



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

Mandy Matney 00:06

The biggest question on our minds after Alex Murdaugh's decision last week to plead guilty to his financial crimes was: is this justice? While Friday's turn of events might be practical, while it might save the state time and money and might satisfy those who are sick of the spotlight that Alex's case has put on the justice system itself, and while Alex's sentence might end up setting a record for white collar crime in the state. I am frankly frightened by the decision. To me, it means the Dick strategy of wearing everyone down was successful. So what does that say about the system? Obviously, I think it says it hasn't changed one bit. All Dick had to do on Alex's behalf is pummele the prosecution in the judiciary and then wait it out. That means that once again, someone with means and influence can for all practical purposes still buy his way out of the worst trouble. Now, the argument against what I just said is going to be well, 27 years is hardly getting out of trouble and also he's serving life sentences for killing Maggie and Paul, that counts for something right? That's the point. This plea deal at its core buys Alex more time and gives him more space to work on getting out of his other charges, the roadside shooting and drug trafficking charges. Also, we don't know yet. Whether his murder conviction we'll hold because now Dick has even more incentive to pressure and persuade the Supreme Court and individual circuit court judges to see things his way. It is a big deal and opens up a whole new door for Alex in my opinion. For now though, I am going to celebrate Thanksgiving with my closest friends and family at home in Kansas City. Thank you all so much to each of you for listening and supporting our mission. Liz, Eric and I are so grateful to be able to have these conversations with you every week. And we are also thankful for Eric Allen because we are getting back to his riveting mountain mystery this week on True Sunlight. Go back to True Sunlight episode 15 for a refresher as we're playing Episode Two

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EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

this Thursday on True Sunlight. For now though, let's get into it. Cups up.

Liz Farrell 02:54

Cups up! How was your week, Mandy?

Mandy Matney 02:55

Yeah, it was just...I don't think I've talked about many people ever in my entire life. I feel like I've met hundreds of people in the last seven days. And it's been really, really great. I usually anticipate the worst with everything that I do. This week was much better than I anticipated. Everyone was super nice, incredibly encouraging. I think the coolest one was Barnes and Noble in Hilton Head. We hardly advertised for it. CH2 magazine was the only media that did any advertising about it and local media completely ignored it, whatever. And there was a line out the door. So it's just great to me. So I mean, it's one thing to communicate with fans online, but it's a totally different experience to me fans in person and to see them interact with each other is really fun. Eric, you went to one. What did you think of Monday night and USC Law?

Eric Bland 04:00

I thought it was spectacular. Like Mandy said, Liz a couple of beautiful couple, I think their name are the, Whites. They drove from Nashville, Tennessee to Columbia, South Carolina to come to the you know, the book presentation. And there were a mixture of students, older people, younger people, wives, a lot of single men. That was interesting. Mandy talked for about an hour and then I came down and answered some questions about the Satterfield thing and then we, you know, fielded questions. Mandy fielded most of the questions from nine abroad who



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

was really, really intuitive we know are here in Columbia because she has been a broadcaster for a long, long time before she left and then became a professor at the USC School of Journalism. But it was really interesting to hear a lot of things that I didn't know about Mandy and really the, you know, she talked about how difficult it's been for her to just go out in public to talk in front of people because she was fearful of her safety. And I didn't really understand that palpable fear until I saw her in a room full of 350 people standing there and there was a policeman behind her and there was security at the door, my friend, Mike, okay, Haley owns the event staff, the people who wear the yellow coats. And there were three yellow coats there at the door and putting bracelets on. And I never really understood what you guys have been going through both of you from a physical stamp, physical safety standpoint and how it affects you psychologically until I really saw that. But it was just amazing to see how many people love Mandy and love what she's done and love Luna Shark. And you know, they were standing in line to get her autograph book. And they asked me, you know, and so I ended up signing probably 90% of her books that were signed, and I did personal messaging to people. And he did you know, there was a mixture. There's people who all asked, where's Liz? Where's Liz? We wanted Liz here. How am I going to get Liz's autograph in the book? That's what I kept hearing. And it's just wild. I mean, this whole thing is a roller coaster ride. That is the wildest ride I've ever been on in my life. Isn't it, Mandy? It's just a wild ride.

Mandy Matney 06:12

It's insane. I was cracking up because I started to sign books and opening these books and see, and like who has the blue pen? You are writing like essays to people. It was so nice. You were like, dear Janice, you are an amazing...it was so sweet!



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

Eric Bland 06:33

I said thanks for your support. And we appreciate you being a COJ listener.

Mandy Matney 06:38

I loved that. All I wrote was stay pesky. Because my handwriting is terrible. And I have a lot of people to write to.

Eric Bland 06:46

But yeah, she has a Donald Trump's signature. It's like this. It's up and down. It looks like an EKG in pink.

Mandy Matney 06:52

Oh you got to do it. But yeah, we missed you, Liz.

Eric Bland 06:56

Yeah, they asked everybody asked.

Mandy Matney 06:58

How's your hand?

Liz Farrell 06:59

I was on the chat. Yeah, it's getting there. I had surgery on Friday. And it's the hopefully the last surgery I'll have to have in order to get my writing fingers back fully. So I'm excited about that. But I don't know guys like it's, I get really down about it. Just like I think I've said this before, it's just because it's like I just want feeling Yeah, I just wanted to come back and then the or the other thing, I'm in this constant like battle with myself because it's not like a surgery like a knee surgery where like you have this like giant visible reminder on your leg and like,



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

you know, you had surgery, you know, like this is a smaller incision. You can see here and then there's one right here.

Eric Bland 07:40

It's pretty big.

Liz Farrell 07:42

Well, I guess what I'm saying is that you forget that you have it so you keep doing the things that you were doing before? Until you're reminded. Yes, exactly. So now, you know, my both my hands are on fire right now because I went too far. But I'm hopeful. I think I will see what happens with your hands too. You don't realize even just pushing down on a knife. Like, you know, I can't do it because I don't have the strength. What sucks is like, you know, you can see that I'm in my office now doing a lot of work that I don't like. I have to leave a pile of work for my friend's husband because you know, I can't hold a drill. I can't hold a hammer like those kinds of things. So that's frustrating as somebody who likes to get things done and not you know, wait too long, so I just have to have more patience. I have no patience for this. The patients in general don't have patience for this. Well, that's a lot. It is a lot and like remember when you got your precancerous I want to say but surgery but that's not appropriate.

Mandy Matney 08:38

Yeah it's about surgery. About surgery.

Liz Farrell 08:41

When you got the precancerous cells, like just it's how tired you get when you just from somebody coming in to you a little bit you don't even realize Yeah, tired and not to mention I have this awful fear of



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

when you're under like that they're like holding your hand up and making you wave and stuff like I know that that's like completely unethical, but I just have this fear and this time around like, I'm not gonna say what happened but something happened where I was just like, This is why I didn't want to surgery. This is why I don't trust being under. I totally trust my surgeon but you know the nurse and assess but as a nurse anesthetist I didn't know him. I didn't know this. You walk in and there's like an Addams Family person waiting with the surgeon that you can't see their face or anything and they're just like, Hey, what is your role? Like? I don't know what you do. So there's just yeah, there's a little there's a little trepidation there for me, but we're done.

Eric Bland 09:35

Are you on a little bit of opioids? Are you on opioids?

Liz Farrell 09:40

No, I limited myself to Friday like I allowed myself like Friday you can go to Oxy town but after that, you need to go to Tylenol town.

Eric Bland 09:50

Yeah because we were chatting on Friday and it was a little back and forth. So it was good.

Liz Farrell 09:55

We did yeah, and that's speaking of let's get into it because we Yeah, I have a major disagreement among the three of us. And we do have you called me after...well, in the middle, I think it was he had not been sentenced yet, right? But we knew that it was coming and around the what, you know, the number of years that he was likely going to get. And you call me I think, personally because I think you wanted me on



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

your side because you were disagreeing with Mandy in our group chat. Sorry, buddy. But you said when you got off the phone...

Eric Bland 10:30

I got outvoted.

Liz Farrell 10:32

When you got off the phone with me, though you said...

Mandy Matney 10:34

David was on your side.

Liz Farrell 10:36

He was yeah, he was. I guess to summarize, you know, Eric is of the this is justice camp, and Mandy and I are of the this is capitulating camp. So Mandy, and I believe that that the state capitulated. And you said, Eric, when you got off the phone with me that I gave you something to think about? So did you think about what I said, And do you still disagree with me?

Eric Bland 10:58

I did. I do disagree. But I did. I've thought about it. You know, as a lawyer, I always tell clients in a civil case, when we're in a mediation, and I don't know, if you guys ever participated in a mediation, it's compromise, and you settle, and you really feel icky. The one person who's paying feels like they pay too much, the person who receives the money and sued feels like they're getting too little. And they both leave unhappy. And that is kind of the perfect settlement in a civil context. But about a month later, everybody feels better than it's over with. Now. I'm trying to see if that can happen here. Because I know you guys felt



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

icky. I'm sure Creighton felt a little bit pushed into this, that he may have wanted to do more, and everybody left the courthouse now you guys are gonna say Dick and Jim left happy. But I think the people on both sides left the courthouse not feeling great. And that may be a good resolution for this because there was no perfect resolution to be had unless you take it to the mattress unless you go forward and you don't compromise and you just try every case or try that until you get the three LWOPs. Or you try and the judge just sucks Alex to the point that you know, he capitulates, but it's a settlement and settlements are compromised. And the problem in our society is compromises turned out to be bad work. So that's kind of how I feel.

Mandy Matney 12:27

I think the worst part of it was just watching Alex's body language and the defense's body language on Friday. It made my stomach literally sink and Beth Braden one of our reporters was there and watched it and she said the entire time Dick was parading around like it was a great day. Just another day at the bar with friends. Like he was acting like tee hee, I pulled another one on them.

Eric Bland 12:59

Mandy, lawyers are liars. They're trained when they are in court even if the ruling is horrible when you go up to the bench and the judge rules against you, you walk back and you smile. So I think a lot of it was an act of just saying that they want to put on that act that we want. That's an act it's not you may be right Beth may be totally right. But lawyers do act they don't want to wear their ass on their shoulders and act like a get killed they puff their chest out and say I got the best like you know, I you know nobody could have done better that just so you know that.



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

Liz Farrell 13:33

Well not to correct you but Dick wears his ass on his neck.

Mandy Matney 13:36

We've seen Dick Harpootlian pout right? He pelts like a baby when he doesn't get his way. We've seen that so many times with Judge Newman. The other judge in the volunteering he lashed out on her Judge Alison Lee. He's very like, when he doesn't get his way you can...

Liz Farrell 13:54

He sputters. He falls apart. You can see it but he does walk around though in between Mandy and in. In the courtroom, though, when the judge is not seated. Dick does have a tendency to work the room. So that's something that I mean, we saw that from the very beginning at his very first hearing for Alex. And I think that that I don't know that that's the tilt that that part is the telling thing. But I think that the body language of Alex is the most telling thing.

Mandy Matney 14:24

The smirks. You know, he had real smirks that he never had during the trial and real like confidence. And I'm up to something. And I think too, it was just a whirlwind situation that I will be completely honest. I had no idea that it was coming and it was just kind of hard to wrap my head around it.

Eric Bland 14:50

Well, I'll tell you why. Okay, go ahead after you're done. Go ahead. No, no, I want you to go ahead.



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

Mandy Matney 14:54

I'll tell you what it was. It was just hard to be supportive of something that felt like a fast one. And it felt like they were in and we have to talk about what was going on in the week. Like what Liz, you want to talk about, like what Dick and Jim did. It was the day before, right? Or two days before?

Liz Farrell 15:12

Oh, my God? That's a great question. Because this has been the longest week in the history of all the Murdaugh weeks that there have been, is this that this was the motion for venue change? This was the motion. Okay. So yes. Oh, gosh, I can't believe I forgot another. So the supreme court denied their writ of prohibition ruling that it was moot because Judge Newman had asked to recuse himself is what I believe the order set from anything related to their motions in regards to like the murder trial, any new trial stuff, any of the jury tampering stuff. So as of Thursday, it seemed like we were going to get some pre trial hearing on Friday, and that we are going to go because the Supreme Court explicitly said the trial is going to happen on November 27, as planned, so the next move that they did, and I was joking with Mark Tinsley on the 13th Juror podcast right before we started recording it that I was like, it was like you could almost here Dick screaming, like, get your ass in here, Holly, because Holly had to his assistant signed, I guess as the witness to his motion or signed off on his motion. I'm not really sure what she did or filed it. But they made a motion to like after the Supreme Court comes out and like has this sort of, you know, seriously worded order that I read into it is like, We're sick of your nonsense, you know, we're gonna give you partly give you some of your way here. It felt like they quickly turned around that didn't even care about that and had a motion asking Judge Newman to recuse himself from the trial. So



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

up until Friday, even though we knew as of Thursday, I guess we've known for weeks now that there was there was some pressure on the state to put together a sentencing package. So we knew that that was out there. But from what I was being told, it seemed like the state was going to hold firm that they were going to create this, this sort of deal just to create a deal that was not at all what Dick and Jim wanted and not compromise. So going into Friday, it started to bubble up more that there's steel on the table. So I will say though I was surprised that this happened on Friday. But I just want to quickly say like going back to the common supposed criticism of us from the beginning, which was that we don't understand how a defense is supposed to work. And we don't understand the sworn duty I guess or not sworn duty but the duty of a defense attorney and like what they take seriously. And we've constantly said, like we do. Our issue is just with trickery. Our issue is with the abuse of the system, the mockery of the court, I think, as of Friday, because I was thinking like if I'm Dick what, okay, what's the next move, the next move is going to be trying to get down his sentence. Once he's been sentenced for this, obviously, the next move is so they want to get a new trial and get that verdict overturned. But the next thing is going to be to chip away at that 27 years as much as possible to get it down to nearly nothing. And I know that sounds I know, I sound like I don't know what I'm talking about Eric, but I know Murdaugh, I have been immersed in the Murdaugh world for years now. And I know that they believe that he is going to get away with all of this. So they're going to try to minimize the time that he can have in prison further. So in my mind, Dick and Jim are less defense attorneys and more like the expediter as you would hire when you get on the ground and like you know, carta haina like, you know, people that you have to hire on the ground to like pay off the cops and get and get you moved through to me they feel like expediters more than defense attorneys. Does that



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

make sense? What I'm saying is, like people you're not hired to you're not hiring them necessarily to fight for you using the law. Now they're going to fight for it. You're hiring for the fix. You're hiring them for the fix in the sense of like now, now they're going to explore every single possible way that Alex can cash in on a shorter sentence. And that was why and that's what I said to you on Friday. Eric, I I know these people enough, I feel like saying that this isn't over the fact that they didn't who cares about he doesn't get to appeal it. Like that's not even the issue. I don't think that they care if he gets to appeal it at this point, because they're going to chip away at that 27 years. Right? This man is going to be out when he's 65. No, that's my guess if he gets I'm just saying in their minds. I think in their minds, Mandy helped me, I think, yeah, I do think we're seeing him out at 65.

Mandy Matney 19:39

I think they are too. I mean, it's like a done deal. And they're crazy. That's why they were so confident and so smirky. And so I'm with you, too. I'm I had to get off at Twitter this weekend because I was tired of, you know, Twitter in general, but I was tired of trying to defend myself and how Well, I know this case in YouTube was like people kept saying things like, clearly you don't understand the loan this year and how plea deals work. Yes, I understand Nopalitos work. And I understand that.

Liz Farrell 20:11

Understand the Murdaughs. Like, that's what I want to scream at you. Right? Exactly.

Mandy Matney 20:15

It's the Murdaughs. This is an attack. That's why there's seven documentaries about these people right now. That's why there's like,



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

how many charges did he have? Like this is the Murdaugh's in this is the head of all of it that we're talking about here. And so like, my question that I cannot settle on, that I can't come up with an answer with is that if Alex Murdaugh didn't get max sentencing or anywhere near Max sentencing for that financial for those financial crimes, why do the max sentences exist at all just to scare people into pleading? I mean, it just seems like a I understand, and I'm really glad that the victims don't have to go to trial next week. I'm glad that everybody gets to get some sort of piece of a feeling that this is over. But something in my stomach is just thinking this isn't right. And they are up. There's so many more. I mean, Liz has predicted X amount of strategic moves that these guys have made. And I'm with her in the US that this is just one of many strategic moves. And I don't know, I just I don't feel comfortable with anything less than life in prison for him in financial crimes. And I think it's extremely unfortunate. And with that, we'll be right back.

Liz Farrell 21:46

So Eric, Mandy raised a good point, which is? Well, I think it's a good point. I don't know if you're gonna think it's a good point, but that we were hoping for life and without parole for Alex to get that three strikes. And that seems to be the strategy that the state was pursuing. Can you explain why you think that that's still on the table?

Eric Bland 22:04

Right, I'll get to that. Let me explain what the last month is. And I totally agree with you that you to know Myrtles better than anybody I know. 1/5 of what you guys know. So I'm not going to sit here and pretend that I understand the Murdaughs and their power and everything. But I do understand the system. For the last month, Creighton waters has been under a tremendous amount of pressure. And I want to tell the state in



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

the world that he did not break, he did not yield. And I want you both to know that I've been involved for the last month in these discussions with Creighton, because he has kept me abreast every step of the way and told me exactly where he was. Creighton Waters one month ago was 27 to 30 years dip corporately and Jim Griffin would not go any more than 12 years.

Liz Farrell 22:50

What is 12 years bring him to age wise?

Eric Bland 22:53

Well, with the 780 5% of the 75% of time and good behavior, which he's not going to be able to get he would have been able to get out in six years. So Dick was not going to ever take a plea. Alex was not going to take a plea for anything more than 15 years was not going to happen. We prepare all last week I prepare with crate I went to the Attorney General's Office. We went through every single exhibit for the Satterfield. My clients were set to meet with Creighton on Monday tomorrow and spent three hours going over their testimony that these were the siblings plus the children of Gloria, this thing was not going to get resolved. They then made a motion Thursday to recuse Judge Newman in the Satterfield case; this was separate and apart from what was done in the murder case. And there was a possibility, a possibility that Judge Newman would end up having to be recused or would have postponed the trial, the motion for a change of venue was not going to be granted for a whole host of reasons that we discussed because they created his own publicity of press conferences of crime con of Jim being on a podcast and bluster doing his own documentary, but Creighton Waters would not yield. He was under a tremendous amount of pressure from the legislature. Alan Wilson was from the legislature and



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

Judge Newman himself and these two would never yield. They told me a month ago that they would agree to 27 to 30 years only 85% No chance for parole. No good time. And that's where they were not gonna ever break and Creighton never broke Dick and Jim and Alex broke and that's why say they were smiling, not like a Cheshire Cat. Yes, they were happy I'm sure Dick was they didn't have to go into court and get his ass clipped again on Satterfield case but they were not happy I can tell you with 27 years I'm just telling you that.

Liz Farrell 24:51

So Eric, maybe you have some insight into this but okay, so we you're establishing that they were not happy that they they lost in this one.

Eric Bland 24:58

So they lost. I didn't say that. I never used the word loss.

Liz Farrell 25:02

Okay, that they didn't get what they wanted. Okay, fully. What made them agree to this over the trial?

Eric Bland 25:09

I think it was a little hubris index part because he was going to absolutely get beat. But there was also a significant defense. And that significant defense was the one that was a juror situation to see questioning and the jury was going to be a problem, the number of jurors that said that they could not render a fair, impartial verdict because they were not objective towards Alex, that was a problem. And Creighton told me that he thought that the juror selection would take maybe a week and a half a week and a half between Liz and Mandy, where the murder case, I think only took four days. He thought that



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

their forecasting was going to take a week and a half. The second thing was there was a substantial defense possibility in the Satterfield case, in that Alex was going to come in and say it didn't happen. And therefore, the crimes that you charged me with taking money from the Satterfield is not the proper crime charge, you could have charged me with stealing money from an insurance company. I'm just telling you the defense that they were going to raise. And that was a possibility.

Liz Farrell 26:14

Let's hear this. What was their defense?

Eric Bland 26:16

He was going to say exactly what he's been saying for the last six months, which is that the dogs didn't cause the fall, I made it up, I lied. The boys never were entitled to one single dime, because the dogs didn't cause the fall. And you charged me with stealing money from the Satterfield in a conspiracy with Corey Fleming to steal money from the Satterfield. But I actually stole it from an insurance company that had nothing to do with the SATA fields because they never were entitled to money. I totally disagree with that. I'd listen me, you asked me what their defense was.

Liz Farrell 26:49

No, I want to hear as this isn't against you. This is against them. So you're telling me that they're going to come into a courtroom after a week and a half of choosing a jury. And they're going to say you should have charged me with stealing from the insurance company, and not the Satterfield even though Cory has pleaded guilty in both state and federal court to conspiring with Alex to steal from the Satterfield.



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

Eric Bland 27:11

So as Alex by the way, in fact, like, right, right, right, good Lord is telling you Yeah, you asked me the background I'm giving you I'm giving it to you entirely would happen. Yeah, he was under pressure that he was under pressure, but they never yield it from me for one solid month from 27 to 30 years. And he kept asking me, would you be disappointed?

Liz Farrell 27:33

So what made them agree, though?

Eric Bland 27:35

Would you be disappointed? I said, I would be disappointed, but I can understand.

Mandy Matney 27:42

Okay, so Liz made I think the best point out of all of this is the best point that I've heard in reaction to this. It wasn't my emojis on Friday, we were texting. Your emojis were fantastic. But on Friday, you texted me and I was like, feels like they won and you said their game is to exhaust and that's what they do. Dick and Jim just wear your buddy out and they've worn everybody out look around like we're we're tired. Of course the AG's office is tired. Eric, the tactic that you are saying is a total manipulation tactic that can only be used by a very small percentage of people and Dick Harpootlian was one of them. And that is he was asking for something absolutely ridiculous to begin with, to convince everybody else that something less ridiculous was okay. So I think he tricked everyone into saying I think he was probably aiming for 27 or 30 years. And I think and I think he's gonna be able to chip off of that to the man could do can pull strings in ways that the rest of us simply cannot



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

and also that kind of pressure from the AGs office and legislator, we need to figure out what's going on with that because who is in our legislator making these putting on pressure on behalf of Dick Harpootlian because and to get Alex off in a plea deal? I mean, I just think that that's insane.

Eric Bland 29:11

Costs are enormous for these cases. The cost were enormous to the counties that didn't have the money. Beaufort County has the money.

Mandy Matney 29:19

Beaufort County is the second richest county or the richest it goes back and forth between Charleston and there but Beaufort County's got the money.

Liz Farrell 29:26

I understand there's 100 rational arguments to be made why we shouldn't like why we should celebrate this like I think I can speak for Mandy on that.

Eric Bland 29:33

Same. Celebrate, guys I just told you from the start it keeps it never feels good. Okay, but it's justice. It's our justice system. Every case pleads, every case pleads except the guy that's got nothing to lose.

Mandy Matney 29:47

But only Dick Harpootlina...it's still a privilege to be like we're going to exhaust you and we are going and you know how expensive this trial is going to be. And at the end of the day Most lawyers would not be in that position if he's not getting paid just to mess with the state and say



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

all go all day doesn't matter. That's my problem with all of this is the the man is in a negotiation powers beyond what anybody else can and that is the magic of Dick Harpootlian.

Eric Bland 30:21

But Mandy the first offer came from the state, the first offer came from the state, they said 27 to 30 didn't give the first offer and say I pleaded 12, the 15 and Creighton came from 27 went to 27-30 Great and gave the first offer 27 to 30 and fix it, you're out of your effing mind. It came from the state the first offer. So I don't understand how you're saying and I'm sorry, I'm not yelling at you, but I don't understand how you're saying Dick manipulated Creighton. Creighton gave the first offer, maybe he gave it too low, maybe you should have said 37 to 40. But he said 27 to 30. That's how it happened. And he never wavered.

Liz Farrell 31:00

I was gonna say I think at the very beginning, I just object to the entire premise that compromise should have been struck at all. And the reason is going to be okay. Because to me that I respect that I respect you. We're talking about a man who blew up the jet like he has brought so much pain to South Carolina to lawyers who are just trying to do their jobs every day without their clients immediately suspecting that they're stealing to the judicial. Like, I mean, we're all up in Todd Rutherford stuff. Probably a lot of it's because of Alex like, he has brought so much trauma to the entire and for good. And yeah, I'm glad it is because there's change that can be had. But we're not talking about John Smith did something naughty, and it's better for everyone that we just compromised and give them a little bit of a, you know, plea deal just to get them in behind bars. For some time. We're talking about like the ground zero of our justice system being so broken in certain



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

places. This is this is the person this is the original sin. This is the anthrax, this is like he is every bad, concentrated thing.

Eric Bland 32:14

It's the largest white collar, the largest white collar state court sentence on a plea that this state has seen in the last 35 years. I don't know of any higher. So you tell me if you're going to plead a case, and he gets the largest white collar and I totally disagree with white collar and blue collar? Are we sure about that? That's what I heard.

Mandy Matney 32:34

And are you sure that I've I feel like we need to look it up?

Liz Farrell 32:38

Well, shame on the state, by the way, shame on the state for that otherwise, exactly.

Mandy Matney 32:42

That's what I was. That's what I was going to say shame on the state because I did not realize...

Eric Bland 32:48

Blue collar and white collar should never be differentiated. You know, if he robbed with a gun here we get 35 years, but I'm just saying it's a huge white collar since then he's going to have the federal courts since then. He's going to have labor day shooting to deal with then the drug conspiracy. So you told me I want you to tell me how he's gonna get out of the 27 years chip away at he's gonna be a rat in the prison. Go ahead. Tell me, Liz.



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

Liz Farrell 33:13

I don't know. Ask Jeroid Price how he got out. I mean, Todd's like, Oh my God, he's gonna get killed. No, he didn't get killed when he was on the outside.

Mandy Matney 33:20

And he's only and he's only in prison because we all freaked out about it.

Eric Bland 33:24

You don't think anybody's gonna freak out when we've if Murdaugh gets out? In 10 years, 12 years, 14 years? You don't think they're gonna freak out? Don't you think you girls are gonna you guys are gonna be random freakout.

Mandy Matney 33:36

Dick has said this. He's going to they're exhausting people. And that is their main strategy. And in 10 years, yeah, a lot less people are going to care. People already have fatigue, and he feels that and he is going to take that to his advantage.

Eric Bland 33:52

He's going to be dead in 10 years. God forbid, but most likely, most likely, God forbid I don't mean that I don't wish death on him.

Liz Farrell 33:59

Not me for calling him a sociopath.

Eric Bland 34:03

Numerically, men don't make it to 84-years old, numerically.



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

Mandy Matney 34:08

Do terrible, terrible women live forever. All the time. And I see they don't have strict rules like I'm sure Dick just closes his old man's eyes every night and gets a great night's sleep. sleeps like a baby nothing bothers him and those people live forever I'm just saying that we could not cockroaches they survived nuclear war. They do and I just don't think that we can. I know that within a simple within an everybody else in the whole world. It's so easy to say that's insane. But this whole plan is insane. And also that the the upside of this which we should talk about is I hope to God that this means that the state has 100 In 10% confidence that they will not go to trial again for the murders. I hope that they I hope that them compromising on the financial crimes means do whatever you want, you're going to be in jail forever because of the murders.

Eric Bland 35:15

So you don't have that confidence. I want to ask you to real quick, if there was going to be a play, what would make you happy?

Liz Farrell 35:20

It's not about a number 40 years 45 I don't want anything that Dick and Jim have agreed to. Does that make sense? So no play no play.

Eric Bland 35:30

So you know, play and and yeah, so you say no play.

Liz Farrell 35:33

And that is because I think at the end of the day, and I I feel like I was on TikTok and I saw some comedian talking about like, people who use the phrase at the end of the day are losers. So now every time I say it, I'm



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

feel like I'm being judged by some stranger on Tik Tok. But at the end of the day, I do think that Dick agreeing to something is a signal to us that he's seeing it as an opportunity for his next move. You know what I mean? S

Eric Bland 36:01

Okay, so you said no play, but Mandy play or no play.

Liz Farrell 36:03

I just want to make one more point. And I think I'm about to lose it. But hold on. I'm just, I gotta get it in there. It's it was there you had said, Mandy, does the state have confidence? Are you hoping the state's confidence that there won't be that the murder conviction won't be overturned? One thing that concerned me was a quote that I saw from Creighton waters, which was this means that Alex will be going to prison for a very long time talking about the 27 year sentence. And that immediately felt like and I'm sure Creighton didn't mean it this way. But it was almost like a subconscious, like acknowledgement that this everything's hanging now off of this little 27 year dealio here. So I know that you think we're crazy for balking at 27 years.

Eric Bland 36:45

What about the federal prison sentence?

Liz Farrell 36:47

What about it? What confidence do you have and judge gurgle is going to be like, yeah, load him up, sir.

Eric Bland 36:54

What do you think Judge Kirby was gonna give him five years?



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

Liz Farrell 36:56

Probably.

Eric Bland 36:58

Okay, I'll take it that now. Let's just take the overnight. No, we're all here.

Mandy Matney 37:03

That's pretty funny.

Eric Bland 37:05

I think Judge Gergel is going to load him up with 15 to 20. 20, 15 to 25 years. Yes or no?

Mandy Matney 37:14

Yeah, probably.

Liz Farrell 37:15

Maybe. But is that more than 27?

Mandy Matney 37:18

And that's what he wants to why are we forgetting the federal prison is what what he wants, like that's a part of their scheme and plan.

Eric Bland 37:28

And that's the backstop. If he lives long enough through state prison.

Mandy Matney 37:31

There should be no backstop.



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

Eric Bland 37:33

He's got to serve first. Nope. I'm saying he's got to serve first and state prison. And just so you know, very few people live past 72 years old in state prison and maximum security, the food the healthcare, the point is the murder case. Yes, it's a danger because it's going to another judge who may grant a new trial, then a new judge is maybe not Newman is going to hear the murder case, that judge may not let in the financial crimes. And that judge may not lead in the labor day shooting. However, I don't believe there's a trial judge who's going to rule in favor of Alex, possibly he make random a new trial if the juror evidence is compelling, but I don't believe it is right now. But I don't think a trial judge is going to give Alex any evidentiary rulings because he does he or she doesn't want to face the scorn. It's going to have to be the appellate court somewhere down the road, somewhere down the road. So I get what you guys say I respect you, you know so much more than me about Murdaugh. But guys, Alex is not going to live that long and screw him. If he gets out at 89 years old. He'll be wearing a cane, and he'll be hunched over and nobody's going to know Him except spit out him when he walks by.

Liz Farrell 38:51

I don't know, Eric. I don't know. I like. Yeah, I don't know.

Eric Bland 38:56

This is good.

Mandy Matney 38:57

I like it. Look, you know, yeah, he'll be wheeling out of prison and owning in like having gangsters and wheeling on a prison with drug



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

dealers working for will be, I'm telling you, this man is going to live forever. We have to prepare for that. And he's going to keep scheming.

Eric Bland 39:17

He's a child killer. I don't know. I don't use a child killer.

Mandy Matney 39:21

He's going to keep scheming until Dick Harpootlian and Jim Griffin are going to keep helping him. Those are three things that I believe true.

Eric Bland 39:33

You just answered my question, man. He no play no play at all. You would have never agreed to a play.

Mandy Matney 39:37

Yeah, I'm worthless. I think that it would have been worth it to go and I these are my tax dollars. I gotta say like, I live in Beaufort County and my it's my neighbors that were being summoned. It's my people around me that were being most affected by this and I would have been fine with it. And I think the people of Beaufort County would have been fine with it, too.

Liz Farrell 39:56

You know, Eric, and I'm trying not to get upset about this. I'm not trying to they get upset about the fact that you have said earlier that they were having trouble getting a jury seated, because it's almost like, you know, a kid sets fire to a house and then you're like, I can't go in the house because a kid set fire to it. Well, it's because the kids set fire to the house like that. There's a reason for it. The sequestration was strategy. So I just want to throw that out there. But we will be right



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

back. And we can talk about that more. What do you think about that, Eric? I mean, they completely orchestrated the fact that they wanted the jury to be difficult, right? So by saying that they needed to be sequestered, which is ridiculous. It's right around the holidays. These exaggerated numbers being thrown out there in general. And then of course, like you have jurors, you're saying, Of course he's guilty. But I learned that from watching you Dad, like I learned that from watching you Dick on the Today Show. You said he was guilty. I learned it from Alex and his disbarment word or, like he like these are all things that like, of course, the jurors are going to say that.

Eric Bland 41:15

Guys, we're going to get our pay back on November 28th. That is Alex's sentencing. We are all going to get to speak. Meaning me the victims, the Badgers, the everybody are going to get to speak Mrs. P's going to get to speak. And I'm going to get up there and I'm going to say I've waited two years to look this man in the eye. And I am going to undress him. I am going to undress his lawyers. Don't ever say Jim Griffin, that he's been wanting to do this since September of 2021. Plead guilty. That's not true. In my civil case, guys, he answered the complaint and denied liability. In 2022 to the Satterfield, I'm going to go through every single thing that he tormented. They may hold me in contempt. But I will take the smile off of Alex Murdaugh's face and I can promise you, if you too, could speak, you would too. So no, we're not going to get the trial, but I promise you, I will give him a tongue lashing to the point that I'm sure I'm going to be disciplined. So I want you to know that I have a lot to say to Alex Murdaugh and his lawyers on November 28th. And Creighton wants me to have the microphone.



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

Liz Farrell 42:40

Well, I'd definitely like to hear that, Eric. That does bring me some peace.

Mandy Matney 42:45

Yeah. And I mean, I am glad that the victims don't have to go through trial. Like I said, I'm i i don't know it's just it's just a really hard thing to swallow whenever, when you look at their crazy 17 step plan to get Alex out. The steps that happened this week are a part of that they did not fall off the staircase, they are just going right along. So I think it just makes me extremely uneasy, knowing that the state could have done more to stop them. It did not. And I don't like what I'm hearing about the amount of pressure that these guys were under to do this. That makes me very again, it makes me scared to live in the state of South Carolina. It makes me feel unsafe here. It makes me feel like the people that are supposed to protect us care about other interests and care about people like Alex Murdaugh and the power and money that surrounds him more than they care about doing the right thing and the faith that the public has in the justice system. And that was just the last point that I will say, echoing what Liz said is this man dismantled the state of South Carolina and this man dismantled the public's faith in the justice system and Ceman dismantled the public's faith and lawyers in for him to just to be able to get a deal any deal at all, just disgusts me. And I would love to look up other financial crimes because here's the thing, the max sentence and a lot of these when they aren't cases like this one, they can be very steep. But I don't understand why the max sentences are why he could have gotten up to over 200 years for these things.



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

Eric Bland 44:50

900, right.

Mandy Matney 44:51

I don't understand how, if you don't give it to a man like Alex, you're right then no man gets it then no man should ever and I It especially with the work that has been done in the last two years to display how these were not financial crimes, how they were. These were vulnerable people in the worst moments of their lives. And it was so much worse and so much more evil and the lifetime damage that he did to so many families. by betraying their trust and stealing from them again, I just it does not sit well with me that he got such a small fraction of what he could have gotten.

Eric Bland 45:31

I totally respect that. I totally do. And I can't argue with you. The only thing is, I want to wait and see what judge gurgle does if judge gerbil doesn't line them up. If Judge Gergel gives him a Dick Turkey special sentence, then I will absolutely say that you are 100% Right, and the system is cooked. And if I see that the labor day shooting gets a two year concurrent sentence, and the drug conspiracy trial goes off in the wind. Then, then I will see what you are saying, but I want to give Judge Gergel the one chance I think he he failed miserably with Cory Fleming and you guys have certainly articulated that better than anybody I've ever heard. And I think he was scolded for that by the public for the light sentence he gave Cory so we'll see if he gives Dick the turkey on MRI and gives Alex a life sentence, then we then I will say with you, you know what the system is fixed. But I have a lot of faith in Creighton Waters, I just do I've come to learn. And like him, you know, I started out not liking him and he hated me. And I really respect what he's doing.



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

And he's been honest with me along the way. And he he had that feeling of, of, oh, I just sniffed I just stepped into it. And I'm smelling it, you know, it was a bad feeling. But he had he did it and he never wavered off 27 to 30 and I gotta give the man credit for that.

Liz Farrell 47:09

I'll give him credit too. And additionally, like I want to make it clear that like this actually isn't about Creighton like I you know, the world falls on his shoulders. And I don't think that either of us are saying that this is on Creighton. But one of the things I want to mention that is actually makes like a fear going down my spine. Did this deal come about like the pressure that you're talking about? Does it exist? Because there are people who are so sick of Alex Murdaugh not in this the sense that like all we're hearing about the same guy over and over again, more nonsense more nonsense. Can we just move on already? Or is it because of what they themselves have to protect in their own little corners of the earth and South Carolina? So ladder? Ladder? Yes, exactly. So it's the ladder.

Eric Bland 47:57

And that's what worries me is I also think that Judge Newman played a heavy he put some heavy boots on.

Liz Farrell 48:01

Where's that coming from on Judge Newman? You know, it's just what are the trade offs? Can we just talk real quick about David Pascoe and his testimony. We talked about an interest on my podcast, but he talked about what the judicial merit selection commission did to judge Catherine. I think that's hurting Catherine Harrington. And did you hear this at all? Eric? No, I did not. So she was a judge that was pressured to



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

step down. Essentially, she was up for election. I think it was 2018. Oh, yeah. Yeah, yeah. Yeah. Yeah. And she decided not to and Judge Bentley Price ended up taking her slot. So one of the things that this is how he described it, he said that she was read her marionette. So basically, what she did is she angered a member of the JMCS. And she would not acquiesce to his demands that she put off his murder trial for his client. So she said, No, you gotta do it. Here's when it's happening. It's before this judge. She's like, I don't like that judge. She's, like, tough. So she knew right away that she was a goner. They read her Miranda rights when she was in this hearing to talk about her qualifications. They invited John Nichols to sit there, just so he could be visible to her and understand that like, okay, the ODC so they're coming for her license, right, her license to practice law. They went into her financial history, they brought up her student loans that she owed, they shamed her for that. They shamed her. She's some unethical person, I guess somebody made a joke about her being able to afford a sandwich, like how can you even afford a sandwich baking, meaning she's a compromised individual. They pressured her in the dirtiest of ways. So that was the insight that we got into, you know, we all hear the stories of what goes on in the statehouse and what goes on in Columbia. We got some insight, we got some hard truth there into how these men think and how they operate. So when you look at a judge named, then putting pressure or perhaps on the AGs office for this to come to an end. Where's that pressure coming from? We heard, we heard that legislators were, you know, putting pressure on the Supreme Court and the AG. Because of this, you know, cost factor of, you know, the state can afford to keep doing this. The state can afford it, they can afford a lot of the things that they shouldn't even be doing them. When you look at the amount of money that Dick Harpootlian and has the Dick Harpootlian has been able to get out of the state, in the cases that he



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

represents people against the state, they sure can afford to do what I think is one of the most important things that is the backbone of society to have a justice system that you can trust in, and a single justice system. So the fact that the state wasn't willing to invest in that is where I have the problem, you know, it's not just like, Oh, I hate Alex and I wanted to see him rotten present. It's, you had an opportunity with this man to show us that things will be different, you had an opportunity to to show us that the same old games don't work. And here we are, where it feels like the same game. Right.

Mandy Matney 51:10

And also, I just wanted to say that like, I think the other part of that is that if they don't, if they budge now with this, which they did, then I feel so much more as hopeless for change in South Carolina. For example, like I was just thinking about this, these men, and again, I'm not putting this on one person. And I certainly don't think that this is Creighton's fault. I think it's a lot of people's fault. But Alan Wilson and Creighton Waters and Judge Newman, if he had anything to do with the steel, have all been world known heroes through this case. And they were put on a pedestal as they should have been, and shown the world show show to the world that the good guys can win and that like it's a new day, and they talked a big talk about not not Judge Newman necessarily, but there was a big talk for a long time from the state about we're not budging on anything with this guy we are going and it's just a very highly disappointing thing that they they don't they didn't go through and if they don't go through on something like that, if that wasn't worth the cost for them. A what would be in what cases would be when we talk about justice and like, that's the real part and and also, unless, and I highly recommend anybody who is worried about the cost of a trial and the cost of an Alex Murdaugh trial for a county to just take



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

a look at your school board and the things that they are spending their money on. Look at just the government wasting money, every freaking day in horrible, horrible ways. And I say school board because they waste. It's not for children. It's not has nothing to do with the classrooms. It's people but it's people lining the pockets of school boards, friends, school board members, friends, in their businesses and things . It is all disgusting and horrific when you take a look at the budgets of these things. So I just could not stomach when people suddenly use budgeting as Oh, this works in our favor. Oh, we don't have money for that. And it's like noon you guys could you guys came up with a lot of money for a lot of different other things that I would like to talk to you about.

Liz Farrell 53:40

Such as the Murdaugh's. How about in Beaufort County when we talk about the land preservation money throughout the year that was spent buying off properties that were owned by grandpa Murdaugh. So yeah, it seems to me like that. There's plenty of money. But why don't we talk about it? I'm curious to hear your opinion on this. What do you think of Dick and Jim but more Dick, what is your next move for Alex? Because we know, let's just use this as a universal truth. This is not over. He's not, you know, looking at 27 years and he's like, okay, cool. That's it. No, we know that this is not this is just an entry to another. This is just an entrance to another dark hallway that we're going to be going down with them. So what's their next move? Are they going to try to get a new governor? A new AG? What are they...

Eric Bland 54:30

So let me tell you what their next move is. One. I do agree with you guys. I'm not sitting here advocating that I'm happy about the plea. I'm



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

just giving you arguments on why I understand it. And I'm going to have to accept it. But I am 100% in agreement with you that I would have preferred that. Alex be wrapped in cellophane with belts and suspenders and then cement it and put it in a lead box because he is Houdini Okay, the next move is They're going to, they think they're going to win the neutral motion, which will cause a swing a little bit of the public opinion in their favor. They already have the behind the scenes in their favor. You've articulated that as well as anybody has ever done. So they're trying to sway a little bit of the public in their favor. They're going to not Judge Newman completely added to see going forward on a new murder trial. in federal court, they're going to hope that Dicks relationship with judge gurgle prevails because Dick did get. Judge Gergel was one of the primary movers in getting Judge Gergel on the bench.

Liz Farrell 55:48

So was his intern. Let's not forget to mention that was this client. Right?

Eric Bland 55:52

Is Alex cooperating? We don't know. That is has Alex taken the lie detector test. We don't know that. But Dick is hopeful to get a smaller federal sentence. Sway the public by getting Judge Newman off of the murder case, having a new murder trial scheduled for next fall or winter. Somehow the AG is now going to be golfing. And the labor day shooting case goes away. There's never going to be a drug conspiracy trial. And they're going to retry the murder case. And Dick thinks he's going to win. Dick has told so many people in the legal community that they will win the next murder case, if it's not in front of Judge Newman and they would have won this one. If it wasn't in front of Judge Newman. They don't care about Alex Murdaugh, Dick doesn't, they



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

don't care about is he going to rot in jail is the prison and state level federal whatever. Dick wants that murder case going? That's all they care about. That's all Alex cares about. He didn't care about the financial crime cases, he didn't care about his victims. It's the murder case. And that's their playbook.

Liz Farrell 57:12

That's a placeholder that this plea deal was a placeholder for them. That's something to agree to now, knowing that they'll figure out how to get out of it later. And that's what worries me. But going back to what we talked about a few episodes ago, when we're talking about, you know, I said that Newman should stand strong in the new trial stuff, but he should back off of the Financial Crimes case, like the next one anyway. Does it bother you that Judge Newman seems to like he's pressured, you know, I guess the AGs office to get this plea deal. And he's backed out of the new trial stuff. Like isn't that really greasing the skids for what everything that you just said, like had he still had he recused himself from just worked it out and said, hey, just this Satterfield case, I'm not going to preside over some other judge will look at that, then I think we were we would still be talking we would be talking about something completely different today. I just I feel like that the future of that case, what would have gone differently? I don't think that there would have been a plea deal. If he had just backed out of that one case instead of the neutral stuff. I feel like he should have stood stronger in that. And now I worry that with the dateline stuff, well, it worries me that he didn't. And the dateline, Mandy and I were talking about the episode of Dateline before we started recording. And one of the things that concerns me about that, of course, is that SLED spoke with Craig Melvin, the reporter. And I don't know at what point they did these interviews, but we now know that that's going to probably get



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

parsed by Dick and Jim, and they'll figure out a way to use what they said as evidence that SLED is, you know, X, Y, or Z. However they want whatever point they want to make about SLED. I mean, not that not that law enforcement isn't supposed to, I guess, be biased toward the evidence that they're seeing. But yeah, I mean, it's quite possible.

Eric Bland 59:12

We've seen the last of Judge Newman guys. I really, it is possible that we have seen the last of him.

Liz Farrell 59:18

So we need to know why. We need to know what happens there.

Eric Bland 59:22

I think Dick wants a new judge and I think Dick is going to work on getting a judge.

Mandy Matney 59:28

Which you're not supposed to judge shop. Yeah. And another point I really want to make is that what a long shot it is for 99.999% of people in the United States who get convicted of murder to be able to overturn that. It is really really, really difficult. And I am just not comfortable with the like, language that everyone's using the of like When the murder trial gets blah, blah, blah, and like, that's still a huge hurdle. And we still have to, and we still have yet to see any compelling evidence from Dick and Jim as to why they should get a new trial. Correct. Again, this just feels like an abuse of the system. And it feels, and I was also getting upset at the amount of people on Twitter, who did not understand and the media took a horrible part in US last week of acting like it was a big win in there before when Judge Newman recused himself. And



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

headlines said something about huge win for Alex Murdaugh in his quest for a new trial. And it's like, he really is no closer. He should not be any closer to a new trial because there's been no new evidence correct?

Eric Bland 1:00:49

That's a great line. Listen, we are fighting, Creighton and I are gonna fight hard against the new trial. There is no evidence I have. I'm telling you, there is not compelling evidence to do this. But I have grave concerns about a new judge coming in, I have your exact concerns.

Mandy Matney 1:01:10

Well, then that then that is going to expose what we have been talking about this entire time and just put put a nail in the coffin on South Carolina's judicial system if that happens with no new evidence whatsoever, because what that would do is it would show the world that everybody like that you are dead corporately, and you can manipulate the system and exhaust everyone to the point where you can even get a new murder trial. And that is horrible. Just want to say Happy Thanksgiving to you, Liz and Eric. I'm really excited. Last year I was thinking about how we were all in the chaos with the wrestle the feet trial, and it will be nice, hopefully to have a few days away from Murdaugh and just to relax and yeah, I'm excited. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.

Liz Farrell 1:02:10

I'm looking forward to it.

Eric Bland 1:02:11

I want to say Happy Thanksgiving to you too, and tell you how much I am appreciative that you're in my life and what you've done for me both



EPISODE 56: Alex Murdaugh's Plea Deal: Can We Actually Call This Justice?

of you, and David, especially, and Luna Shark productions, but most I'd like to thank the listeners and people who have made me feel so good over the past year, I can't begin to tell you what you've done for me personally. So I'm very grateful for that. Thank you so much.

Liz Farrell 1:02:36

That's sweet. Thank you guys. Thank you to everyone. You guys have a good week and we will be with you guys again next week. So cups down.

Eric Bland 1:02:47

Cups down.

Mandy Matney 1:02:58

Cups down. This Cup of Justice episode is created and hosted by me Mandy Matney with co-host Liz Farrell, our executive editor and Eric Bland Attorney at Law aka the Jackhammer of Justice. From Luna Shark productions.