



EPISODE 29: How Many People Will Go Down For This?

Mandy Matney 00:03

I don't know how many more times Alex Murdaugh can get indicted in the next few months. But after this last round of charges, it seems like as Eric Bland has said before on this podcast, there really is no bottom to Alex or his co-conspirators from his alleged scheme. So far, we have learned that when you take a very powerful family of bankers and mix them with a very powerful family of prosecutors and personal injury lawyers who rule over a southern town unchecked for almost 100 years, the outcome is not just bad, it's dangerous. My name is Manny Matney. I've been investigating the Murdaugh family for almost three years now. And this is the Murdaugh Murders Podcast with David Moses and Liz Farrell. On Friday morning, we learned that the state Grand Jury handed down another 23 charges against Alex Murdaugh, as of Friday. Alex now stands accused of stealing at least \$8.4 million and he faces a whopping 74 charges since he was first arrested in September. And that is a big deal. In the days and weeks leading up to Friday, FITSnews heard from multiple sources that Alex alleged co-conspirators would be indicted alongside him. But on Thursday afternoon, we learned that the state grand jury had to cut its January session short because of two reasons. One was because of a winter storm in the F state which is in the Greenville South Carolina region and the other was because of COVID. According to our sources, COVID-19 exposure and weather problems made it impossible for state grand jurors to be able to get through their cases this month. For some background. The state Grand Jury is held in the state capital city of Columbia, South Carolina State Grand Jurors come from all over and typically hear cases in Columbia once a month. Also state grand jurors are legally obligated to keep Grand Jury matters confidential. We believe that some of those cases that the state grand jury didn't get to hear this month will likely involve wrestling the fee, who is the former CEO of Palmetto State Bank and Corey Fleming Alex's best friend who represented the Satterfield family. He also represented Pamela Pinckney, the mother of Hakeem Pinckney, the deaf man who was paralyzed in a horrific accident in 2009 that we introduced you to in the last episode. Though neither quarry nor Russell's names appeared in the four indictments handed down on Friday. When you read between the lines, their presence is obvious. One of the indictments references a close friend of Murdaugh and his alleged role in the schemes. While three of the indictments detail Palmetto State banks allege participation and Alex Murdaugh's crimes. We'll talk more about that in a minute. But first, we want to tell you about what these indictments collectively confirm.



EPISODE 29: How Many People Will Go Down For This?

Liz Farrell 03:14

As you know, we have long been told by our sources that Alex's alleged victims are likely going to number in the hundreds and that his alleged schemes have been going on from the very beginning. Prior to Friday, the oldest case that had been indicted was from 2015. The year Alex set up his fake FORGE accounts at Bank of America. The new indictments confirmed that Alex allegedly began stealing from clients earlier than that; the oldest cases that are now on the public record are from 2011. Alex began practicing law in South Carolina in 1994. And he used to work for the law firm where Corey eventually became a partner, will investigators be able to go back that far and trace his financial transactions? One thing that's important for former clients to have Alex to know right now is that the statute of limitations in South Carolina is three years but three years after a person could reasonably be expected to know that they were wronged. If you think you've been a victim of Alex Murdaugh or you want to find out whether you've been a victim. It's important that you speak to law enforcement and an attorney outside of the PMPED, the law firm.

Mandy Matney 04:14

Another thing that the indictments confirm for us is that Palmetto State Bank played a much bigger role in Alex's alleged games than they wanted us to think here is Attorney Justin Bamberg, who is representing at least eight clients in this case,

04:29

I want to make this extremely clear without rustle of feet and Palmetto State Bank, Alex Murdaugh steals nobody's money at that point in time. Right, these conservators first should have been a family member. And if it wasn't a family member, it needed to be somebody who didn't have such a close, personal relationship with Alex Murdaugh to the point that you put Alex Murdaugh above your fiduciary duty to the end vigil over which you had control of their money. The problem isn't just the personal relationship between Russell Luffy and Alex Murdaugh, or Palmetto State Bank and PNP. That in and of itself isn't the problem, right? It's the problem of if you are so loyal to your friend, or your business and Associates, that you're willing to sacrifice the person you owe the fiduciary duty to, you don't need to be involved. That's where the problems come in. And if Alex Murdaugh is not able to convince the paint, the family that Russell Laffitte should be conservative over not just one, not just two, but three of the people in that multimillion dollar settlement. Right. Without that we're not here today. Russell is



EPISODE 29: How Many People Will Go Down For This?

still president of the bank, but they did what they did, and Alex could not have done it without the bank period.

Mandy Matney 05:57

In October, lawyers for the bank filed their first response to the Satterfield family's lawsuit and it did not age well. As a reminder in the Satterfield case, Vice President Chad Westendorf is accused of being paid \$30,000 To act as a personal representative for Gloria Satterfield, the state the Satterfield attorneys say that Chad didn't live up to his responsibilities as a personal representative and also shouldn't have taken that much money to begin with. In response to being named a defendant in the case Palmetto State bank's initial strategy was to bulk the accusation and deny culpability the 24 page filing is filled with disgruntled remarks that mock and criticize the original complaint filed by Eric Bland on behalf of the Satterfield family. The filing denied that Westendorf acted as a representative of the bank and further alleged that the bank itself could actually be owed damages from Murdaugh and Corey Fleming's firm, which was Moss Kuhn and Fleming and is now just Moss and Kuhn. An even bigger deal is that filing says things like we shouldn't be a defendant in this case, because it's not like we did X, Y, and Z. And I bet that they're going to regret putting that in writing. Because not only did the bank end up quickly settling in the Satterfield case, the new indictments show that x, y and z is exactly what the bank is accused of doing before Alex apparently moved his operations to Bank of America in 2015. So I want to repeat this because it's unbelievable in defending itself. In the Satterfield case, the bank decided the best course of action was not only to simply deny complaints made against them, but explain in great detail as to why they're not liable. And those reasons why those actions that they say didn't happen in the Satterfield case, are the very same actions that happened in three of the four cases we're going to tell you about right now.

07:56

So it was built on a solid foundation, you know, maybe, you know, again, it's a lot of people on that board, you know, and we've yet to find out everybody who knew what and when they knew or what they knew. But obviously, people had either not been checking behind Russell Laffitte, or had been checking and either took his word for whatever he was saying, or just turned the other way. You know, and it seems to be a lot of turning the other way here. At some point, the question that has to be asked is, if you knew something, and you turn the other way, when does that become criminal?



EPISODE 29: How Many People Will Go Down For This?

Mandy Matney 08:33

Okay, so what Justin is saying here really is the big question, how many people knew and did nothing? How many people will go down for that? And if people holding positions of power at the bank really had no idea, should they even be working at a bank at all,

08:52

but we're talking about a bank. Okay. And we're not talking about \$5 or \$10, or Benjamin Franklin, we're talking about millions of dollars fraudulently taken from the hands of injured and deceased people with a bank tied to it when their job is to deal in money. You know, if it was if it was millions of dollars getting taken from a carwash. Number one, you'd ask what kind of software they use, and it's all cash. We're talking about a bank with investors who invest hundreds of 1000s if not millions of dollars, we're talking about shareholders in a bank and for over 13 years, all of this fraudulent activity was going on. And it's so difficult to wrap your mind around this concept that no one knew anything like Alex knew and Russell a feat knew and nobody else knew well, then nobody was doing their job for 10 years and they needed to take all their paychecks and pay the bank back so they have more money to pay these people whose money was stolen

Mandy Matney 10:13

and we'll be right back. Now Liz and I are going to walk you through all four of the indictments and what they mean.

Liz Farrell 10:26

indictment number one Hakeem Pinckney, the Pinckney family went to Alex Murdaugh for help after a catastrophic car crash in 2009 left Hakeem, a 19 year old deaf man a quadriplegic and also badly injured his mother who was driving the car when a tire came on treated in December 2011. Alex is accused of having a check for \$309,581 written out of Hakim's estate and made out to Palmetto State Bank. He allegedly used that money to purchase money orders for an unnamed family member and payable to other conservatorship accounts from which Alex had previously borrowed money. He also allegedly used the money to get cash for himself and a quote different family member. The indictment indicates that Alex also use the money to pay down a personal business loan. Alex is also accused of convincing Hakeem his mother Ms. Pamela to retain a lawyer who is a quote close friend of Murdaugh in May 2017 When the pink tea family thought the case had been completely resolved and all money disbursed Alex allegedly had his unnamed friend



EPISODE 29: How Many People Will Go Down For This?

the attorney make out a settlement disbursement check for \$89,133.44 from Hakim's estate, the PMP D He is then accused of having a check written from PMP EDS client trust fund for that same amount which he allegedly deposited into his fake FORGE account at Bank of America. He allegedly converted some of the money to cash and use the rest to pay bank fees and write checks to himself and unnamed associates. The panky case gives us some insight into how Alex was allegedly operating before opening his border accounts in 2015. In talking with lawyers and law enforcement officers, a few of us variations of the same pigs get fat and Hogs get slaughtered in describing Alex metamorphosis as an alleged criminal by the time he had opened the FORGE accounts his alleged enterprise was in full swing and likely would have stayed that way had his son not crashed their boat into our bridge in 2019. Something else we're starting to see with these indictments is that it appears Alex was robbing Peter to pay Paul and taking loans out for himself from clients. conservatorship counts remember, according to the Public Index, Russell a feat the CEO of Palmetto State Bank, who got fired a few weeks ago served as a personal representative to a number of Elux clients also remember a conservatorship account is money that is meant to go toward supporting a person who cannot otherwise take care of themselves. You're probably familiar with the term because it's been so prevalent in the media as a result of the Britney Spears case. So basically, it looks like Alex was able to take loans out on money that belonged to his client but that wasn't necessarily authorized by the client because Russell the feet served as a conservator and then personal representative and the he came Pinckney case and because this was his family's bank, he had direct access to Hakim's money.

Mandy Matney 13:18

indictment number two Nitasha Thomas around the same time that Alex began allegedly stealing from Hawkins estate he started allegedly stealing from Hawkins cousins account to Natasha Thomas is Hakim's cousin. She was in the car at the time of the horrific crash that changed their lives forever in 2009. Along with Hakeem Alex Murdaugh also represented Natasha in the lawsuit against the tire company in 2010. In December 2011, just two months after Hakeem suffered an unexpected death, apparently due to an unplugged ventilator Alex allegedly had a check written out to the firm's client trust account for \$325,000. With the description settlement proceeds for Natasha Thomas Alex allegedly had that check made out to Palmetto State Bank and allegedly use it to buy a money order payable to a family member. Yes, apparently he bought a \$325,000 money order and gave it to someone in his family. We don't know who that person is, but we're going to try our best to find out we'll talk about money orders in a bit because guess what Alex was not done with



EPISODE 29: How Many People Will Go Down For This?

Natasha's account in August 2012 Alex allegedly did the same thing except for this time for \$25,000. He had the check made out to Palmetto State Bank and use the money as cash for himself to buy money orders that were also payable to Palmetto State Bank.

Liz Farrell 14:52

These indictments are the first time we're seeing that Alex was allegedly depositing this settlement money and converting it to money orders to learn more about Why Alex might have been doing this and more importantly, how he was able to do it. We talked to Jennifer wood who is a former private investigator, she is well versed in financial crimes and an extraordinary researcher who helps us out at FITSnews. She told us that the banks are required to have red flag systems that would alert them to unusual transactions, such as a six figure money order, or basically any money order in amounts over \$10,000. She said these alert systems also pick up on the number of transactions a customer is making and whether that customer is making several transactions just under the trigger point of \$10,000. How can a customer bypass those red flag alerts being friends with the family that owns the bank obviously doesn't hurt as to why Alex was doing this. One very simple benefit to stealing money and laundering it through a friend's bank is tax evasion. And we keep wondering when we'll see the IRS weigh in on Alex alleged transactions.

Mandy Matney 15:52

So back to what I was telling you all earlier about the October 2021 filing in the Satterfield case. In the filing, the bank maintained that it was not liable for what happened because of the following reasons.

DAVID MOSES 16:05

Palmetto State Bank did not receive any fee or compensation related to the administration of the estate nor was it paid any money from the settlements that were allegedly obtained because it was not involved and rendered no services. Palmetto State Bank did not open nor hold any account for the state. Palmetto State Bank did not administer or disperse any of the settlement funds discussed in the complaint. Nor were the settlement checks deposited in any account with Palmetto State Bank, Palmetto State Bank neither cash nor deposited any of the moss Coonan Fleming checks from the boss Kuhn and Fleming trust. Palmetto State Bank did not owe a fiduciary duty or any other duty to the Satterfield is because Palmetto State Bank never acted as the personal representative nor was Chad Westendorf acting for defendant in serving individually as the personal representative Palmetto State



EPISODE 29: How Many People Will Go Down For This?

bank's conduct was not the actual cause of any losses, damages or injuries allegedly suffered by the plaintiffs any damages to plaintiffs were caused by unforeseeable, independent intervening and or superseding acts of third persons beyond the control and unrelated to any actions or conduct of Palmetto State Bank.

Mandy Matney 17:25

said we're not lawyers, obviously, but we don't think they're going to be able to make those same claims with the latest cases that have come to light, at least not with a straight face.

17:35

You know, Palmetto State Bank has foreclosed on people's property before you know, so obviously they know how to count money and determine how much money they're do. They don't know how to keep up with how much money other people are do rustle of feet, doesn't know how to keep up with how much money the subject of his conservatorship or do you know, something in the milk is not clean and unconscious and something in the milk and clean here.

Mandy Matney 18:01

So I asked Justin what he thought of Friday's indictments as they pertain to his clients, the Pinckney family.

18:08

For starters, when the indictments came out, we were pleased to the extent that Alex Murat was criminally charged for taking advantage of and stealing from the Pinckney family. That was very encouraging. And, you know, like I say, as someone who believes in justice and believes in the system, that is an indication that the system is working, you know, because it would have been very easy for the South Carolina Attorney General's office who had already charged him with you know, however many counts to just say all right, if we give him a year on each one, he's gonna die in prison. So we're gonna stop that would have been easy call to make and they're not doing that. And I do tip my hat to, to the the attorney team and staff who are working on this thing. You know, we were hoping based on the information that we have, you know, that I think Russell a feet has some explaining to do, you know, it's one of those things where, man, you are in charge of his money, bro, like, it wasn't a situation where Alex was just stealing out of the trust account, like you saw with some of the force deposits, right? Where there's no middleman in these Mr. Murphy's was in charge of their money. Okay, you guys I'm explaining to do. And, you know, if if



EPISODE 29: How Many People Will Go Down For This?

you were innocent, and you didn't know what was going on, I would hope that you would have already been a person who would have talked to law enforcement and told them everything you knew and given up all your paperwork, etc, etc, etc, right. But if that was the case, you should have done that back when he got hemmed up on Satterfield. People never want to talk until the hot iron starts getting close to the back of their ad then they'd be wanting to talk okay, you know, and that does not, that's not an indication of innocence. In my opinion. That's an indication of man, I'm about to get hit by that hot iron. So let me try it. face on the CFL pulling away from me. You know what I mean? And I just think that based on everything, we have substantial breaches of fiduciary duty, obviously Miss paint me when Mr. Laffite was suggested as conservator and Alex, explain whatever he explained, she trusted Mr. Loafie. With her children, the kids trusted him with their money. You know, Malik Williams, they trusted Russell iffy, with their money. And then he went and loaned it to Alex Murdaugh who wasn't even working on the case. You see, I'm saying so if we talk about breach of trust, I mean, that's a breach of trust to me. I trust you to be conservative over my money. And my lawyer says that you should do it in in Hugo and loan all of my money to yo buddy Alex Murdaugh. And in return I get \$100 in interest. No, sir. No, put them out and put my money in Apple stock stuff that you use to build your wealth and buy your home. And so have your nice cars and take your family on a beautiful vacation. That's where you should be putting my money. Not in Alex Murdaugh's pocket so he can float 40 grand over the course of a month and do whatever he was doing. That is a breach of trust, in my opinion, but I ain't the prosecutor. I am the jury. I'm the lawyer and we're gonna see what happens.

Liz Farrell 21:34

indictment number three Arthur badger. The first thing you should know about the Arthur badger indictment is that it is 17 pages long. Arthur badgers wife was killed by a UPS truck in 2011. And over the course of 16 months, Alex is accused of stealing from Arthur 14 times for a total of 1.3 to \$5 million. The alleged thefts occurred between February 2013 And June 2014, and started with a whopper of a check for \$388,000 that was made out to Palmetto State Bank and taken from PNP DS client trust account. Alex apparently used that money to buy a money order payable to a business associate. After that he is accused of stealing \$75,000 from badger and having that check made out to Palmetto State Bank as well. He then allegedly use that money to buy a money order payable to a family member. He's then accused of stealing nearly \$152,000 Using the same method and again making the checkout to Palmetto State Bank. The money was deposited into a conservators account for a different person from which Alex had been allowed to borrow money before. Then



EPISODE 29: How Many People Will Go Down For This?

this is where it gets a little weird. The rest of the alleged thefts are for repeated amounts four times he allegedly stole \$50,684.75 Four times he allegedly stole \$101,369.49 and another three times he allegedly stole \$33,789.83 Some of that money was deposited into a conservatorship account for another person. Some was converted into money orders payable to family members, some was used to pay personal debts some was wired to accompany some was converted to cash. Some was used to pay a Bank of America credit card and some was used to pay an auto dealer. I was talking to a source connected to the case about why he thought Alex allegedly stole the money and he's repeated exact amounts. He told me that one reason might have been so that if he were caught stealing, he could claim it wasn't stealing but rather an inadvertent duplication of checks. I should also mention Russell a feat he served as the personal representative of badgers wife's estate

Mandy Matney 23:38

indictment number four de Leon J. Martin. The Dr. Martin case might sound familiar to some of you. In November Alex was indicted in the Martin case and was charged with two counts a breach of trust and two counts of computer crimes on Friday. A new indictment was handed down that replaces the November indictment and adds another breach of trust charge as refresher Alex was accused of taking \$338,000 from Dion in October 2015. The money was supposed to be invested on Dion's behalf, but never was a year later Alex allegedly took another \$45,000 from Dion settlement money both times Alex deposited the money into his FORGE account at Bank of America in use the money for his personal expenses. However, this new indictment adds some new information about the Deion Martin case. Apparently in August of 2015. Alex told Dion that he had gotten him \$500,000 in settlement funds and they were being sent to FORGE consulting LLC a legitimate company that would establish an annuity account on Dion's behalf. Alex then allegedly kept a \$200,000 fee for getting that \$500,000 however, no such settlement was ever recovered. According to the end statement quote Murdaugh knowingly and dishonestly asserted the recovery of phantom funds for the purpose of artificially inflating the fee he could retain. So not only is Alex accused of stealing clients settlement money, he was allegedly lying about the amount of the settlement so he could take more money from the clients. Multiple sources have told us the two of the next frontiers in the investigation are going to be cost inflation and predatory lending. And we'll be right back. To summarize everything so far Alex Murdaugh is a person of interest in the murders of his wife and son. He has been accused of spearheading a scheme to defraud Gloria Satterfield 's family of \$4.3 million. He appears to have come up with some sort of work around in moving his assets by quickly confessing judgment to



EPISODE 29: How Many People Will Go Down For This?

debts he allegedly owes his brother and one of his law partners He is charged with lying to police about being shot on the side of the road when he was instead. So he says trying to fake his own murder to defraud an insurance company out of \$10 million. He is charged with forging names on documents in order to allegedly steal client money. He is accused of taking loans from client's conservatorships accounts. He is accused of using Eddie Smith to liquidate more than \$3 million in allegedly stolen money into cash. He is charged with 19 computer crimes and 11 counts of money laundering. He is accused of lying to clients about how much money he had gotten them and where the money was going. He allegedly failed to invest money on behalf of clients who really needed it. He is accused of pretending to not charge a client his fee because he's being a nice guy all the while stealing most of his clients settlement. This isn't even the worst of it. For years Alex Murdaugh readily accepted praise and gratitude from the people he was supposed to be helping. These are the same people whose lives he was secretly destroying from the same community that now has to make sense of this mass betrayal, we have two more things we want to talk to you about. One is the pattern that keeps emerging out of these indictments and two is the devastating effect these revelations are having on this close knit community where loyalty means everything.

Liz Farrell 27:49

And the newest indictments, all for alleged victims are African American, and all four were receiving money because they needed it.

27:56

I don't believe in coincidence, I think that Alex Murdaugh strategically picked victims, I think that one of the categories of what maybe put you in the victim category would would be maybe your education level, it would be your your race, it would be your trust level, I think those are the things that maybe he looked at, or paired with, of course, value case value, you know, on everybody that he stole money from had fairly large settlements, large settlements yielded large check amounts, and it left enough money for him to steal without actually tipping his hand to the actual client. Because, you know, like I've said before, for a lot of the victims, Ali gave them enough money for them to drop to their knees and say thank you, Jesus. And then he took the rest. You had victims who I think happened to be minorities who just had a personal relationship with him to the point that they would trust and believe anything he said, and he definitely take advantage of that. But I think, you know, when you look at Satterfield, again, that was a close personal trust. It was a personal relationship. But a lot of these clients, the pain the family, for example, they didn't



EPISODE 29: How Many People Will Go Down For This?

know who Ali's murderer was, he was recommended to them and he picked his targets. And I think like all predators do predators, they just don't run around in the wild and pick off whatever comes in front of them. They look for certain things. And when you look at the character traits, when you look at the racial makeup, when you look at the socio economic status, when you look at the the physical disability of victims, you cannot help but see a trend in the types of people that Alex wanted to take advantage of. And, again, we've yet to see anybody pop up as a victim. He wasn't taking advantage of lawyers. He wasn't taking advantage of doctors who got in car wrecks. He wasn't taking advantage of, you know, accountants or tax professionals who got maimed in an accident. He was taken advantage of regular hard work and people who he thought wouldn't be sophisticated enough. And Mandy, I think that's a very important point to clarify, you're right, the victims, you're not, you're not stupid, you're not dumb. You're not easily fooled, because you became a victim of Alex Murdaugh. You know, in his mind, he knew or found out certain things about you that he felt that he could take advantage of. And it started with the trust that these people put in him. And then I think he did look at other aspects to them, where do they live? What kind of home they have? What's their education level? Like? Do they have a physical disability? I think he did consider all of that. Because there are too many coincidences for just to have been happy to say

Liz Farrell 31:03

the predatory behavior we're seeing would be disgusting under normal circumstances. But when you factor in the generational power that both the Murdaughs and the live feeds had in Hampton County, it becomes something else altogether. How convenient is it that a lawyer with an apparent addiction to stealing money in complicated financial transactions just so happens to have a very deep rooted relationship with the town's banking family.

31:34

For starters, let's hit the nail on the head here, when you live in rural South Carolina, small towns, a lot of farmland and space, small schools, everything, where you buy your groceries, where you do your gas, Phillips, where you get your hair cut, and what law firm you walk into. What bank you use, is based on trust, and relationships. You know, you live in a big city, if you're in if you're in Charleston, if you're in Columbia, or Charlotte, or wherever nobody in Atlanta picks a bank based on a special relationship with the people who run that bank. But what he does is too many options. You know, where we live, we don't have many options. So you go with what's familiar, you go with what's established, and you go with what's familiar. And when it comes to these



EPISODE 29: How Many People Will Go Down For This?

banks, were talking about areas that have a higher than average level of poverty, right, they have a higher than average level of difficulty getting employed, you know, people's credit might be lower because of the lack of opportunity, or the education level maybe stops at high school, if you're lucky, two year degrees for most people. So when it comes to banking, people rely on these banks, these smaller banks, the state charter bank, these federal credit unions, because the big banks, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, Bank of America, home to forks, they'll bank with Ally Murdaugh, they won't bank with everybody. But the local banks will win, you can't qualify for a mortgage. You know, if you look, I believe, at present, Palmetto State Bank has almost \$200 million and outstanding mortgages, not all of that, or the Uber wealthy, a lot of that is, for example, the town of Sheldon, they needed a pumper truck. And they put out bids, but because they're so small, and because of what they can afford, come out of state bank and do it maybe one of the big national ones wouldn't maybe the town of Sheldon at 5000 people or less, doesn't have the things that would make a large national bank comfortable in terms of loaning out money, but my mental state bank will go in loan out the money. You know, so it is a lot different in the small areas with that trust comes great responsibility.

Mandy Matney 34:00

And because people in Hampton value loyalty, so much the betrayal they're feeling from Russell Luffy. And Palmetto State Bank just cuts deeper than it would if it were a corporate business in a big city.

34:15

The loyalty runs so deep, you know, so if you got a bank, you know, you get you could go to Bank of America, and they got the dope apps on your cell phone where everything's all convenient. You know, you can order checks online and the website is all fancy. Yeah, you could do that. But nah, you and Hampton Yama, rock with my local bank. You know, they employ local people. They help take care of us locally. And hey, I remember when they sponsored, which is really crazy. Mandy Palmetto State Bank, actually sponsored the Hampton football player of the week and it was the son of one of my clients who had their money stolen.

Mandy Matney 34:55

Just circles and Hanten are small and when those circles The Trust are broken, everything falls apart.

35:04



EPISODE 29: How Many People Will Go Down For This?

You know, the Luffy family without loyalty and Hampton, their bank never get started in 1907. Never. It doesn't matter how powerful you are, how well lived you are with your local community doesn't rock with you. You're never going to build an empire. You know, I think that's why it's so crushing for so many people. Whether it be you talk about Alex, you know whether you talk about PNP Ed, not catching the fraud that was going on whether you talk about Russell a feat and his role, or the bank, and its failures, like people expect you to have their back. Because not it's not just their support that helped build your empires, it's their suffering, when their mama dies, that's use case you settle when their son becomes a quadriplegic. That's who whose case you take, and you put multiple millions of dollars annually into Palmetto State Bank, because you're making the money off of local people's pain and suffering. So it's really deep, if you think about it, you know, and I think that's why so many people are upset, and bothered and hurt by what happened, including people who didn't have their money taken by they're just hurt because their communities hurt. And a lot of us understand that,

Mandy Matney 36:19

as Justin said, at the end of the day Russell Laffitte owes the people of Hampton County.

36:26

I just can't for the life of me understand how an individual like Russell have the, I believe, fifth or sixth generation in that bank could forget that he owes them folks in Hampton, like how could he forget when he looks at the life that he has.

Mandy Matney 36:47

And when you stop and extract the tiny pieces of the story, like the fact that Russell took a \$60,000 conservator fee from the Pinckney family during a time when they needed it the most, it feels worse than betrayal and greed. It feels evil.

37:04

It meanwhile, rustle of feet, who's already making well into six figures a year, who owns 9% of that bank, with the bank being valued at \$700 million. Y'all could do the math. And he will go and allow Alex is himself to financial in unjustly paid \$60,000 from a dead person for what probably 25 minutes worth of actual work. With most of that 25 minutes being how can we take this money. Most of the people, majority of the people living in the county that is home to that bank have to work two years to make \$60,000 What makes less on the feet think that his name or whatever warrants



EPISODE 29: How Many People Will Go Down For This?

him taking 60 grand from somebody, especially when you know that they got to pay for a funeral. And then they've got medical bills in the millions of dollars and stuff like that. What are these? What would they think? How does the bank not catch it?

Mandy Matney 38:17

And we'll be right back. If the indictments told us one story, it would be that Alex did not act alone in this.

38:28

I'm just sitting here thinking though. And it really if you think about it, Alex Murdaugh has been getting thrown under the bus since before like Omicron strain was over here. The Justice bus is already on him and like is actually moving now. They need to quit trying to throw him under the bus and they've got to find somebody else to snitch on or chill on or, you know, come forth with information because this whole Alex Alex Alex Alex who got played out as soon as we found out this was going on for over a decade.

Mandy Matney 38:59

The truth is, is that the heat is turning up on Alex Co conspirators. And no one who helped Alex with this despicable scheme is safe from the long arm of the law.

39:12

If I was them, based on what I saw in the indictments and what I've seen in the paperwork, I would definitely look behind me before I sat down to make sure that I don't sit on the hot iron. You know, but I think that they got thinking, all the makings are there, in my opinion. And through all of this part of part of the thing though, Mandy, what everybody wants is everybody, you know, victims, the public. Everybody wants to know what was going on. And my question is, at what point how many indictments in do we have to get before the 100% truth comes out? You know, all we've seen today is everybody trying to blame Alice and they can fall guy like he could do this by himself. He's Alex Murdaugh. He's a Murdaugh, he's Superman. You know what I'm saying? Unlike so there were other things in play here. There were other doors that were left open for Alan to walk through. And how many indictments do we have to see before? Anybody who knows? More information just comes forward and, and tells I mean, it's not snitching. Not, in my opinion, we talked about people who deserved to know these answers, do the right thing. Like that's the best you need a standard in life, not the exception. You know, doing the right thing shouldn't be contingent on the hot arm getting close to your area, you know, we're



EPISODE 29: How Many People Will Go Down For This?

expected to hold ourselves to a certain standard in life, whether you're at the top or whether you're at the bottom, the societal, quote, unquote, bottom, the same standards apply to all of us, it seems like to save face for the key keep themselves out of any potential of getting in trouble. Everybody wants to just throw Alex Murdaugh under the PRT under the bus. The bus been on top of Alex, sooner or later, the Justice mobiel is going to just mush Alex Murdaugh. And then somebody else is going to be under it. The question is who? And the question is when? You know, but I feel like it's common. And everything that I've seen, like I say it's not just discussed. And it is It seems there's a lot of moral implications here and a lot of societal and systemic implications here. And we can only hope that at the end of the day, as long as Alex Murdaugh is still alive, he still has the opportunity to do the right thing. As long as people are still talking to PNP. Ed, there's an opportunity for PNP ed to do the right thing. As long as Palmetto State Bank exists, and they have a board in charge of them, they still have an opportunity to do the right thing. And you can only hope, you know, in the goodness of the world that people will do the right thing. If people don't There are folks like you and Eric and me and Mark tenderly and you know, the South Carolina Attorney General's Office and the public and most importantly, I think are the people in Hampton county they'll make you.

Mandy Matney 42:21

On Tuesday afternoon, while we were finishing up the podcast, I received an email from Megan Paquin, Vice President of Pastan communications. Pastan is an Orlando based public relations firm that specializes in crisis communication. Turns out Palmetto State Bank hired them to manage their image in the past two days. We've heard from sources that Palmetto State Bank is in an extreme cleanup mode and is desperately working not to lose their federal charter. The feeling that we're getting is that the bank wants to pay people back and move on as fast as they can. Even though we had finished recording this episode I told Megan that she could send us a statement. I asked her to tell us about the bank's position on Russell Laffitte's alleged involvement in the theft of almost \$2.3 million. I also asked her what the bank is doing to make this right for victims. Here is the statement Megan provided on behalf of G Trenholm. Walker, the bank's attorney

DAVID MOSES 43:21

Palmetto State Bank did not benefit from and did not receive fees from the transactions referenced in the most recent indictment of Alex Murdaugh. It also did not benefit from or receive fees from the transactions that involved the Pinckney settlement funds. When information about the transactions Alex Murdaugh



EPISODE 29: How Many People Will Go Down For This?

orchestrated came to light the bank's board of directors took immediate action to begin an investigation and simultaneously severed the employment of former CEO Russell Laffitte. The bank and its board of directors remained committed to determining what exactly occurred and while the bank has defenses to the claims that have been asserted, it intends to do the right thing and accomplish full restitution for those affected.

Mandy Matney 44:05

When I asked Megan whether we could expect that the victims who trusted Russell Laffitte to protect their money that was ultimately stolen would be fully compensated by Palmetto State Bank. She responded the Palmetto State Bank, quote will make every effort to accomplish full restitution for those who settlement money was diverted to others in transactions processed at the bank and quote, so the bank wants you to know that they didn't benefit from Russell's alleged theft because they didn't make any money off of it. And they want you to know that they have defenses to any notion that they're responsible. Also, how much money do you think that they're spending to get somebody to turn the words stealing money into settlement money that was diverted to others and how much of that money would be better off being spent on paying back every person who had their money stolen? Here's Where I have a problem, the bank seems to be trying to separate itself from Russell the feet as if he were some rogue individual and not the literal leader of their institution. And most members on the board are Russell's family members. By the way, our real problem with this is the bank saying it wants to make things right. But from what we understand, they're pushing back and trying to find ways to bend and twist reality in their favor. The bottom line is this never should have happened. The bank is in a position of trust and rustle of feet. If he did these things, was 100% synonymous with the bank. And the bank was 100% synonymous with Russell Laffitte. It is so infuriating to see the spin but it's not going to keep us from bringing the truth to light so that the victims, most of whom have not been publicly identified yet get what they should have gotten in the first place. Stay tuned. And before we end this podcast, I want to say thank you to those who have supported our mission to expose the truth wherever it leads. Your positive comments on social media or encouraging emails are truly appreciated. 99% of the comments we received are from good natured people who believe in what we are doing. We are holding agencies accountable and changing a system that has applied unequal justice for far too long. Also, I'd like to take a moment and say thank you to the ABC News and 2020 crew. I turned down a lot of projects because they didn't feel right or at times



EPISODE 29: How Many People Will Go Down For This?

they felt downright wrong. But the 2020 team made me feel like they would do the story in its many victims justice and they did.

DAVID MOSES 46:59

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram or follow Mandy on Twitter. Mandy works tirelessly to expose the truth wherever it leads. I and countless others believe she's the best in the business and pursuing this saga for all the right reasons. Admittedly, I'm a little biased, but if you do believe in our mission, please consider subscribing to FITSnews.com. For all the latest around this case and others Mandy Liz will and the FITSnews team are revolutionizing how agile news organizations can publish the truth so communities can improve or if you'd like to support this show, visit Murdaughmurderspodcast.com. To learn how you can help post a five star review on Apple, Amazon or Spotify support our growing list of advertisers or better yet refer an advertiser or even best yet become one we can distribute ads across the globe or in just targeted locations when your customers are listening most we can also package podcast sponsorships with FITSnews.com advertising to enhance your value.

Mandy Matney 48:00

The Murdaugh Warner's podcast is created by me, Mandy Matney and my fiance David Moses. Our executive editor is Liz Farrell,

DAVID MOSES 48:09

produced by Luna shark production