



EPISODE 16: What Happened to the Money? Part One

Mandy Matney 00:00

I don't know where all of Alex Murdaugh's money went. But a South Carolina judge just made a promising ruling that should lead to answers in this deepening mystery. My name is Mandy Matney, and I've been investigating the Murdaugh family for more than two and a half years now and this is the Murdaugh Murders Podcast. On Tuesday, Judge Daniel Hall ordered an injunction to freeze Alex Murdaugh's assets and appointed receivers to manage and recover funds that could pay alleged victims currently suing the Murdaughs. And that is a big deal. But to understand how big of a deal this is, we need to go back a couple of weeks and explain how this ruling happened. Let's go back to Friday, October 22, just three days after Alex Murdaugh was denied bond, Eric Bland called me early in the morning. The audio here is imperfect. As I said before, I'm always a journalist before I'm a podcaster. And in this moment, I was more concerned about breaking the story than I was about getting perfect audio. You'll also hear from our sweet dog Luna who tends to get excited when Eric Bland calls.

Eric Bland 01:19

Friday bombshell we are filing, Mark Kinsley is filing, and Joe McCall is filing all three of the same motion to have a receiver appointed for Alex Murdaugh, all of his assets and everything. And it's going to be John T. Lee, who is a significant defense attorney in the states of bombshell motion, saying essentially that he's already shown that he's dissipating assets. The receiver has extremely broad powers. To give you an example, to do the protocol officer has been appointed by Justice Cole. She sits over all these bestest cases in the state. And essentially, the receiver goes out and sues everybody recover money for a fund to the victims. And already they've recovered like \$200 million, just nine months. Same kind of thing that we're doing here at John T Lee is going to be an officer either under Don Beatty or appointed judge, and he essentially has the broadest powers of anybody under the law, he literally can walk in any business bank with an order showing the order and say hand over everything you got. And so Mark Kinsley's motions already filed his case, so you can look at it but this is essentially going to lock Alex to the point. He won't even be able to buy a cup of coffee. That's a quote, and anybody in this family avoids the power of attorney. They bust their hands and this guy will go after money at Bank of America. Tracy says he will unwind every single transaction that Alex has done since 2015. When he opened the back of America account. They'll go to people who have money and say you have to discard that money. And more importantly, he's going to trace and once you're listening to this Dick Harpootlian and Jim Griffin fees.



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Mandy Matney 03:22

Dick Harpootlian and Jim Griffin we're currently representing Alex in multiple criminal cases, were hired to defend Paul Murdaugh and the boat crash criminal case in either March or April 2019, which would be soon after Alex Murdaugh transferred a large amount of settlement money to his own account. According to prosecutors. Bland said that the receivers will be able to find out whether or not Griffin and her Poulin were paid in fees from the Satterfield settlement. Basically the receivers should be able to find out where all of Alex's money has gone since he opened the Forge account in 2015.

Eric Bland 04:02

It is so oppressive. You cannot believe it. You just cannot believe the powers of a receiver if we have one of them. Brought in broadest receiver statutes in the country. And I'm telling you Alex will not be able to buy. It did carpooling, Jim Griffin should look long and hard on whether they want to start spending the attorneys big money that get from Alex either before or now because it's coming all back in what the receiver does, is he goes out and he secures and marshals all the money and it goes into a fund and then the court decides on the victims who gets it. Alex is going to absolutely in his jail cell when he hears this. He knows the because he's a lawyer. He knows what is coming. There's no stopping the receiver. There's no stopping. There's no they go wherever the money goes, it's absolutely follow the money. He literally comes in and takes over a failed entity or a failed person with tons of money and tons of creditors. He becomes legitimate. He's like a he's a combination of a judge and the highest ranking law enforcement officer you can imagine. And he has direct line communication with the judge who will preside over the case got it

Mandy Matney 05:45

so keeping up with all the lawsuits against Alex Murdaugh is super tricky, and I want to do a quick recap because Eric Bland, Joe Macola, and Mark Kinsley all filed motions to freeze Alex's assets. So the first lawsuit was Mark Kinsley's lawsuit marked. Kinsley has been in this fight against the Murdaughs for more than two and a half years. He filed the wrongful death lawsuit against Alex Murdaugh, Buster Murdaugh and others on behalf of Mallory Beach's mother in March 2015. And for a recap, in February 2019, A highly intoxicated Paul Murdaugh, who was 19 years old at the time was allegedly driving his father's boat when 19 year old Mallory Beach was killed in a horrific crash near Parris Island, South Carolina. At the time upon Murdaugh's death in June 2021. He faced three felony boating under the influence charges for that crash. While Paul Murdaugh was charged in that crash. He was never named as a



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defendant in the civil lawsuit. The lawsuit instead seeks damages from Parker's 55 gas station where the underage Paul Murdaugh allegedly purchased alcohol prior to the crash as well as Murdaugh's brother and father who facilitated his drinking. According to the lawsuit, Paul's grandfather, Randolph Murdaugh III who died just days after Paul and Maggie's murders was originally a defendant in the suit and then later dropped from the lawsuit and 2019. Randolph estate as well as other parties such as the Woods family that hosted an oyster roast that evening and Luther's where Paul Murdaugh took two shots before crashing. The boat apparently settled in the case, while Alex Murdaugh, Buster Murdaugh, and Parker's have refused to settle for years. The Beach's lawsuit was the only ongoing civil action against Alex Murdaugh until September 2021. And now the disgraced lawyer faces a flurry of lawsuits. The second lawsuit against Alex Murdaugh was filed on September 15 by attorney Eric Bland and his partner Ronald Richter on behalf of Gloria Satterfield sons. That lawsuit alleges that Alex Murdaugh conspired with his attorney friend Corey Fleming and his banker friend Chad Westendorf to steal millions of dollars from a wrongful death settlement. Alex is the only individual in that lawsuit who has not paid back a dime of the settlement money and the third lawsuit against Alex Murdaugh was filed by Attorney Joe Macola, who was representing Connor Cook, one of the four survivors of the 2019 boat crash. That lawsuit alleges that Alex Murdaugh conspired with others including Corey Fleming to frame Connor Cook in the boating accident that killed Mallory Beach. There are three other lawsuits that have been filed against Alex Murdaugh and we will get to those later in this episode. But the three that I just mentioned on behalf of the Beaches', Connor Cook and the Satterfield are important because all three of these plaintiff attorneys filed motions to freeze Alex's assets. So a week after these motions were filed, Judge Daniel Hall, who is the judge of Mark Kinsley's case held a hearing in Chesterfield County, which is in the northern region of the state Mark Kinsley took center stage of the hearing in front of about a dozen media cameras. He argued that the receivership in this case is necessary for the many victims to get justice, while Kinsley recognized that appointing a receiver is a severe remedy. He argued that the circumstances in this case met the requirements.

Mark Kinsley 09:18

Um, Alex Murdaugh Dick Harpootlian, issue with this case, he has no one. He has no insurance to defend these lawsuits related to the depths of these monies. Millions and millions of dollars, he's admitted to have stole. He is going to jail. There's no question about it. He is going to jail and your lawyer can't go on National Television and say you've stolen, and then do it any other way.



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Mandy Matney 09:45

Many of us there on Friday looked around the courtroom and notice that no one was really there for Alex Murdaugh, Murdaugh's criminal defense attorney Dick Harpootlian was expected to show up to support his client According to my sources, but he was nowhere in sight while Harpootlian and Griffin are his criminal defense attorneys and are not involved at the civil side of Alex Murdaugh's cases, it was telling to me that neither of them showed up on Friday. Perhaps it means that they aren't all in for their client. Also noteworthy. I didn't see a single representative from NP strategies, the PR firm that has worked on behalf of the Murdaugh family and Buster Murdaugh, whose own assets are up for debate didn't show his face on Friday, not a single member of the Murdaugh family showed up at the Chesterfield County courthouse on Friday, the only person who was on his side was John Taylor, who represents the only insurance company that is agreed to cover just some of the costs up to \$500,000 for the boat crash lawsuit.

Mark Kinsley 10:46

There's no one to defend Mr. Murdaugh, in all due respect to Mr. Taylor was because he is a fine lawyer and I respect him greatly. He's been hired by one particular insurance company. And I sincerely doubt that they're going to pay to defend him on these unrelated claims the receiver can do the receiver can make sure that the SOP properly is not weight not loss not, because the air conditioners turned off in this time, the humidity is such that it causes damage to the home, or because it's going to be asked to pass through receiver will be able to go in and unwind, either pursuant to statute Elizabeth, or the assignment statute. There's a number of statutes that they can apply. But it's unnecessary for us to waste all that time and all that money on the backside of all of the secret transactions that most Americans undergo when we could stop and the receiver would be able to sign it

Mandy Matney 11:45

Several times Kinsley to be quoted and question Dick Harpootlian claims that Alex was a poor man with no assets.

Mark Kinsley 11:54

But obviously, he's living pretty well for somebody who has no assets. He's got a crisis manager, a very expensive law firm. He's got a number of warriors, in addition to Mr.



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Taylor, that he paid for. He's pretty good for somebody with no money and spending a lot of money to not have it.

Mandy Matney 12:17

Kinsley argued that the Murdaughs had been making a lot of brow raising financial moves in recent months, particularly on September 15, Alex Murdaugh granted his power of attorney to a son Buster Murdaugh,

Mark Kinsley 12:30

He's not gonna be able to earn any more money, he's not gonna. He's going to jail. And so in this case is with this Mr Murdaugh is going to jail not only cannot earn more money from which to pay these credit, he has no incentive to do so. And the fear there is is that he supports said hide the money in parts unknown and is designed to reduce all of his assets to cash and leave the state for parts. I know that's what they do. And here we are showing you a copy of the resolution where the book about the Swamp Hunting Club Share was sold. I understand that it was sold somewhere in the neighborhood of \$250,000. They have a grainy white boat. and this is a shared 7000 acres of property along Savannah River. They listed their boat. But there were a number of farm implements and large tractors at the Moselle property. I understand that Buster Murdaugh has sold those for cash.

Mandy Matney 13:35

Kinsley argued that Buster and Alex Murdaugh are purposely liquidating their assets in court he brought up Busters recent Vegas vacation with his uncle John Marvin, who by the way documented the trip on his public Instagram FITS news sources saw both Buster and John Marvin playing roulette and blackjack at the Venetian just hours after Alex was denied Bond a few weeks ago,

Mark Kinsley 14:00

I believe that Unless the Court steps in and takes control of the last appointment of receiver, that's what they will be at the end of the day. Dick Harpootlian's prediction that he's out no money will be his truth in the day. They've got money right now you're on. It couldn't do this. They couldn't pay Jim Griffin \$750 an hour to get on television, give interviews, they couldn't pay a crisis manager if they didn't have money. Those people don't work for free. There's money there, assets, we'll know where they are. And we would simply like to preserve if Mr. Murdaugh has some claim, some meat, something that comes up that where he needs Money he can make he can petition. If it's an attorney fee. There's some other reason that he needs some money, but he's already made a lot of money. His other lawyers, his criminal



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lawyers. This is not a burdensome process. This is a process to do justice. This is a process to protect everyone.

Mandy Matney 15:00

Multiple times Kinsley mentioned that there are victims out there who don't know that Alex Murdaugh stole from them. And he argued that this process will help those victims get their money back.

Mark Kinsley 15:12

It is it is a way we protect the assets is a way that we protect all the claimants, including these people who haven't even or may not even know their money has been stolen. If you enter into a structured settlement that indicates that in 10 years, you're going to start making your payments. You may not even know he stole \$89,000 or \$750,000 or \$65,000 from you. You don't even know it yet, but it's coming.

Mandy Matney 15:48

Finally, Mark Kinsley argued that this case is extraordinary and calls for extraordinary measures because Alex is a different kind of criminal.

Mark Kinsley 15:57

It is not as simple as Mr. Griffin wants to contend that we can just go and go. This was a gentleman who's a very sophisticated criminal, he sold millions and millions of dollars, admittedly stole millions of dollars and manipulated the system. This is not your average criminal. And so to suggest that it's just going to be a simple fee to go in there and be able to undo and figure out what all he's done is intellectually dishonest,

Mandy Matney 16:29

Kinsley mentioned the number of extensive real estate transactions between Barrett T Bowor where and Alex Murdaugh in September FITS news exclusively reported on these real estate transactions between Bowow who is an alleged drug smuggler, and Murdaugh, we're going to get into all of that and the jellyfish Gambit, which is related to that in another episode.

Mark Kinsley 16:52

There are a number of properties in which the taxes are delinquent, not just this beach house, in Hampton and Collington counties. There are extensive real estate transaction between Mr. Bower, the gentleman who are the family, they satisfied the \$970,000 debt to it is not as simple as Mr. Griffin wants to contend that we can just



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go in good. This was a gentleman who's a very sophisticated criminal, he stole millions and millions of dollars, admittedly stole millions of dollars and manipulated the system. This is not your average criminal. And so to suggest that it's just going to be a simple fee to go in there and be able to undo and figure out what all he's done is intellectually dishonest. I would rather, as the representative of one of the claims against the assets of Mr. Murdaugh, receive a portion of those assets that all have nothing.

Mandy Matney 18:02

Following Friday's hearing, two additional lawsuits were filed that afternoon, claiming that Alex Murdaugh had borrowed more than \$550,000 from his law partner John E. Parker, and his brother Randy Murdaugh since March 2021. And Alex's brothers lawsuit he claimed that he loaned Alex \$75,000 On Thursday, September 2, which would be two days before Alex's botched suicide for hire incident in one day before PMPED, which is the law firm started by his family allegedly confronted Alex about misappropriated funds. According to Randy's lawsuit, Randy Murdaugh paid Alex \$15,000 for his rehab stay. However, as Kinsley pointed out, Alex's attorney Dick Harpootlian claimed in court twice the Alex Murdaugh's insurance company was paying for his rehab and saying that he was dead broke. So which is it? Randy Murdaugh's lawsuit also claimed that Buster has sold various assets belonging to Alex Murdaugh to pay for other debts owed to Palmetto State Bank and the rehab including a tractor and rotary cutter that Buster Murdaugh gave Randy for a \$43,000 debt coverage. Soon after Randy filed his lawsuit John E. Parker, who was a partner at PMPED filed his own lawsuit, and that claims that he loaned Alex the following amounts that he had not paid back \$150,000 on March 5 2021 \$77,000, on May 18 2021, and \$250,000 on July 25 2021, which would be almost two months after Maggie and Paul were murdered. So that would be \$550,000. Within five months that Alex Murdaugh allegedly took friends and family alone. That is a lot of money and considering it's on top of the \$3.6 million he allegedly stole from the Satterfield settlement just last year. That is an absurd amount of money to go missing so quickly. In a memo filed Monday, attorney Mark Kinsley argued that those two lawsuits only support his motion for the court to approve an injunction in receivership. David will read apart of Kinsley's memo.

DAVID MOSES 20:30

These facts raise questions of where Alex Murdaugh spent his additional \$550,000 To whom he has given it for what purposes and was any benefit received in return. If Alex Murdaugh is truly broke, it seems strange that his former law partner and his



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brother who likely has some intimate knowledge of Alex Murdaugh's assets would take the time and effort to file a lawsuit against him. Tinsley wrote

Mandy Matney 21:07

then, just four days after the hearing, Judge Hall posted the news, he ruled against Alex Murdaugh in Granted Kinsley's motion, which means that the court will order a temporary injunction over Murdaugh's assets and he will appoint two receivers who are Attorney John T. Lee Jr. and former US Attorney Peter N McCoy Jr. as receivers. In the case this decision gives Lee and McCoy broad powers to not only lock up Alex Murdaugh innocent busters assets, but to sue for the recovery of those assets as well. After this decision was made, Eric Bland spoke with me and he told me that he believes that the judge's ruling following Murdaugh's volunteering two weeks ago shows that the tides are changing in South Carolina justice system.

Eric Bland 21:55

He, He, there's a clear message being sent Mandy, this justice system that we have here now has had enough of Alex Murdaugh. Enough of the games enough of the you know, the lawyer machinations that he wants to employ may feel like he's clear. But the message over the last two weeks is one is clear and present danger. And obviously a potential flight risk or a danger to himself. So he was jailed, without bond to that he represents a very dangerous man with the pen. And our courts have said, we don't want that to happen anymore. He he we're not going to let him decide who gets paid and who doesn't get paid, where money goes and where it doesn't go. He's gonna have to ask permission from daddy for now on.

Mandy Matney 22:52

I asked Eric Bland just how rare This is that a judge orders a receivership over assets and a civil case.

Eric Bland 23:00

It's usually done. After a judgment, or through a dissolution of a company. It's more receiver receivers are very common, Mandy, for companies that are unwinding or winding down or things like that, like an Enron or you know something else like that. Very rare for an individual, very, very rare to apply to an individual, very rare. But the courts looking at Alex like he's an enterprise, and they've had enough of course, they're sending a signal to him that he should hear loud and clear that I don't think you're going to be able to get the sweetheart Murdaugh deal that you thought you would get by walking into a court it's not going to happen. I think he's going to be



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...serving his time underneath the jail out underneath the courtroom is gonna be served some significant time when all this is over with

Mandy Matney 24:05

Tuesday's ruling raises a big question in the Murdaugh murder saga. Now the Alex Murdaugh's assets are locked up will his quote unquote Bulldog attorneys and fancy PR team still work for him who will fight for him now. Eric Bland told me that the receivers will have the power to investigate every financial transaction that Alex Murdaugh was directly or indirectly connected with could that mean that we will finally find out if Maggie and Paul had life insurance policies when they were murdered on June 7. Stay tuned. Stay tuned to the Murdaugh Murders Podcasts and FITS news.com That's fitsnews.com. For the latest updates. Follow me on Twitter at Mandy Matney that's M a n d y M a t n e y and follow me on Instagram at Mandy underscore score in underscore Hilton Head for more updates.

DAVID MOSES 25:05

There's so much to unpack in this case and Mandy works tirelessly to expose the truth but the truth is she works hard and she does get tired. If you believe like I do that Mandy is the best in the business and I'm a little biased, visit Murdaugh Murders Podcast.com and click the support the show link to learn how you can help leave a five star review to offset the haters refer an advertiser and get a finder's fee or advertise your company product or service we can geo target across the globe and find the right audience to suit your needs. Help us get Luna some treats so she doesn't interrupt the show as much. And absolutely subscribe to fits news.com Mandy and Will are revolutionizing journalism and your subscriptions are invaluable to that mission. Plus you get awesome content every day.

Mandy Matney 25:52

And don't forget to leave a five star review unless you're going to be nasty and talk about my vocal fry. The Murdaugh Murders Podcast is created by me, Mandy Matney and my fiance David Moses produced by Luna Shark Productions

Luna 26:08

Barking Gratefully and Lovingly



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Mandy Matney 26:19

What's that? That's Luna saying thank you to Wolfgang bakery in Bluffton, South Carolina for all of the amazing treats you gave her thanks to you all. Luna has been fully occupied while we worked on this episode. So thank you so much. Stick with us, y'all. We have great episodes in store

MURDAUGH
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