed the jury what was Defendant's Exhibit
25 83, which was a \$17,500 check deposited on December 17th,

1 isn't that right?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. The memo line on this check says PR fee, half in
4 settlement; isn't that right?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. It's written to the Palmetto State Bank. It's dated
7 November 1st, 2021. And it's for \$17,500?

8 A. Yes, ma'am.

9 Q. This check wasn't deposited until after the internal
10 investigation had been complete; is that right?

11 A. I am not exactly sure when it was deposited. I
12 wrote it up. I would have handed it to my father, who was
13 Chairman of the Board. I also believe I gave him two of the
14 checks later on for --

15 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Your Honor, objection.

16 THE COURT: Just answer the question asked.

17 MS. LIMEHOUSE: If we could pull up Government's
18 Exhibit 198, slide 14, please.

19 BY MS. LIMEHOUSE:

20 Q. You collected more than \$200,000 for serving as the
21 conservator for the Plylers, didn't you?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. Not only did you collect hundreds of thousands of
24 dollars in fees, you took more than \$350,000 in loans from
25 Hannah's account; isn't that right?

1 A. I did receive loans, yes, ma'am.

2 Q. And you used these loans to pay off loans from an
3 independent bank that you had obtained at much higher
4 interest rates; isn't that right?

5 A. Yes, ma'am.

6 Q. And you used the rest of these loans to pay off your
7 credit card bills and for your own personal expenses, didn't
8 you?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. And while you collected hundreds of thousands of
11 dollars in fees, you gave Alex nearly a million dollars in
12 loans that covered his overdraft, didn't you?

13 A. I gave him loans. Yes, ma'am.

14 Q. You collected \$60,000 from Hakeem Pinkney; isn't
15 that right?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. You never even met Hakeem Pinkney before he died,
18 did you?

19 A. I did not. He was in a home.

20 Q. You never even managed money for Hakeem Pinkney, did
21 you?

22 A. I absolutely did not.

23 Q. You used this money to pay off the loans that you
24 had given yourself from Hannah Plyler; isn't that right,
25 \$60,000 from Hakeem Pinkney?

1 A. I used the PR fee that I received. And I did use it
2 to pay off loans to Hannah Plyler.

3 Q. And you didn't report that fee to the IRS back in
4 2012 and '13, did you?

5 A. Not in 2012 and '13, I did not.

6 Q. And you collected \$15,000 from Natasha Thomas; isn't
7 that right?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. And she was 18 when you gave her a loan after you
10 became her conservator; isn't that right?

11 A. Yes, ma'am.

12 Q. And you never managed any money for her either?

13 A. No, ma'am. I helped set up her settlement or her
14 structure, but that's all I did for her.

15 Q. And you did not report that \$15,000 as income back
16 when you paid your taxes in 2012 and 2013, did you?

17 A. No, ma'am, I did not.

18 Q. And you collected \$35,000 from Arthur Badger; isn't
19 that right?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. And you didn't manage any money for him, did you?

22 A. I was his wife's PR, not Arthur's.

23 Q. You were not Arthur Badger's PR, were you?

24 A. No, ma'am, I was not.

25 Q. In all, you made more than \$450,000 in conservator

1 and PR fees, didn't you?

2 A. I'm not sure exact amount, but it's 400-plus, yes,
3 ma'am.

4 Q. In exchange, you let Alex use the money from his
5 clients however he wanted to, didn't you?

6 A. No, ma'am. It was not an exchange. It wasn't a, if
7 you do this, I will do that. It was a business decision. If
8 he needed to borrow money, I made a choice as to whether to
9 loan it or not to loan it.

10 Q. And when Alex's life collapsed, you did everything
11 you could to cover your tracks, didn't you?

12 A. Absolutely not. I did everything I could to make
13 sure we were going to protect the bank as much as possible.

14 Q. And that included misleading the bank's Board,
15 didn't it?

16 A. No, ma'am. I never misled them.

17 Q. That was all while you were spending hundreds of
18 thousands of dollars of the bank's money to try to save
19 yourself; isn't that right?

20 A. No, ma'am.

21 MS. LIMEHOUSE: No further questions, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Redirect.

23 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. AUSTIN:

25 Q. Good morning.

1 A. Good morning.

2 Q. All right. Going back to the \$1.325 million from
3 Arthur Badger; did you ever receive any of that money?

4 A. Personally?

5 Q. Yes, sir.

6 A. Absolutely none.

7 Q. It's your testimony that you did not know that Alex
8 Murdaugh was stealing that money, did you?

9 A. That is correct. If I had known -- if I knew he was
10 stealing, I would have called the law for him.

11 Q. All right. And why didn't you report your fees on
12 the tax returns?

13 A. Stupid, to be real honest. You know, the checks
14 were made out wrong to Palmetto State Bank. I was
15 conservator. I saw they were made to Palmetto State Bank.
16 And I was like, you know what, I can hide it on my taxes.
17 And it was a mistake. And that's why I went back and
18 corrected it in 2021. Everything was going on. I knew all
19 of this would come to light at some point. So I figured I
20 might as well go ahead and fix it.

21 Q. Let me make sure I understand that. You said --
22 when did you know all this would come to light?

23 A. Well, Alex was -- everything that was going on with
24 Alex, I knew --

25 Q. You are talking about in the summer of 2021, fall --

1 A. No, it was fall 2021.

2 Q. Got you.

3 A. And like I said, I knew everything would come to
4 light. My accountant and I talked about it. And we made a
5 decision to go ahead as quickly as possible and refile all my
6 tax returns.

7 Q. And did you fail to file tax returns because you
8 were helping Alex Murdaugh steal?

9 A. Absolutely not. I just didn't want to pay taxes on
10 it.

11 Q. Okay. But you did report all of these transactions
12 to the probate court; is that fair?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. And you actually -- is it correct that you turned
15 all of these documents over to law enforcement?

16 A. Every document that I had that I know of I gave to
17 law enforcement.

18 Q. And remind the Court when you did that.

19 A. I can't remember when we first -- you know, when I
20 first got notified. It was September, October. But I was
21 giving documents, e-mailing documents, scanning documents, I
22 mean, just by the thousands to them. I mean, they were
23 asking all the time. So I am not exactly sure, but it was
24 September, October, at the latest, of '21.

25 Q. Okay. So before any of these issues came up with

1 the Board, you were already reporting -- or providing these
2 documents to law enforcement?

3 A. Correct.

4 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. He's
5 leading.

6 THE COURT: Don't lead the witness. Sustained.

7 BY MR. AUSTIN:

8 Q. Government pointed out in Government's Exhibit 197
9 that you checked Alex's account, you paid off money, paid off
10 loans. You don't deny --

11 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. He's
12 testifying.

13 THE COURT: Mr. Austin, this is your witness.
14 Sustained.

15 MR. AUSTIN: Apologies.

16 BY MR. AUSTIN:

17 Q. Did you check Alex's accounts?

18 A. I did check his accounts. Any time I transferred
19 money, if I transferred money to Alex from one checking
20 account or a credit line or did anything, I would then go
21 back into his account to verify that it went through. And
22 there's just a way to check and make sure that the
23 transaction actually took. And you didn't -- what do you
24 call it when you put in the wrong number -- or transpose a
25 number or anything like that. So that's what I would do.

1 Q. And did you check his accounts any more than you
2 checked anybody else's accounts?

3 A. I probably did check his accounts more than anybody
4 else. I mean, obviously, he was a large customer.
5 Obviously, he was often in overdraft. So I probably did
6 check his accounts more than others.

7 Q. And I think you were asked this on direct already,
8 but I think bears repeating based on Ms. Limehouse's
9 questions. Is there anything wrong with unsecured loans?

10 A. There's not -- nothing wrong with unsecured loans or
11 partially collateralized loans.

12 Q. And has FDIC ever raised any issues with you or the
13 bank about issuing any loans, secured or unsecured, to Alex
14 Murdaugh?

15 A. They have not. We've been through many, many exams
16 with him.

17 Q. How often does the FDIC do exams?

18 A. Typically, every 12 to 18 months.

19 Q. What about the State Banking Board?

20 A. It's the same.

21 Q. So, routinely, you have two different regulatory
22 agencies --

23 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. This is
24 beyond the scope of my cross-examination.

25 THE COURT: It is beyond the scope and also leading.

1 Sustained.

2 BY MR. AUSTIN:

3 Q. You started to testify about --

4 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: I hadn't heard the question yet.

6 BY MR. AUSTIN:

7 Q. You started to testify about the use of Alex's loans
8 from Hannah Plyler for farming. And I believe you got cut
9 off. Do you recall what you were talking about?

10 A. Well, she was saying that -- Ms. Limehouse was
11 saying that the funds were not for farming purposes that were
12 paying off Alex, the 284,000. And I was saying absolutely,
13 that is correct, they were paying off Hannah Plyler's loans.
14 And I did not know if they had researched the Hannah Plyler
15 loan proceeds, if it had paid off anything in farming. I was
16 just asking. I didn't know.

17 Q. And with regard to the petition to be appointed as
18 Natasha Thomas's conservator, did you fill out that form?

19 A. I did not.

20 Q. Who filled out that form?

21 A. Either Alex Murdaugh or somebody at PMPED.

22 Q. And why didn't you verify her age when you got that
23 form?

24 A. I mean, I would assume that your attorneys are
25 correct. And I just never would have verified it.

1 Q. When you said "assume your attorneys," who are you
2 talking about?

3 A. The PMPED, Alex Murdaugh, on that case.

4 Q. Did you see them as your attorneys?

5 A. Absolutely.

6 Q. Why?

7 A. Because once you step in as conservator, you are
8 stepping in the shoes of the client. So then the attorney
9 really is representing you.

10 Q. And were you told that at any point?

11 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. Hearsay.

12 THE COURT: Sustained.

13 BY MR. AUSTIN:

14 Q. Did you believe that Alex was your attorney?

15 A. I did.

16 Q. All right. You were shown Government's Exhibit 20.
17 I believe these are disbursement sheets. And you don't deny
18 signing any disbursement sheets?

19 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: That's a leading question.

21 BY MR. AUSTIN:

22 Q. Do you deny signing any of the disbursement sheets
23 that you've been shown that bear your signature?

24 A. Absolutely not.

25 Q. Did you review those disbursement sheets when you

1 signed them?

2 A. No, I did not.

3 Q. Why not?

4 A. Years and years of trust. It was a mistake.

5 Customer, you know, would just say, here, I need you to sign
6 right there, I did it. It was a mistake.

7 Q. All right. And there are a number of e-mails that
8 reference potentially phone calls between you and Alex. Do
9 you remember any of these phone calls taking place?

10 A. I don't.

11 Q. All right. And you don't recall having these
12 conversations?

13 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Leading. Sustained.

15 BY MR. AUSTIN:

16 Q. You were shown Government's Exhibit 47. It's
17 related to the Red Beard property. Did you have to bug Alex
18 routinely to try to get paid on that?

19 A. I had to bug Alex routinely to get paid on anything.
20 But, yes, I would have to.

21 Q. Okay. And out of all the partners in that, who ever
22 paid back any money on those loans?

23 A. Alex Murdaugh made the payments on Red Beard and 0
24 United.

25 Q. What about the other partners?

1 A. Not to my knowledge.

2 Q. And once a loan is charged off, is the bank under
3 any requirement not to loan money to that customer anymore?

4 A. You have no requirements not to do it. I mean,
5 obviously, you are going to take a little more due diligence
6 because there's a reason of why you charged it off.

7 Q. Okay. And besides that, I guess it's really two
8 loans, Red Beard and O United, besides those, did you ever
9 have any other loans that Alex didn't pay back until
10 September 2021?

11 A. That is correct, he paid them all back. Might have
12 paid them slow, but he paid them all back.

13 Q. And did any of the third-party auditor reports
14 during this time --

15 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. Beyond the
16 scope of my cross-examination.

17 MR. AUSTIN: Entire cross related to Alex Murdaugh's
18 financial risk. And so I think it's fair to explore that.

19 THE COURT: Well, she didn't cover it. You covered
20 it on direct. She didn't raise it on cross. I sustain the
21 objection.

22 MR. AUSTIN: Thank you, Your Honor.

23 BY MR. AUSTIN:

24 Q. I believe Ms. Limehouse asked you with regard to
25 your bond hearing whether or not you admitted to helping Alex

1 structure transactions. Is that accurate?

2 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. I just asked
3 if it was structuring here today.

4 THE COURT: That's the only thing you can ask about
5 that. Something about another hearing, she didn't use that,
6 so I sustain the objection. You can only ask about what
7 she -- what was raised on cross.

8 BY MR. AUSTIN:

9 Q. Have you ever admitted helping Alex structure funds
10 or -- sorry, structure transactions?

11 A. I didn't intentionally structure it, but when you
12 look back on it now, it was structuring.

13 Q. You believe that was his intent or that was your
14 intent?

15 A. I believe that was his intent. It was not my
16 intent, but ...

17 Q. And you were shown Government's Exhibit 37 and 38.
18 If we could pull those up, please. Those were called the
19 re-cutting e-mail chain. Where did you say that you found
20 these e-mails when you were doing your research?

21 A. The original one -- I found this one, this e-mail,
22 in my files on Hannah Plyler. It was in the loans section
23 for the payoffs.

24 Q. Okay. And so the 1325, that relates to Arthur
25 Badger, correct?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. But this was in the Hannah Plyler --

3 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. Leading.

4 THE COURT: Just -- this is your witness. You can't
5 testify, Mr. Austin. I sustain the objection.

6 BY MR. AUSTIN:

7 Q. Where did you find this e-mail?

8 A. I found this when I go back into my loans. I kept
9 the records. And I'd stuck it behind the loans that it paid
10 off, because that was -- in the other e-mail it shows all the
11 work. So I knew if the probate court ever wanted to see how
12 I figured it up, there it was.

13 Q. Okay. So were you trying to hide these e-mails from
14 the probate court?

15 A. No, sir, not at all.

16 Q. And did you turn these e-mails over to law
17 enforcement?

18 A. I turned this one. I didn't see this one.

19 Q. Okay. And do you deny asking Jeanne to re-cut that
20 check?

21 A. I did ask her.

22 Q. And did you have any idea what that check related to
23 at the time you wrote this e-mail?

24 A. I had no idea.

25 Q. Again, why did you send this e-mail to Jeanne?

1 A. My customer, Alex Murdaugh, requested it.

2 MR. AUSTIN: Could we pull up Government's Exhibit
3 29, please. Please zoom in on the checks in the bottom, just
4 the one check.

5 BY MR. AUSTIN:

6 Q. Okay. Was it possible for \$388,000 to have come
7 from Donna Badger's estate?

8 A. Absolutely not.

9 Q. And this says Arthur Badger at the bottom here, but
10 what account did this come out of, this money?

11 A. This came out of -- the 388,000?

12 Q. Yes, sir.

13 A. Came out of 693,592.72 as PMPED's account.

14 Q. So when the memo line says Arthur Badger at the
15 bottom, who is entering that information?

16 A. PMPED does.

17 Q. All right. And when you say that that's for the
18 customers, then who would that customer be in this situation,
19 Arthur Badger or the law firm?

20 A. PMPED, that's the customer.

21 Q. Okay. So let's go to page 20, please. And you
22 said -- this number here, is that the same number, is that
23 the --

24 A. No, that's a different number. That's Alex
25 Murdaugh's personal account number.

1 Q. Okay. And who asked for it to be deposited into
2 that account?

3 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. Hearsay.

4 BY MR. AUSTIN:

5 Q. If you remember.

6 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Sustained.

8 BY MR. AUSTIN:

9 Q. Did you decide on your own to put that into that
10 account?

11 A. No.

12 Q. And how much money went through Donna Badger's
13 account?

14 A. \$500.

15 Q. So would it be possible for any of these checks over
16 \$50,000, over \$100,000, to have come from Donna Badger's
17 estate?

18 A. Absolutely not.

19 Q. And so any of these checks that reference Donna
20 Badger's estate, where would that money be coming from?

21 A. I'm not sure where the money was coming from. I
22 didn't even notice it.

23 Q. Did you have any responsibility for monitoring
24 Arthur Badger's accounts?

25 A. I don't.

1 Q. Why not?

2 A. I was not the PR for him. I was the PR for Donna
3 Badger.

4 Q. Okay. Can you explain that memo line piece of it,
5 what your understanding of the memo lines were with those
6 checks?

7 A. Memo line on a check, the way I understand it, is
8 for the writer of the check so I could remember what I wrote
9 the check for. I mean, if I wrote -- my niece, check for her
10 birthday, I could have written, Claire Henderson, birthday,
11 you know, happy birthday on it. That's what it was for.
12 Then you could write I paid the painter or whatever. That's
13 what it's for. It's not for who you are giving the check to.

14 Q. So like in this situation there, it says Arthur
15 Badger in the memo line. Was that memo line intended to be
16 for Arthur Badger to signify it relates to Arthur Badger --

17 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. Objection.
18 BY MR. AUSTIN:

19 Q. What's your understanding of the memo line in that
20 situation?

21 A. In that situation, I would assume that it is for
22 PMPED to understand that this money that Alex has gotten is
23 either part of fees, part of something. I'm not sure what it
24 was, but ...

25 Q. And did you have any conversations with Arthur

1 Badger about negotiating the \$35,000 PR fee?

2 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection. Hearsay.

3 THE WITNESS: I did not.

4 BY MR. AUSTIN:

5 Q. Participation in the conversation?

6 THE COURT: Overruled.

7 Q. You did not have any participation in the
8 conversation, is that what you said?

9 A. I don't recall having a conversation with him about
10 the PR fee.

11 Q. Okay. And turning to the beach house renovations,
12 and you said that you saw all these checks going to C.E.
13 Smith. Do you know who C.E. Smith -- did you know who C.E.
14 Smith was at the time?

15 A. I did not.

16 Q. Even though he had gotten lawyer loans?

17 A. I didn't. We have numerous people come in and get
18 lawyer loans. I typically don't see the lawyer loans unless
19 everybody else is busy, and then I would pick them up.

20 Q. All right. And what was your understanding again of
21 what that money might have been for?

22 A. The checks to C.E. Smith?

23 Q. Yes, sir.

24 A. We thought -- when you are doing a construction loan
25 or whatever, you see large checks weekly. That's the way

1 they pay their subcontractors or whatever else they are
2 paying for, materials, we assumed that's what that was for.

3 Q. And how did you tie that back to the beach house at
4 that time?

5 A. We didn't. I mean, Mr. Murdaugh had told us what he
6 was doing and that he was, you know, needing the loan to do
7 renovations on the beach house. And, you know, it started
8 off as, as I said before, at 500,000. Then he asked to
9 increase it to 750, which we didn't mind doing. And we just
10 assumed those were the checks. We didn't -- we did not try
11 to tie it back.

12 Q. Okay. And I believe you testified that you couldn't
13 loan Alex that money alone. What did you mean by that?

14 A. My lending limit, even when I was CEO of the bank,
15 at the end was a million dollars. If we had two Executive
16 Committee members together, your lending limit then went to a
17 million and a half. And I want to say at the point in time
18 of the \$750,000 loan, he was at 2.7 or 3.5 million. I can't
19 remember. So many numbers have run together over these past
20 two weeks. But I could not have done that without Executive
21 Committee approval, who had authority to loan up to \$6
22 million. Anything over \$6 million had to go to the full
23 Board.

24 Q. Okay. And how many customers does Palmetto State
25 Bank have, roughly?

1 A. I would say 14,000, somewhere right there. I know
2 that we had that many accounts. So, you know, some people
3 have multiple accounts, but --

4 Q. Do you know how many loans on average PSB gives out
5 on a monthly basis?

6 A. I know the Hampton office on a monthly basis would
7 do between 100 to 200 loans a month.

8 Q. Was it part of your responsibility to monitor how
9 every single loan or how all the loans proceeds from each of
10 those loans were spent?

11 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. This is
12 beyond the scope of my cross-examination.

13 THE COURT: I overrule. Answer the question.

14 THE WITNESS: I've never looked at how loan proceeds
15 were spent in 20-something years of banking.

16 BY MR. AUSTIN:

17 Q. And do you feel that you violated any
18 responsibilities as a banker by not checking the loans over
19 the course of your 27 years?

20 A. I don't at all. I mean, we give somebody a loan.
21 If we give Alex or whoever a loan, once we give them the
22 loan, then we cut that check to them, or approve the loan, my
23 sight or eyes is it's their money, and they could do with it
24 as they wish as long as they paid it back as agreed upon.

25 Q. And the loan you got from Johnnie Parker, you used

1 that to pay back some of Hannah Plyler's loans; is that
2 right?

3 A. I did.

4 Q. And that was your money you got from Johnnie Parker,
5 correct?

6 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor. Leading.

7 THE COURT: Leading.

8 BY MR. AUSTIN:

9 Q. Was that your money you got from Johnnie Parker? He
10 loaned you the money?

11 A. Yes, once he loaned me the money, it was my money,
12 that's correct.

13 Q. So you are not -- did you steal that money from
14 anybody?

15 A. Absolutely not.

16 Q. And you used that money to pay Hannah Plyler back?

17 A. I did.

18 Q. And did Hannah Plyler lose any money during any of
19 the time that you were her conservator?

20 A. She did not.

21 Q. Did you earn her money through these loans?

22 A. I did. She earned interest.

23 Q. And do you recall how much money she earned in
24 interest?

25 A. Just the last year she earned over \$19,000.

1 Q. Okay. And do you feel that you've done your job as
2 conservator for her?

3 A. I do.

4 Q. In the e-mails that you sent with the Board or sent
5 to the Board about all of these issues in October of 2021,
6 were you trying to cover your tracks at the time?

7 A. I was not. I absolutely would not try to cover my
8 tracks. I was going to be forthcoming. You know, this was a
9 family bank. It was my heart, soul, everything. And I
10 wouldn't try to hide it.

11 Q. When you said that you consulted the attorney or
12 that you informed the attorney but you didn't consult him,
13 did you believe that you had the ultimate authority to make
14 these decisions?

15 A. Absolutely did have the authority by our bylaws.

16 Q. And if that were a mistake, was that still why you
17 believed that you could?

18 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Leading.

20 MS. LIMEHOUSE: He's testifying.

21 THE COURT: Mr. Austin, don't lead your witness.

22 MR. AUSTIN: Sorry. Sorry, Your Honor.

23 BY MR. AUSTIN:

24 Q. What gave you the authority to make those loans,
25 make that loan \$750,000, or issue the check for \$680,000?

1 A. The authority to make the \$750,000 loan was done by
2 the Executive Committee. As you heard me say earlier, it was
3 way above my limit. I could not have done it. The authority
4 for the \$680,000 check that I issued to PMPED was given to me
5 by -- it was either 4.02 or 4.03 of the bylaws. One is
6 Chairman of the Board, one is CEO. That's why I'm saying
7 it's one of those sections or the other.

8 Q. And had there ever been any issues, to your
9 knowledge, with the CEO making such decisions by the Board?

10 A. None to my knowledge since '97 when I started.

11 Q. And did you have any issues communicating any of
12 these issues relating to banking with Board members when you
13 were discussing these issues in the fall of 2021?

14 A. Can you repeat that, please?

15 Q. Did you have any issues discussing banking issues
16 with Board members during the fall of 2021?

17 A. I don't have any problems discussing banking issues
18 during the fall. I mean, the hardest thing during this time
19 is trying to communicate. Because we, obviously, would do a
20 lot of it by e-mail. And our lawyers were saying don't put
21 anything in e-mails. So it makes a little more difficult.

22 Q. And is that why you said we will discuss this in the
23 Board meeting?

24 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Mr. Austin, please don't testify.

1 Sustained.

2 BY MR. AUSTIN:

3 Q. Why did the Bank of America checks get included in
4 the \$680,000 payment to PMPED?

5 A. We were on the hook, in my eyes, for \$1,172,000 and
6 change. And I wanted to -- wanted PMPED and us to work
7 together to make their client, Mr. Badger, whole because his
8 money was stolen. They needed to make him whole. Palmetto
9 State Bank had negotiated the checks for PMPED's lawyers. So
10 I felt like we both had liability or both had -- not
11 liability, that's not the correct word, responsibility is the
12 correct word. We needed to fix it. So I just took the
13 million 325 plus the PR fees, which I said before we added
14 in.

15 Q. Did you all handle the Satterfield case any
16 differently?

17 A. We didn't. The Satterfield case, when we handled
18 it, we didn't ever touch the money. When I say touched the
19 money, the money never ran through Palmetto State Bank. And
20 when they settled it, they made a big deal about the PR fees
21 being paid back. That's why I added my PR fees back. And I
22 thought it was the right thing to do, so we did it.

23 MR. AUSTIN: Can you pull up Defendant's Exhibit 83.

24 BY MR. AUSTIN:

25 Q. All right. And you were just asked about this on

1 cross. This is the check that you paid back to the bank; is
2 that correct?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. And when was it deposited?

5 A. It looks like it was right here, December 17th.

6 Q. Okay. But when you figured out the \$680,000 payment
7 or when you negotiated that with PMPED, did you include the
8 \$17,500 as part of that negotiation?

9 A. I'm a little confused.

10 Q. Did you include splitting your PR fees when you
11 discussed the amount of the settlement with PMPED?

12 A. Yes, sir, I did. It was a million 325, was the
13 amount that was stolen from Mr. Badger, plus the \$35,000 PR
14 fee. So I took it a million 360 and divided it by 2, so we
15 had 680. So the bank had actually paid \$17,500 of my fees
16 that I had earned. And so I felt like I should pay them
17 back, so I did.

18 Q. Okay. So without the \$17,500 multiplied by 2, would
19 would that \$680,000 have decreased?

20 A. It would have been \$662,500, somewhere right in
21 there.

22 Q. So when did you write that check for \$680,000 that
23 you delivered to PMPED?

24 A. October 28th. And I'm going to assume I delivered
25 it either the 28th or 29th.

1 Q. And so that's \$17,500 would be factored into it,
2 correct?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. I believe you were asked about whether or not you
5 managed any money for Hakeem Pinkney or Natasha Thomas. Did
6 a judge ever sign off on your fees from those cases?

7 A. They did. That was done through circuit court.

8 Q. Do you recall which judge?

9 A. I'm going to say it was Carmen Mullen, but I
10 wouldn't swear to it.

11 MS. LIMEHOUSE: Objection, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Beyond the scope. Sustained.

13 BY MR. AUSTIN:

14 Q. Going back to the appraisal related to the beach
15 house and the \$750,000 loan, what's the difference on the
16 bank using it for renewal of a first mortgage and the
17 \$750,000 second mortgage?

18 A. There wouldn't be any difference.

19 Q. Okay. And was the second mortgage a renewal?

20 A. The second mortgage was going to be a new loan.
21 That was part of the \$750,000 loan.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. We were hoping.

24 Q. I'm going to show you what's been marked as
25 Defendant's Exhibit 90. This has not been entered into

1 evidence, Your Honor. I provided a copy to the Government.

2 THE COURT: Is there going to be an objection from
3 the Government?

4 MS. LIMEHOUSE: I'm not sure of relevance, Your
5 Honor, right now.

6 THE COURT: Do you want to take a look at it?

7 MS. LIMEHOUSE: I've seen it. I know what it is.
8 It's a family chart. I'm just not sure what's relevant. And
9 it's beyond the scope of my cross-examination.

10 THE COURT: Well, is it within the scope of the
11 cross, Mr. Austin?

12 MR. AUSTIN: These are general questions about the
13 family dynamics.

14 THE COURT: No. That wasn't in her
15 cross-examination. If that's your basis, I sustain the
16 objection.

17 MR. AUSTIN: Beg the Court's indulgence. No further
18 questions.

19 (End of transcript.)
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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I, Karen V. Andersen, Registered Merit Reporter,
Certified Realtime Reporter for the State of South Carolina
at Large, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is
a true, accurate and complete Transcript of Record of the
proceedings.

I further certify that I am neither related to nor
counsel for any party to the cause pending or interested in
the events thereof.

LUNA SHARK MEDIA


Karen V. Andersen
Registered Merit Reporter
Certified Realtime Reporter