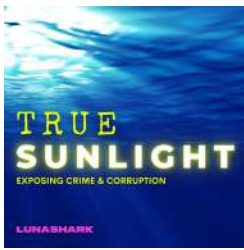


EPISODE 08: 'Exclusive Interview With Mark 'The Tiger' Tinsley After Reaching \$15+ Million Settlement In Boat Crash Case

[00:00:02] **Mandy Matney:** I don't know if the Beach family or any of the survivors of the horrific 2019 boat crash could ever possibly be made whole. But I believe that the \$15 million settlement reached this week by Mark Tinsley and other attorneys was a massive step toward accountability – and that is a big deal. My name is Mandy Matney. This is *True Sunlight*, a podcast exposing crime and corruption previously known as the *Murdaugh Murders Podcast*. *True Sunlight* is written with journalist Liz Farrell and produced by LUNASHARK.

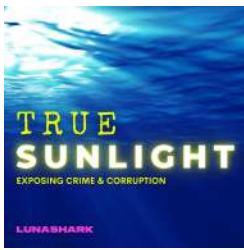
[00:01:01] **Mandy Matney:** Well, we are back after another whirlwind of a week. I wanted to start off by sharing some really good news: the defamation lawsuit filed against me has been dismissed by Judge Jocelyn Newman. And that, also, is a big deal. I feel like a huge weight has been lifted from me and now that this nightmare is over, I'm ready to take on more battles and keep fighting the good fight. I've learned a lot from this lawsuit about the justice system and how unfair it all can be and I'm ready to work really hard to change that. No one should ever be able to use the justice system to terrorize truth tellers. As I mentioned on *Cup of Justice* this week, I've been having a hard time with a lot of different things going on in my life in the past few months, especially online harassment, and I've been taking more time to myself and more time away from the cruel virtual world of my work. I'll say this again, there is no shame in taking time off, which I did a lot of in the last week. David and I visited our friends in Colorado and I got to see Taylor Swift in Denver. And it's crazy, what just a few days away from Twitter and the ugliness of the internet can really do for a person. So while I was away, Liz was able to carry a majority of the load for this episode and I just want to give her some major props and say thank you for always being up when I'm down and always being there to help carry the enormous weight of the Murdaugh story dating back to 2019. Which brings me to the next good news that we got in this last week: the boat crash settlement. The settlement means a lot of things, starting with the fact that the highly anticipated Beach case civil trial will not take place in August. After the trial of Alex Murdaugh, it was hard to imagine that there would be another dramatic, character-driven and quotable case like that ever to be televised again. But as perverse as it may sound, there was a reasonable assumption that the Mallory Beach boat crash case could come close, not only because it features some of the same players, but because this has been a monster of a case. It is a case that has come to symbolize the effects of profiting from the sale of alcohol to minors. It has highlighted the bottomless lows that the rich and politically connected will go to for self preservation. It has exposed the inner workings of a powerful family, a powerful law firm and a powerful gas station owner.



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It has led to the discovery of millions of dollars in stolen client funds. It has also given us an inside look into South Carolina's very broken legal system and system of justice. It has put law enforcement agencies, including the state's Department of Natural Resources and State Highway Patrol, in the hot seat. It has created all sorts of headaches for other attorneys who have been forced to preemptively defend themselves with clients to assure them that they quote "aren't like Alex." Over the past few years, the case has been surprisingly and wildly adversarial and included seemingly unprecedented defense tactics that often crossed the line. The past few months have been even more intense because the widely anticipated civil trial against Alex Murdaugh and regional gas station chain Parker's Kitchen was set to begin August 14 in Hampton County, South Carolina. But then things changed and changed fast.

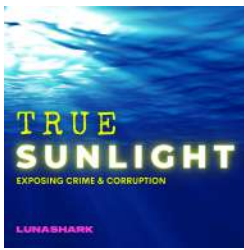
[00:05:02] **Liz Farrell:** This past Friday, the Beach family scored yet another win in pre-trial decisions with Judge Daniel Hall once again denying Parker's Kitchen's second motion to move their case out of Hampton County and their second motion to sever themselves from the case, meaning they wanted their own trial without Alex being a co-defendant. Two days later, the Beach family had settled with Parker's Kitchen for \$15 million and, they thought, with Alex Murdaugh for whatever portion of his assets a judge decides they are due. According to the Beach family's attorney, the agreement with Alex came after the Beaches agreed to waive a payout from Alex's \$500,000 boat insurance policy in exchange for Alex not gumming up the works with the Parker settlement. Then on Monday, the attorney for Alex's boat insurance company, ostensibly after consulting with Alex himself or perhaps with Alex's other two attorneys Dick Harpootlian and Jim Griffin, apparently said wait a minute, you misunderstood me. Because, of course, everything Alex Murdaugh does seems to defy logic. The boat crash that killed 19-year-old Mallory Beach in 2019, turned out to be the beginning of the end for the Murdaugh family's legacy. Or I should say the beginning of the end of the legacy that the family wanted to have, the story they told themselves and the story that they trained others to tell about them over the years. Their real legacy, of course, the one felt deeply by those who had no choice but to exist among their rubble of deceit and to quietly accept their subservient role in 'good ole boy' society, had already been tainted by four generations of unchecked power. But no one knew then just how much this family had been rotting from the inside. And no one knew that February 24, 2019—the day a member of their fifth generation would drunkenly plow his father's boat into a Beaufort County bridge with five friends on board—would end up being a day that



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would eventually lead to double murder. The day of the boat crash, what we call the ground zero of the Murdaugh murders, represented a cultural fork in the road for residents of the lowcountry. The Beach family and the boat crash survivors, as well as some members of law enforcement and the press, could have taken the road to the right of the fork—the road that the Murdaughs had long ago paved for moments like this. On this road, the Murdaughs get to be oblivious to the damage that's been caused. The hardest and most confronting parts of consequence fade away. Accountability gets deleted from the docket. Their downplayed version of events gets recorded into the history books as fact. On this road, they get to passively write the script, the playbook for how those hurt by them will react, which is to say, like them, as if nothing happened at all. The script is generally this: someone gets assigned the blame temporarily and without conclusion everyone just moves on. It's an arrogance that has worked for them for all of time, to the point that some could successfully argue that the younger members of the family just don't know any better. Maybe now they have a chance to learn because this time was different for all of them. The Beach family and the boat crash survivors as well as some members of law enforcement and the press decided to take the other fork in the road, the unpaved portion of road. Needless to say that road has been a challenging one filled with unexpected darkness, new and sometimes worse villains, bureaucratic lethargy, heads in the sand and more uncharted territory than can be contained on a two dimensional map. But this group, grounded by their faith, their belief that justice should not be for sale and their desire for change so that no one else will be hurt by such recklessness in the future, carried on for four difficult years. And at the very front of this caravan for justice was one man leading the way: Mark Tinsley. You may know him by the nickname Zero Dark Tinsley, as the internet calls him, or Tinsley the Tiger as Judge Clifton Newman referred to him, or if you're Alex Murdaugh, you might know him as "Bo." Here's Mark on February 6, 2023, when the world first got to meet him, testifying in an in camera hearing about a confrontation he had had with Alex about a year or so before the murders.

[00:09:27] **Mark Tinsley:** Yeah, I think, I'm not 100 percent certain that it was a fundraiser either for Mr. Harpootlian or it was a fundraiser for Lindsey Graham. As you come into the hotel, there's a gathering area. It's in the evening before everyone goes to dinner or it's immediately after, I'm not 100 percent certain, but the room's full of lawyers, and Alex sees me and he comes across and he gets up close in my face and says "Hey Bo, what's this I'm hearing about what you're saying? I thought we were friends," and I replied, "Alex, we are friends. If you don't think I can burn your house



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down, and that I'm not going to do everything, you're wrong. You need to settle this case.”

[00:10:19] **Creighton Waters:** Okay, so what was the point of that conversation? What was, if you can explain to the court, what y'all were talking about? What is Alex upset to, as you understood it?

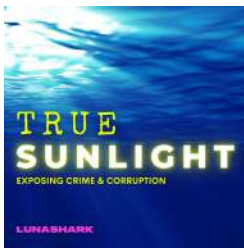
[00:10:29] **Mark Tinsley:** That he was going to have to pay was what he was hearing. The point of it was we're friends. I took it as he tried to intimidate me – he didn't intimidate me – and sort of bully me into backing off.

[00:10:46] **Liz Farrell:** Mark's candor and confidence on the witness stand and his unforgettable presentation of receipts showed the world the force of nature that existed behind the scenes in Alex's world. But like we said, Alex is just one part of the boat crash case. He is just one side of a gold coin. He is heads. Tails is billionaire wannabe Greg Parker, owner of Parker's Kitchen. No matter how that coin flipped, Mark had his work cut out for him. Until now, the very complex story of the boat crash case has only been told in bits and pieces. And because of the case's many tentacles and technicalities, it can get confusing. Today, we have Mark Tinsley himself to help us put it all together. Let's start at the beginning.

[00:11:32] **Mark Tinsley:** You know, I remember getting a call that there had been a boat crash and Paul Murdaugh was involved. There was a girl that was missing. I remember it was Sunday. I remember, I don't remember what the weather was like here, but for whatever reason I was in the house. And in the moment when I heard it had been a boat crash, now it was the same sort of immediate reaction that when my mother called me and told me that a plane had hit the World Trade Tower. I just thought that it was a single engine plane, you know, just some person had flown into the World Trade Tower, and not that it was in fact what it turned out to be. And this is a lot like that.

[00:12:21] **Liz Farrell:** Mark took the case immediately after the crash. He thought it would be a simple one because it seemed so clear cut.

[00:12:28] **Mark Tinsley:** Yeah, you know, I mean, you come into something thinking one thing, you come out of it thinking something completely different. And you know, one of the things that Parker's liked to do and Parker's trolls liked to do is talk



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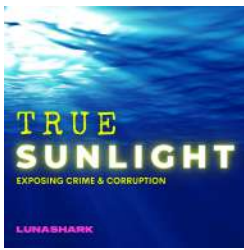
about how early on I said look, this case will be resolved, (inaudible) just investigating people, I really thought the case would be resolved all the way around. I never imagined that they would be the personalities in this and that over four years later we'd still be fighting about it.

[00:13:04] **Liz Farrell:** Now we should mention, Mark is an attorney at Gooding & Gooding, a small firm in rural Allendale County, which is one of the five counties that make up the 14th circuit in South Carolina. Meaning, he was a lawyer deep in the heart of Murdaugh country. When we saw that he had taken the case, we weren't sure what to make of him. We immediately wondered whether he was there to actually fight for the Beaches, or if he was there to protect the Murdaugh family's interests while having the appearance of fighting for the Beaches. For one, he knew Alex.

[00:13:37] **Mark Tinsley:** I thought I knew Alex Murdaugh. I mean, I knew the people involved. I didn't know the people necessarily, well I didn't know all the people. I didn't know any of the kids involved in the crash other than Paul. But yeah, I mean, it's a small area and you know lots of people and I thought I knew who Alex was and I thought I knew that Alex had the wherewithal to realize just how serious it was and take it seriously and not try to Alex Murdaugh it. But pretty quickly it was apparent that he was trying to do that.

[00:14:16] **Liz Farrell:** As you know by now from the second law enforcement arrived on the scene, an intentional muddying of the waters seemed to ensue. Port Royal Police Department allegedly forgot to turn on their body cameras. A Beaufort County Sheriff's Office deputy filled out his report with his own opinion about how the crash might have occurred and he introduced the false narrative that no one would say who was driving. Parris Island's Military Police recorded incriminating statements against Paul that were made when a DNR officer was present, yet those statements weren't included in DNR's own reports. Even worse, a DNR officer was ordered to administer a field sobriety test to both Paul Murdaugh and passenger Connor Cook, the person the Murdaughs immediately blamed for the crash. The DNR, whose officers had close connections with the Murdaugh family, only gave that test to Connor.

[00:15:07] **Mark Tinsley:** I knew about the things that were happening. I knew about the DNR connections and the law enforcement connections. And I knew the things

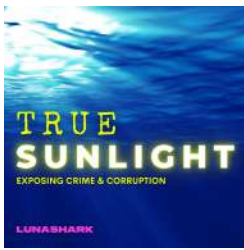


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that the Beaches and other people may have been telling me that had been done. I was assured early on by general counsel for DNR that changes had been made after the first day. Now, the little bit I know what all had happened in the first day. But, you know, from then on, from where I sat, watching, overseeing, making sure the parts that I could see, you know, I told law enforcement where the alcohol would come from. They told me where the alcohol would come from, so we secured the video. I mean, you know it was just, there was a concerted effort of which I was a part of, and I was overseeing it. So I didn't see how anything untoward could be happening. I didn't know what had happened before I got involved. So, no, for a long time, no, I didn't. It wasn't until I get the copy of the file that I realized what had happened. And when I say the file, I'm talking about the prosecution file materials from the criminal case.

[00:16:21] **Liz Farrell:** Mark was seeing the corruption at hand and knew that the Murdaughs considered him to be a friendly attorney in the case and that others were starting to think that same thing about him. To put it mildly, he wasn't going to stand for that.

[00:16:34] **Mark Tinsley:** The case was different for a lot of reasons. I mean, the first probably reason was the one that you pointed to and you were suspicious of in the beginning, you know. I didn't appreciate that spector when I agreed to get involved that that there would be a contingent, a group they would think, "oh, he's in the area, he's in the network, he's in the good ole boys group," whatever, whatever clique it is that and somehow, this is a friendly lawsuit. I didn't appreciate that, and I didn't appreciate the significant impact that that would have in the moments when I agreed to do this. So I felt compelled, not that I would I mean, you've looked at a lot of the cases I've tried and been involved in, I don't really pull punches. I mean, I have a lot of cases, but your case, the moment that I'm working on, is the only one I care about whether it's, you know, a little fender bender with no damage or it's as significant as you lost your daughter. But in addition to that, I mean, I have a daughter. She's a little younger than Mallory so it's easy to put yourself in that position. And then the Beach family themselves is just the most wonderful people. They really are, and when you spend this much time with someone, you really feel like you're a part of their family, they're a part of your family. And that's the way they've treated me and received me and prayed for me when I had cancer and prayed for me when I get attacked and prayed for me, you know, all the way along. And I've said it many times, I don't feel for them the way I do because of what they've



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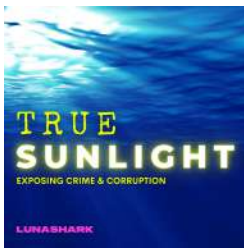
been through. I feel for them the way I do because of who they are in spite of what they've been through. They're just fantastic people.

[00:18:21] **Liz Farrell:** Speaking of the Beaches, we asked Mark how they feel now that the case is settled.

[00:18:36] **Mark Tinsley:** You know, before Sunday, they've always had this determination that they had a sense of what it was going to be like, they don't, you know, in terms of the trial and the victim blaming and, and all of the things that were going to come from that. And then when you have to relive it, they had an idea what the trial was going to be like so in the moments when they realized they're not going to have to do that there's a sense of relief. But I mean, there were a lot of things that went into settling the case. Even on Friday when we had our hearing in the courthouse in Hampton, the sheriff came up after the hearing and was talking to me and told me that the county can't afford a trial. You know, I had had concerns about Alex having a platform to spin whatever narrative or lie he wants to spin now and and having a break, or providing, allowing this video deposition to be taken and how it may be used and profited from. So there were those factors.

[00:19:33] **Liz Farrell:** The video deposition would have taken place this week had the case not settled, and it was a point of contention for Mark. The deposition was organized by Parker's attorneys, but Mark felt that the Murdaugh camp, which is behind an upcoming docuseries from *Fox Nation*, might be planning to use Alex's dubious testimony from prison, as well as potential appearance in court for the trial itself as vehicles to make more money for themselves and further spread Alex's unreliable narrative.

[00:20:00] **Mark Tinsley:** He was going to be deposed in all the cases and he was going to be videoed, and Parker's lawyers were set to do it today, in fact, just Tuesday. And Alex's lawyer had moved for protective order to make sure that no one could use that, none of the lawyers could use that, release it, give it to Netflix or anyone else. And so that video would have been video of him in jail saying who knows what. So it was, it was important. I mean, there was a press release just last week about *Fox Nation's* program that was coming out and their exclusive mixture of access to Alex in the jail, and so it was just a concern. How it plays out, I don't know, but I didn't want to create some value for someone where they shouldn't be receiving some benefit.



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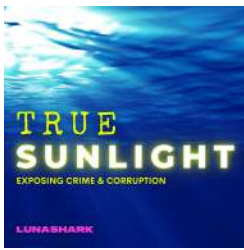
[00:20:56] **Liz Farrell:** For a long time the quote unquote boat crash case referred to the wrongful death complaint filed by Mallory's mother Renee Beach in 2019. In December 2020, a different kind of case emerged for Mark.

[00:21:09] **Mark Tinsley:** So the boat crash case obviously is related to the boat crash, the sale of alcohol that occurred, and then, the boat crash and injuries as a result of that. And then out of that case, spawned this conspiracy case where it's alleged that the people involved or some of the people involved in the boat crash case did things intentionally to victimize the Beach family. Go after, harass, not the least of which included the release of photos of Mallory's body when it was recovered eight days after the crash. So the first time I filed suit in the boat crash case, I filed suit in Beaufort County. I sued Luther's, I think, I sued the people who own the home where the oyster roast was, I sued the Murdaugh trust that owned the river house where the boat was launched, I sued Randolph Murdaugh, who would have been the trustee one of the trustees of the trust that had allowed the usage of the house, and then pretty quickly thereafter, we dismissed that case and then I refiled it in Hampton, also suing Alex and Buster. And so there's first of the first parties of the lawsuit: Luther's settled, the oyster roast people settled, Randolph Murdaugh settled, the trust settled, and which left Parker's, Alex and Buster.

[00:22:44] **Liz Farrell:** One person not included among the defendants at the time was Paul Murdaugh. There were a few reasons for that. For one, Paul, along with his mother Maggie, was Mark's ace in the hole. He knew Alex did not want this crash attached to Paul's name. Paul was charged with three felony counts of boating under the influence in April 2019, but at the time of his death, the charges still had not been adjudicated. The Murdaugh's plan seemed to be to wait out the press and the public and law enforcement on this. To delay the criminal case as long as they could. And as far as the civil case, Alex had one way out that would not involve a settlement. You might remember this stunning moment from Mark's testimony in the Murdaugh trial.

[00:23:29] **Mark Tinsley:** But if I believe, if I think that Alex has fixed the jury, that he's done anything to affect the the outcome of the trial, that I'm going to sue Paul and Maggie the next day in Beaufort.

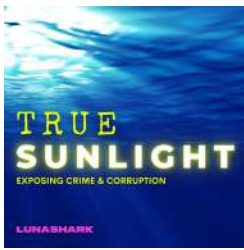
[00:23:42] **Liz Farrell:** It was just another average day in South Carolina. A seasoned



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attorney taking the stand and talking openly about how juries getting fixed in Hampton County could be a possibility – something that everyone seems to know exists, but won't put on the record. And something that no one, including the bar, the South Carolina Supreme Court, and insurance companies, seem to want to do anything about. So there was that reason for not immediately including Paul in the suit, but also Mark and the Beaches considered Paul to be a victim in this as well. Like Mallory, like the other boat crash survivors, Paul was, in their view, harmed by Alex's permissive parenting, meaning Alex's facilitating of Paul's underage drinking and his covering up of the problems that emerged from that drinking. They also believed Paul was harmed by Parker's Kitchen, meaning he was sold alcohol that day because of a known and preventable issue which is Parker's alleged lack of training and the cashiers alleged failure to adhere to their own policies on alcohol sales.

[00:24:47] **Mark Tinsley:** I remember getting a call from David Leslie who's over alcohol enforcement at SLED when we were arranging for Morgan to meet with one of the SLED agents and at the time he said, you know, from my perspective, I view all of the kids as victims. And I know that people out there, they say, "oh no, they're 19 or they're 18, and they have to have responsibility." You might not like it but the law in this state is, it's illegal because people under the age of 21 do not appreciate the dangers. And, you know, I mean, I have a bull mastiff, you know this and, it kills small animals. And if I leave it alone with a small animal, it will kill the small animal. Is it the mastiff's fault that it's gonna do what's in its nature? Or is it my fault? I think it's my fault. But there's a little bit of that. But, you know, what the Beach family wanted was they wanted to effect some change. And if you think that blaming the drunk driver, blaming the person who gets behind the wheel is somehow going to scare someone into doing the right thing, you are wrong. No drunk driver has ever gotten behind the wheel and thought tonight's the night I'm going to cross into the (inaudible) and hit somebody. The people who enable the behavior, the only place, and statistics show I mean, SLED's got a program called "prep program," the Palmetto Retailers Education Program. And the very first introductory paragraph in the participant manual explains that. Prevention is the way. Not blaming the kids, or blaming the drunks. I mean, that may have its place. But what the way you're going to stop it is you're going to stop it by the people who allow it to happen, whether it's from indifference, or whether it's a part of a commercial enterprise so technically they're, in the boat crash case there were two claims. There was the claim to the sale, it's illegal in this state to sell alcohol to someone under the age of 21, period. And so when you sell alcohol illegally, you violate a statute and in the civil realm that

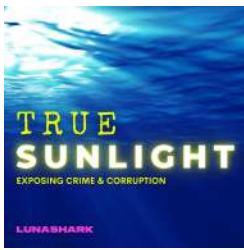


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violation could serve as what they call negligence, per se. And you're presumed to have acted negligently by the violation of that statute. Now you still have to prove that the alcohol that was sold contributed to causing whatever the damages are, but that's the long and the short of the legal side of that. And then the Alex Murdaugh side was the negligent entrustment claim, and that's a claim that you have a responsibility when you know that somebody has a propensity to drink too much, get drunk, and you entrust them with a vehicle, that you can be liable for that under a negligent entrustment theory. And that's not just negligent parenting or bad parenting, although, a lot of people would say that probably is bad parenting, it's not child abuse. Those were the gist of the civil claims.

[00:28:17] **Liz Farrell:** For the past four years, and particularly since the murders of Maggie and Paul, there has been a steady group of critics online, some possibly paid for, others merely expressing their own opinions, who point out that the boat crash victims, including Mallory, deserve the real blame for their own injuries and her own death. Here's Mark's take on that.

[00:28:37] **Mark Tinsley:** I was asked that question I mean, early on talking about Mallory, and to different degrees, all those kids, assuming that were the law, assuming that was a consideration, that they had somehow contributed to causing their own injuries, this death—they've all paid their share. Mallory paid the ultimate price, but the other people who contributed to causing hadn't paid anything. So, you know, legally, I don't really think it's a consideration. If you want the world to be safer, you'll hold the people who enable this bad conduct, this foreseeable bad conduct. I mean, we know that when you allow underage kids to drink, bad things are going to happen. Nearly two people a week die in the state of South Carolina alone from underage drinking. 11 percent of all alcohol consumed in the United States is consumed by underage drinkers. How on earth does that happen? Well, when the Supreme Court addressed the issue of underage drinking and claims, whether it be a third party claim, someone injured or killed by an underage drinker, or what they call a first party claim, you are in fact the underage drinker or you're in the group with the underage drinker, then the law didn't go, the statutory law, didn't go far enough. And so The Supreme Court decided as a matter of public policy, that they could recover. They are not held to the same standard as an adult as it relates to whether or not they have a claim. You know, I think, maybe a good example is dogs. It used to be at some point in time that there was this idea that a dog got one free bite. The owner wasn't responsible for the dog bite until you knew that the dog would bite



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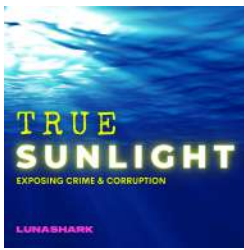
somebody, and it bit someone. We changed that. We decided that was not acceptable because a child gets bitten by a dog, it can be a bad thing. And at the time when the statute got enacted, and we changed the law, no dog gets a free bite now. And the idea is to incentivize people to put their dogs up. You don't allow your dog to be around a young child because we don't want anything, we don't want to take the chance that something bad is gonna happen. And I think that's exactly what our Supreme Court rightly did with underage drinking. We're going to incentivize you to do the right thing and if you don't, you're going to be held to account for it. You can not like it, but you shouldn't sell alcohol to minors.

[00:31:19] **Liz Farrell:** So a question we've been asking since the beginning, and that we wonder if Alex Murdaugh and Greg Parker ever asked themselves, is why didn't they settle from the beginning? Please think about it. Think about how much could have been avoided had they done that. We asked Mark the same question: why didn't Alex settle?

[00:31:39] **Mark Tinsley:** Well why don't you tell me the answer because I don't I don't know the answer. I mean, you know, if you're a criminal mastermind, you've been stealing for over a decade and you had three and a half million dollars that you had just stolen from the Satterfields in your pocket in May, you would think a rational criminal would say, "I'll pay for it with stolen money." He had to have thought he was going to get away with it. He had to have thought that for, at some period of time, that I wasn't going to go after him. And he in fact thought that, which was the whole got in my face and said, "hey, Bo, what's this I've been hearing" comment.

[00:32:19] **Liz Farrell:** And why didn't Parker settle?

[00:32:21] **Mark Tinsley:** I think the same reason. I don't know. I, you know, it's mind boggling. It defies logic. It's nonsensical. Maybe he wanted to use this case to try to make a statement. How unfair he thinks the law is when you sell alcohol to a minor, who then causes serious injury or death. You know, the idea that Joint and Several is somehow some draconian law that makes it unfair, and is going to drive all the convenience stores out of business where they can't sell beer and wine, is really ridiculous. The law has been this way forever. And in 2005, when the legislature changed Joint and Several, the legislature decided that it was not in the best interests of the people of the state of South Carolina or really anybody to allow someone who causes harm as a result of the sale of alcohol, or the intoxication of



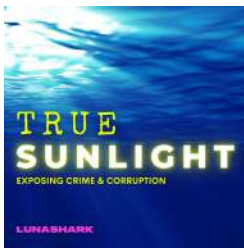
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drugs or alcohol, to not be held jointly and severally liable. And so, it's only in those instances where they've made an illegal sale to a minor that Joint and Several does not apply. I don't understand how anybody could think that that's not fair or right.

[00:33:47] **Liz Farrell:** Another thing to note, this was not Parker's first rodeo when it came to this.

[00:33:53] **Mark Tinsley:** There's been a case in 2016, two people died. The drunk driver and then a young man had also died in the crash. And there was a lawsuit filed in Beaufort County and David Savage was involved in representing the plaintiffs and deposed some of Parker's employees. And the testimony in my case was that David had offered Parker's general counsel to provide him with some resources, because obviously the training program seemed to be ineffective based on the testimony. The testimony was essentially that they weren't worried about an incident. So that would have been, really that was in 2017 when that conversation occurred, and then 2018 the cashier in my case goes through that same training program it appeared. And 2019, just a month and a half after or about a month after the cashier has moved from the kitchen to the front, they sell alcohol to Paul Murdaugh and Molly Altman. And then Molly Altman, you know, the Miley Altman ID was a Georgia ID, but it didn't have a hologram and they didn't scan that ID. So that purchase happens right before Paul's. Parker's wouldn't produce the video for a long time, ultimately we got it after filing the motion to get it. But I had told Parker's, you know, sometimes lawyers send preservation letters, in a letter immediately after the boat crash that one or more underage patrons had purchased alcohol in the store to save video footage. So the footage had been saved, but they didn't want to produce it. And they didn't produce it because it showed the cashier didn't scan that ID. And I'm told that it wasn't scanned because it was a concern that this scanner would reject IDs from Georgia. That makes a lot of sense, right?

[00:35:49] **Liz Farrell:** The thing that's always struck us as weird about this case is how Parker's Kitchen supporters and critics of the Beach case in general could not seem to wrap their heads around why Parker's wasn't considered the victim here. They depicted Mark and the Beaches as simply being greedy people who are suing Parker's Kitchen for the sole reason that there were deep pockets there. For its part, Parker's has maintained that it had been tricked by Paul Murdaugh. That the sale was lawful because they were not cited by SLED for it and that Paul's ID, meaning Buster's legitimate driver's license that Paul was using as ID that day, cleared the



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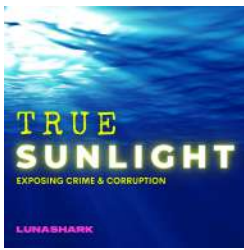
scanner. But the bottom line is this, the law puts the responsibility on the sellers of alcohol to prevent the sale of alcohol to minors. And there are plenty of ways for businesses like Parker's to meet that responsibility.

[00:36:39] **Mark Tinsley:** SLED suggests keeping a log of alcohol related incidents and that's not just something that actually (inaudible) alcohol, that means, did someone come in and try to buy alcohol with a fake ID? Did they try to use a foreign ID? Because underage kids can only buy alcohol with either a fake ID or a foreign ID. There's really no other way unless they don't get carded at all. But Parker's doesn't keep a log, and the cashiers that were deposed in the boat crash case, none of them had ever seen a fake ID. None of them had ever seen a foreign ID. None of them had ever turned away a sale because someone had tried to use a fake ID. Now statistically, that can't happen. It's just, the only way it happens is they've been told it could rely exclusively on that point of sale scanner, which clearly just checks the birthday. And we filed an affidavit from a young lady who had for years purchased alcohol with either her step mother's or aunt's ID, I think is what the affidavit says but, they weren't looking. The standard is not, "does the picture bear no resemblance to the person in front of me? And if the picture bears no resemblance, then we might do something further." That can't be that can't be the standard. Because even if you are going to go and get a fake ID from somebody, if you're underage, you wouldn't likely go and get one from somebody that didn't look anything like you. And that's the way the trainers expressed their concerns with identifying information. Every license in the country has height and weight on it. Lots of stores have a measuring stick by the door when you come in, now Parker's doesn't. The store right down the block from Parker's Kitchen where the salesman does, but Parker's doesn't use that. The cashiers didn't know to look even though the written policies said that even if the ID resembles the person standing before you, make sure you check height and weight. They didn't know that.

[00:38:33] **Liz Farrell:** The other confusing factor here was that Parker's had three insurance policies totaling \$21 million in coverage that would have covered them in this case and in fact, ended up covering them in this case.

[00:38:46] **Mark Tinsley:** They had plenty of coverage because we were willing to settle within their coverage.

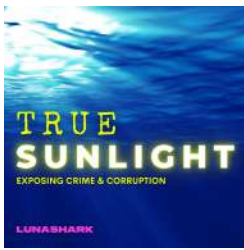
[00:38:50] **Liz Farrell:** Ultimately, Parker's Kitchen settled with the Beach family for



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\$15 million. According to Connor Cook's attorney, Connor settled with Parker's for \$1 million. The amounts of Miley Altman's, Morgan Doughty's and Anthony Cook's settlements have not been disclosed. In the lead up to the settlement, Parker's fought hard, and employed alleged journalists, private detectives, public relations firms and social media knife fighters. At one point it replaced its legal team with a whole new team, one that often seemed behind in their homework. Parker's had argued that Mark should be removed from the case because of his assertions in that second case. They argued that he only filed the second case to get insight for the first case. They argued they wouldn't get a fair trial in Hampton County and they argued that being tried in the same courtroom as Alex Murdaugh would unfairly prejudice the jury against Parker's Kitchen – that they should be severed from the case and there should be two trials as if a jury would confuse a gas station with a convicted murderer. We asked Mark why Parker's made that about-face.

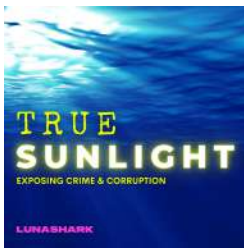
[00:39:53] **Mark Tinsley:** You know, sometimes when I represent people, I tell them insurance companies, defendants a lot of times, it's sort of like a person who thinks that their power bill may be due on the first but they've got 10 extra days, and they don't pay to the 10th day, and then they might mail it on the 11th or the 12th. That's sort of the way it is. And so, most cases resolve, most cases settle. But oftentimes, they don't settle until they have to. So when you're coming down the homestretch, there are a lot of things that people may have thought were going to happen. We'll get things kicked off. We'll get the case moved. We'll do this, we'll do that. And as those contingencies sort of fall away, and the certainty of what you're left with against this (inaudible), it often stimulates discussions. And, you know, we were very clear about what we wanted. We insisted there was no confidentiality. We insisted that it was going to be a number that objectively represents some accountability. I mean, I wasn't under any illusion that Greg Parker himself was going to come in and suddenly admit any responsibility. Same as I wasn't under any illusion that Alex is going to suddenly start telling the truth. So, you know, within the liability, that's what we were looking for. The Beach family actually gave up claims against the boat insurance that had been offered to get the case settled. It wasn't about the money, it was about the money to the extent that the people on the other side made it about the money and tried to make it seem like this was a money grab. But you know, people don't willingly pay \$15 million unless they think that the case is going to be a whole lot worse if you go to a jury. Why wouldn't we just go to a jury? Why not? If they're unfairly tethered to Alex Murdaugh and he is a convicted murderer and all these things, and we've got the upper hand – if that's all it's about, why not just go



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and try the case and get the big verdict and get all the money? It wasn't about that. It was about responsibility. It was about doing the right thing and I think we've demonstrated that throughout, I mean, Buster Murdaugh is a good example. After Paul and Maggie were killed, the Beach family, it was important to them, here let's use Buster Murdaugh for example, I mean, Paul had Buster's ID. And then the testimony was such that we felt like we had a strong claim against Buster. But at the same time, they felt like Buster was a victim and whatever he had done, he had suffered enough. And so we made sure that we were able to reach a deal that got Buster out of the case, got some of Maggie's estate money to Buster, and got Buster out of it, out of the circus. And we're proud about that. I mean, you know, that was a good thing. You might not like it, you might not understand it. But at the end of the day, it was the right thing to do. And they've been guided by the right thing all the way through. But it had to do with not having Paul removed from the scene of the boat crash because Renee thought that he needed to be able to work through what he had done to praying with Paul on the causeway and forgiving him, Phillip did in the days while they were looking for Mallory's body. They've done the right thing throughout, and I'm proud of them.

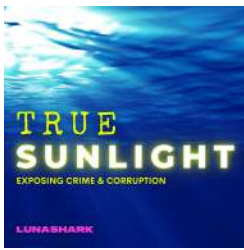
[00:43:41] **Liz Farrell:** On Sunday night, word came out that not only had the boat crash plaintiffs settled with Parker's Kitchen, they had settled with Alex. Then Monday, Alex's camp denied that a settlement had been reached. This is where it gets super complicated, but it's actually kind of simple when you remember that we're talking about the worst human alive. I'm going to explain it really quickly before giving the floor back to Mark. The first thing to know here is that Alex Murdaugh had \$500,000 in boat insurance from Progressive. This is different from the Philadelphia Indemnity insurance on Moselle. Around the time of the murders, a federal judge ruled that Philadelphia Indemnity did not have to cover Alex in this case. So Alex was left with the Progressive policy and his assets, but what assets right? Remember he had told Mark that he was broke, which made no sense to anyone. Also, he was in huge alleged debt to Palmetto State Bank. I say alleged because who believes that paperwork? After the murders Mark suspected that Alex and the Murdaughs were liquidating assets and hiding Alex's money. He made a motion to have Alex's assets placed under a receivership, someone who would account for the assets and legally be considered the owner of those assets. In November 2021, a state judge approved that motion. It was also around this time that it started to become ultra clear that should they win their cases, the Beach family and the boat crash survivors weren't going to be the only ones in line to collect what



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Alex owed them. That line was already snaking around his metaphorical building, obviously. Now you know how Alex is clearly the kind of guy who goes back on his promises and is like, "psych!", when it's time for him to live up to his end of the deal? This kind of feels like that. It feels like a psych. When the Beach family won their motion for receivership that was for all intents and purposes the end of Alex in terms of money. Whatever the receivership collected would be up for grabs unless Alex objected to the receivership and tried to appeal the decision. In March 2023, in connection with the settlements the Beaches had reached with Buster Murdaugh two months earlier, Alex Murdaugh waived his right to object to the receivership or appeal that decision, meaning the receivership which had been put in place to preserve his assets in anticipation of him owing money to the Beaches was basically final. In other words, he had for all practical purposes, settled. Add to that, the Beaches waived their right to the \$500,000 and Alex boat insurance money in exchange for Alex not messing with the Parker settlement. But still, Alex, for no clear reason, has decided that he does not want the Beach family to stand in line with the rest of his victims. So according to him, he has not yet settled. Here's Mark.

[00:46:26] **Mark Tinsley:** I don't know if it's really Alex. I don't know who it is who's balking at the Progressive money going and trying to sort of obstruct the deal as it relates to Alex. But I hope that's about to be worked out and if it's not worked out then I think what the plan is to do is go forward and liquidate the receiver account, and then we'll revisit the claims against Alex later if those things aren't all resolved. I think they will be resolved. They're fighting about nothing. I mean, at the end of the day, whatever is left in the receiver account is not enough to satisfy all the claims that are out there. I mean, it's hard. It's hard to make sense of it because I think everybody wants it to be black and white. I mean the reality is, is that Alex lost everything that Alex owned, and the receivers got appointed in, what was it...November of 21? So all of Alex's assets then become technically owned, held by the receivers, could be administered to be distributed pursuant to a court order that's gonna come later. So it's all gone from Alex and the only way that Alex gets to get those assets back is to appeal. And, you know, I mean, the Beaches are not the only claimants. The kids in the boat crash are not the only claimants. You got, you got everybody from Dick and Jim, the law firm, you've got financial victims that are still out there, you've got Eric's clients, you've got Justin's clients. Maybe there are other people. Maybe the federal government's in line, maybe the state's in line, there are a lot of hands out and there's not enough money there to pay all the people. It's going to be divided by the court, the Beach family wasn't trying to jump in the head of the line. And the deal



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that we thought we worked out and I think that we will work out is a process through which the receiver funds get administered out of court, and if the people who are making those claims can all agree on the division, fine. If they can't agree, the court's gonna decide, and the courts ultimately gonna bless it, regardless of whatever happens.

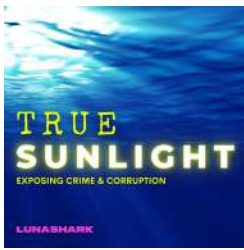
[00:48:40] **Liz Farrell:** Now, one big question we've been fielding since Monday is this: does this hiccup mean that there's a chance that the Beaches could actually take their case against Alex to trial?

[00:48:51] **Mark Tinsley:** No, it's not happening. And, you know, I think that if I were being cynical, I think Alex wants it to happen. It's not going to happen. It's not going to happen because this county can't afford it. It's not going to happen because Alex wants it. It's not going to happen because it's unnecessary from where I stand and, you know, I mean, everything he's got has been taken, and if that doesn't send a message to you when you allow kids to drink and drive and use your vehicles – and when you turn a blind eye to your own child's behavior, that you can lose everything that you've got – I don't know what will.

[00:49:27] **Liz Farrell:** We asked Mark if it was possible that this latest move from Alex spoke more about his ongoing desire to quote “clear Paul's name.”

[00:49:36] **Mark Tinsley:** Well, no, I mean, what he's saying is, is that if the insurance company works a deal that allows the Beach family to get in line I'm not agreeing to it. And he didn't really care about anything else. He doesn't care about the fact that the insurance is being paid on because Paul was the driver, doesn't care about the fact that you know immediately after the crash in the sort of excited utterances coming at us Anthony Cook that Paul had killed his girlfriend, that there's that evidence, doesn't care about the physical evidence that demonstrates that Paul was in fact the driver, that Connor was thrown into the center console and suffered a broken jaw and couldn't possibly have been on the left side of the boat driving the boat. You know, I mean, the evidence is overwhelming that Paul was the driver. There is no real dispute. Why would Alex be in the hospital, be doing the things that were done to try to cover it up? Not for Connor Cook.

[00:50:36] **Liz Farrell:** Speaking of the hospital video, we asked Mark about his thoughts when he first saw the footage with Alex going room to room with his 14th



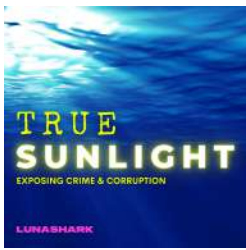
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Circuit Solicitor's Office badge hanging out of his pocket.

[00:50:49] **Mark Tinsley:** If you know Alex, it's just classic Alex. You couldn't see the badge the whole time. I think, after a while he put the badge up, but in the beginning I saw the badge, and, you know, what I didn't realize is how small the emergency room is. I mean, in the, I don't remember what week it was, I went down there and went through and they're in close. Connor's room was just on the other side of the nurse's station from where Alex was at Paul's door, and Morgan wasn't very far away. Just, it's a very confined space and when I watched the video, it seemed much more spread out.

[00:51:31] **Liz Farrell:** Looking back on the ups and downs of this case, and all the cases related to the boat crash, we asked Mark if he'd ever seen anything like this in terms of the online harassment we've seen, and that he's seen, and that the Beach family has seen, and also in terms of the tactics that were used. At one point in the civil conspiracy case, Greg Parker's attorneys shockingly subpoenaed Mark's phone records to search for any calls and text messages to and from me, Mandy, and other journalists.

[00:52:00] **Mark Tinsley:** Well, I mean, you know, I'm a little constrained in what I can say at this point because Mallory's case is still going on, but you know, I mean, I've never seen anything like this. I mean, the people that I talk to, at least in this levy part of the world, and I don't think we're so far behind the times that we're missing out on what the rest of the world is doing, and this just cannot be the way it is. We cannot weaponize the legal system so that he who has the most money can pull the most extreme acts wins. That can't be it. You know, and I mean, that's part of the reason I think I fight so hard for so many people. I like pulling for the underdog. I like giving it to the people who think that they're entitled – that whatever it is their station, their money, their powers, their influence, entitles them to something. And I remember, I don't remember who said that we live in a republic, not a democracy, where the rights of a single person are as important as the rights of the group. And that's really the way it is and the way it should be. I remember in October of 2020, and there were four motions filed, and you and Mandy were really the only ones watching the filings. So you would see, and I don't know when you'd leave and work for the county for some period of time, but you know, it's pretty safe to say, something is filed, there's going to be an article in Parker's new data. Parker's objected to me filing some things at some point. But in October of 2020, I remember getting a call. I had filed a

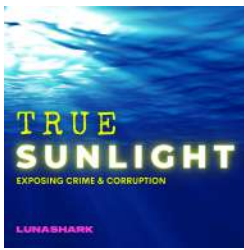


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motion to compel against Parker's that morning. That afternoon, I got a call from Mandy who was horrified that someone on Reddit – I've never even heard of Reddit – you know, it's kind of funny. This is how long this case has been going on. Never heard of Reddit, never heard of Tiktok. I didn't know what those things were. And that someone on Reddit with an account that had never been posted, owned, just been created earlier, and accused Mandy of augmenting Mallory's breast and photo for clicks. And I think that's the startup. That's the first time you sort of see a concentrated attack against the people who are really trying to seek the truth, trying to pursue justice for whoever it may be given a bunch of attacks. And I think that some of those attackers have been common attackers know who those people really are or whether they're really people or not, I guess we'll see. I think that we've got evidence about some of those accounts. And I hope that before the lawsuits over we have more evidence, some more.

[00:54:57] **Liz Farrell:** Ultimately, these cases were about accountability.

[00:55:01] **Mark Tinsley:** They didn't really want a pound of flesh from Greg Parker in the crash case. We're never going to get a pound of flesh from Greg Parker in the boat crash case. I mean, technically, the defendant in the boat crash case is Parker's company. And it's just a legal distinction. And I think at times it's been a distinction that, without a difference in terms of what's going on and who's calling the plays, but the accountability that they wanted in the boat crash case was something that the other partners of the world would see and recognize, and hopefully, take stock in how they're doing things, what they're doing, how they're always conducting themselves to make sure that this doesn't happen. If it can be (inaudible) the civil conspiracy outrage case is very different. I mean, it's, you know, under the civil case, there's an idea of compensatory damages. That is, the law will put you in the place you would have been in, but for whatever wrong happened to breach a contract is the easiest to see. We had a deal. I would have made \$5. You broke the deal. You owe me \$5. It's harder to do that when you've got a serious injury. Even harder, I think, to do that when you've lost your daughter. And so no amount of money, that's not what this was about. The civil conspiracy case on the other hand, the law also allows for something called punitive damages, to punish, to make an example of. And that's what we're pursuing, at the end of the day, in the conspiracy case: to make an example of. To punish the people who conspired against this family and their multiple, constitutionally-guaranteed rights to seek redress and accountability for Mallory's debt. And we're going to punish those people for what they did. It might



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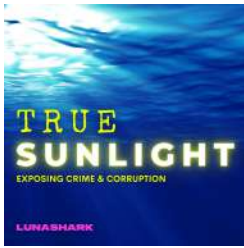
not affect Parker, but I think that the average convenience store or bar, or whoever it is that sells alcohol, I sure think that it ought to.

[00:57:17] **Liz Farrell:** Mark Tinsley's fight for accountability on behalf of Mallory Beach and her family, a fight that neither Alex Murdaugh nor Greg Parker seemed to expect, nor seem to know how to deal with, is what continues to give us hope in all of this. It was no surprise to us that Mark won people over when he took the stand in Alex's trial. He is the good guy in this. He is the hero of this story. He is the man holding the lantern and taking those first steps down that unfamiliar fork in the road – walking forward despite the jeers from the sidelines and the constant hills he's had to climb, and despite his own life threatening illness. Nearly every single thing that has happened in this case leads back to Mark in some way. It would take us all day to list all the good he has done behind the scenes in the murder case – all the effort he has put into getting people to see the things that he himself sees so clearly, like Alex's motive for the murders, for instance. You hear a lot about someone thinking that they're the smartest person in the room. Mark does not think that, but, he is. He is the smartest person in the room and he uses that talent, that power, for good. And by the way, just like the other regulars on our shows, Mark is exactly who he seems to be in real life too.

[00:58:34] **Mark Tinsley:** I have three dogs and my female. One is asleep, one is pulling on my foot, and one's wagging their tail. I have Daisy, who's wagging their tail, that's pawing at my foot, and Bear is asleep, and then I have Bella, the small animal (inaudible) massive. She's sweet. She's a good dog, you just can't have her around cats.

[00:58:55] **Liz Farrell:** And predictably, Mark Tinsley is not fully accustomed to this newfound fame.

[00:59:01] **Mark Tinsley:** You know my mother likes it, but my father doesn't go anywhere. It's a little weird. It's a little weird at first, you know, to be in Franklin, Tennessee at an Elvis impersonator concert at intermission and stand up and people see you and want to take selfies with you. And that's not a normal experience. You know, everybody's nice. So, that helps. I mean, I think if they weren't nice it probably wouldn't be as the same experience, but I wasn't looking for some, you know, I wasn't looking for recognition for any of that.



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[00:59:41] **Mandy Matney:** That's the thing though, sometimes the good guys do win. And sometimes they get recognition when they win. And that is a good thing. I hope this story inspires pesky lawyers like Mark Tinsley and families like the Beaches to fight the good fight until accountability is reached. Our justice system needs to celebrate people like that. Those who stick their necks out when it's terrifying, and those who keep going even when it's heartbreaking and cruel. The good guys won this time. Remember that. Thank you again to Mark Tinsley for joining us today. Thanks again to Liz for nailing that interview. And for those of y'all who want more of Zero Dark Tinsley we are planning something super special exclusively for LUNASHARK Premium members only. So stay tuned, stay pesky, and stay in the sunlight.

[01:01:05] **Mandy Matney:** *True Sunlight* is created by me, Mandy Matney, co-hosted by journalist, Liz Farrell, and produced by my husband, David Moses. *True Sunlight* is a LUNASHARK production. Right, Luna?