



EPISODE 36: A Golden Day for Justice - Cory Fleming Indicted on 18 Charges

Mandy Matney 00:03

I don't know how many powerful people will go down with Alex Murdaugh. But this week suspended attorney Cory Fleming was indicted on multiple charges and that is a big deal. My name is Mandy Matney. I've been investigating the Murdaugh family for more than three years now. This is the Murdaugh murders podcast with David Moses and Liz Farrell. So big news today about quarry farming. But before we get into all of that, I want to say thank you for your patience this week. Making a weekly investigative podcast based on breaking news is not easy. But while we had some technical difficulties this week that delayed this podcast, we have exciting news to share nine months into our engagement. David and I finally found a perfect venue and we decided on our wedding day and that is also a big deal. I honestly haven't had the mental space all of this time to think about my own wedding. And it really felt great to push everything else to the side this month and focus on what really matters. We can't tell you how much we appreciate our fans' love and support during this journey. And Murdaugh murders podcast fan helped us find our wedding venue and a Murdaugh motors podcast fan owns the venue that we are using. We love you. We appreciate you and trust me when I say that we are thinking of ways to include our fans and our big day because y'all mean the world to us. And now back to the big news. The indictments court Cory Howard and Fleming Alex Murdaugh's best friend in the godfather to his oldest son Buster was indicted on 18 charges last week by the state grand jury. South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson announced this on Wednesday, the new indictment that also charges Alex is superseding meaning it replaces the previous indictment in the Satterfield case and added new charges. It paints a clearer but not complete picture as to how the \$4.3 million was stolen from Gloria Satterfield's family. As a reminder, Gloria was the Murdaugh family's housekeeper for more than two decades, up until 2018 When she died after sustaining injuries and an alleged trip and fall accident on the Moselle property.

Liz Farrell 02:37

In the 44. Page joint superseding indictment Fleming and Murdaugh were charged with conspiring to surreptitiously give Murdaugh a share of Fleming's fee from the multimillion dollar settlement of civil claims against Murdaugh resulting from the death of Gloria Satterfield. In addition to the conspiracy charge, Fleming was charged with three counts of false statement or misrepresentation in connection with an insurance transaction of \$50,000 or more four counts of breach of trust with fraudulent intent of \$10,000 or more three counts of breach of trust with fraudulent



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intent between \$2,000.10 \$1,000.03 counts of money laundering more than \$100,000.03 counts of money laundering between \$300.20 \$1,000 and one count of computer crime of more than \$10,000. Murdaugh also is charged with three counts of false statement or misrepresentation in connection with an insurance transaction over \$50,000. In the superseding indictment. The new charges arise out of the alleged scheme to defraud multiple insurance companies in the course of surreptitiously delivering to Murdaugh a share of the proceeds resulting from the settlement of the claims against him. The Attorney General's office said in its release, Fleming's indictment is the first time we're seeing one of Murdaugh's alleged co-conspirators getting charged in his alleged financial schemes. Here's attorney Eric bland. It's a golden

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day for justice. I would assume that he's going to, you know, at the time that's required voluntarily turned himself in totally just unsealed. 18 indictments, conspiracy to commit wire fraud, theft insurance fraud, the grand jury loaded quarry up

Mandy Matney 04:18

In total, Fleming has been indicted on 18 charges for defrauding victims of \$3.6 million, while Alex Murdaugh has been indicted on a total of 75 charges for defrauding victims of nearly \$8.5 million. According to Wilson's latest release, as fifth news exclusively reported earlier this year. These indictments were just a matter of time for the alleged co-conspirators and Murdaugh's financial schemes. However, in January and February, the state Grand Jury faced delays caused by COVID weather events and scheduling conflicts, too many of us following the case closely. Corys indictment was a long time come

05:00

I'm very grateful for the work that this grand jury has done and continues to do. Obviously the Attorney General is doing it in their pursuit of justice and answers here in connection with everything that Alex and Cory did with the Satterfield and the other victims of, of Alex and other people that assisted him. So I'm very satisfied with that as a lawyer. On one hand, I'm very satisfied. Our profession is weeding out people and lawyers to mistreat their clients and violate the rules of professional conduct.

Mandy Matney 05:36



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Well, it's a great day for justice to many of the victims. It's also a bad day for lawyers in South Carolina, as Korea's role in the highest appears to be purposeful, but yet

05:47

At the same time, it is a sad day, because again, even though we are weeding out these bad lawyers, the public's going to look at it again, it's another slide on our profession. Here it is, you know, a lawyer committing conspiracy insurance fraud, and it's just a kind of cumulative effect that has on the public and the feelings they have and the opinions they have of lawyers overall. You know, I've been pushing not so much to Cory be indicted, but to Cory be held accountable. For me it was reporting into the state bar, as well as to the Georgia Bar because we're a self policing profession. And, you know, I left it up to others to determine whether they felt that his conduct that we were reporting was criminal.

Mandy Matney 06:33

Cory was indicted last Thursday in Richland County, South Carolina. He is being represented by former federal prosecutor and current defense attorney Deborah Barbier listeners in South Carolina might recognize Barbie ears name. She represented the influential publicists and political strategist Richard Quinn and a massive pay to play scheme that happened a few years ago involving Richard and his son Rick, who was a longtime state representative. We talked briefly about this case during our Judge Mullen episode, because Molan was widely criticized for sentencing Rick to public service Barbier was also appointed as a member of Trump's legal team. During his 2021 impeachment. She joined Butch Bowers, who you might remember as the butcher who allegedly got paid \$60,000 for doing something related to busters readmittance and to law school, which we're still checking into by the way, Barbieri is a top lawyer in South Carolina, which means she's whipped smart, highly connected and expensive, very expensive from what we understand, which obviously raises questions about how Cory is going to afford this given what we've heard about his finances. Several sources and Beaufort have told us over the last few months, the quarry has been selling off his assets, including a car alleged to be worth six figures, I say alleged and apparent because we've not seen record of that sale. Suffice to say that the talk of the town is that he, like Alex, is supposedly broke. Cory's arrest is a big deal because he's the first good ol boy in the high powered money circles that Alex Murdaugh ran in to be put in handcuffs for these crimes. This is promising news because it means that no one who helped Alex Murdaugh is safe from the long arm of the law. It means that the excuse I was duped by Alex is not working in this case. And it means that every good old boy who's



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become accustomed to a system in which everyone else gets held accountable except them and their friends. Those guys should be scared. We'll be right back.

Liz Farrell 08:46

To understand who Cory Fleming is, it's easiest if you start with the image you have of Alex Murdaugh and put that image on a treadmill feed it vegetables, groom it and then give it a tide stick to clean up any messy moments that might occur maybe even give that image a book or two now you have Cory bottom line core gives off healthy suburban dad vibes. He is generally seen as smart or at least remarkably smarter than Alex and like Alex he is also genuinely like there are several people in Beaufort County who have had a really rough time reconciling the quarry. They know what the quarry that allegedly took part in the Satterfield scheme in some cases. It wasn't until last week when they read about and saw Chad West endorsed deposition for themselves that they truly accepted another narrative other than bad Alex TriC good quarry. A friend of mine who worked closely with quarry in the past described him as a really nice guy, but I guess he's actually a really dirty nice guy. There are many others in Buford county who told us that quarries could blur the lines and they operated in the gray areas. Cory went to University of South Carolina for undergrad and the University of South Carolina School of Law. He graduated with Alex Murdaugh and they both passed the bar in the fall of 1994. From there both Alex and Cory who are lifelong friends went on to work at the 14 Judicial Circuit solicitor's office where Alex's father was a solicitor as you guys already know Alex grandfather and great grandfather were solicitors before that. So if you think about it, Korea was kind of the chosen one of Alex brands to enter that world with him. After a short stint as prosecutors. The two then joined Mohsen Kuhn law firm and Beaufort quarry whose mom is from Beaufort would go on to become a named partner and Alex would end up moving to Hampton county to work for his family sperm PMP D in 1998, Cory married Eve majors at St. Helena Episcopal Church and Beaufort they honeymooned in Paris. At the time of their wedding, Cory was working at Mawson Khun and Eve, also a lawyer, was working as a public defender today. Eve, who also graduated from the USC School of Law, is listed on the South Carolina public defender's website as being an assistant public defender in the juvenile circuit for Beaufort County. The couple has two kids and they are active in the community. Eve is listed as the Registered Agent for low country Montessori School and Beaufort which is a state funded Charter School. Cory is a marathon runner and a swimmer and he and his family are frequently seen at the YMCA working out.

Mandy Matney 11:08



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The thing that is most stunning when you think about all of this Cory was ultimately done in by his closest friend. It is literally his relationship with Alex Murdaugh that set off alarm bells three years ago, we had no way of knowing back then just how bad this would all end up being when we think back to 2019. When our investigation was first beginning. I remember when I was searching through court records. Liz told me to look for Cory Fleming connections, who was Alex's best friend and former coworker. And then one day I found a single document and a settlement case that just didn't sit right with me. It was the Gloria Satterfield case who we knew was Murdaugh's housekeeper. I remember Liz sat across from me at the time and I blurted out a few curse words. As I read the document. We thought it was strange and highly unethical that Murdaugh would have his best friend representing plaintiffs and a settlement against him. Something was off with a settlement, but we weren't really sure what so I wrote about the case and Fleming's odd involvement in 2019 and in 2020, and Gloria Satterfield sister read the story I wrote in 2020, and realized something was wrong with the settlement too. But remember, the Murdaugh's ran Hampton County for over 100 years, and the idea of going up against him was unheard of, especially for people like the Satterfield. It wasn't until after the double homicide of Maggie and Paul when glorious sons had the courage to go to a lawyer, and this time they picked the right guy for the job, Eric Bland and Ronnie Richter, who specialize in legal malpractice busted the case wide open. On the same day they filed a lawsuit led open an investigation into glorious death in settlement. One month after filing a lawsuit Alex was arrested in the case, Bland discovered that the family was not only deceived and hiring Fleming The settlement was actually for 4.3 million, not 505,000, which is what Fleming filed with the court and the family received \$0.00 from it all. According to the New indictment, Fleming held a portion of the settlement in his trust and wrote himself an \$8,500 check which he apparently used to pay his large credit card debt debts to the IRS video game entertainment, iTunes purchases and mortgages. And from that same \$505,000 settlement, he wrote himself another check for \$8,000 and used it for expenses, including payment to his mortgage and large credit card debt three times in these indictments Fleming's large debt is mentioned. Which leads us to another huge question in this case, where is all of this money going? And why does a lawyer like Cory Fleming have so much debt? According to Eric Bland Fleming did almost everything wrong in his role as the attorney representing Gloria Satterfield sons

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an endless list. Do you have about 10 hours? No, in all seriousness, it was from start to finish. He did everything wrong, except for what he settled the amount for. And he



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does brag a lot about that to a lot of people that I'm told that he did get 4.3 million and he did do a great job getting that. And I do commend him for being the first to the table with the Satterfield and paying a lot of money and saying that he was sorry, and that he should have represented them better. I do commend him for that. But in the interim, he didn't explain to Joey Satterfield what he should do.

Liz Farrell 15:02

An interesting thing that we should point out. Cory faces more charges than Alex in the Satterfield case. Cory is accused of writing three large checks to the fake forge account, which eventually went to Alex Murdaugh while allegedly knowing it was fraudulent. According to the indictments, Fleming held on to more than \$100,000 of the 3.8 million from the Satterfield settlement in his trust account, Fleming allegedly wrote a check for \$9,700 to himself and used it for quote, various personal debts among other transactions. And he never told his clients the Satterfield family where this money was up until the point bland discovered this last September.

Mandy Matney 15:41

And think about that for one minute. Cory should have known that the ivory towers protecting Alex Murdaugh from his crimes were crumbling long before September from early on, and the investigation Alex was the only named Person of Interest in the double homicide of Maggie and Paul Murdaugh. Everyone close to the investigation knew that police would be looking closely at Murdaugh and his finances and the Satterfield case was widely talked about in the media last summer, Cory had a lot of time to come forward. And he didn't Bland wonders how long it would have taken for Cory to cough up that missing money. If it wasn't for him agreeing to represent the Saturday fields.

16:27

He then didn't disperse all the money out of his trust account, and there was \$130,800 remaining in his trust account. Did he sit there all the way up to October of 2021. And remember, I'm the one that discovered that there were still 113,800 hours in his trust account. He didn't discover that. So if I never discovered that, when actually would that money have been distributed out of his trust account to my clients.

Mandy Matney 17:00

In early September when bland first began representing the Satterfield. He contacted Cory Fleming and asked him for something simple, a file on the case that



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would show all the financials and give a clear explanation as to why the boys had not gotten their money. Yet,

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He maintained that his client was still Chad Westendorf because Chad was still the PR for the estate of Gloria Satterfield, the personal representative, and I told him that we represent the heirs, the heirs haven't gotten any money. He was now advised by Mark Ball on September 3 of 2021, that Alex had stolen the money and there was no such thing as Forge. That was just a ruse for Alice to steal money, and he did not give us our file that belonged to my client for almost two and a half weeks, because he maintained that he owes no duty to Tony and Brian that his duties are only owed to Chad West and Dora. So when I finally was able to get Chad, HS do think you can go file some paperwork at the probate court and terminate yourself as personal representative because my clients don't want you to represent them anymore as a PR because you were asleep at the wheel while everybody around you stole my client's money. Finally, I got Chad to file the final accounting, which was the same accounting that Tony Satterfield had filed when his mother died of \$26,000 of assets and Chad was renowned for being the personal representative. It was accepted by the probate court and only then did Cory Fleming turnovers be filed.

Mandy Matney 18:40

According to the indictment, Fleming played a key role in the highest by agreeing to represent the Satterfield family, convincing Westendorf to take over the role as PR and essentially shutting out his own clients from having any knowledge as to what was going on up until the point that bland began representing Tony Satterfield and Brian Harriet, last fall,

19:03

Cory played a fundamentally important material. an absolutely imperative role could not have happened if you had an attorney who did their duties according to the rules of professional conduct. If they said to Alex, don't you talk to my client that my clients, don't you do? disbursement cheats? That's my job. Don't you talk to the structure insurance company. That's my job. Don't you pick the personal representative for my client? That's my job. And he sort of last he's one of the last clear chance without could have been like he is the biggest thief in the world, but it could have been stopped by Cory And like I told you before, if Cory is asleep at the wheel, or he wants to say he's ignorant or willfully blind or too trusting how I'm not sure I believe that in Chad Weston door, all he had to do was say the check made out



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to me, I want to see all the documents because that's what I'm supposed to do as a PR, show me the structured settlement documents from the insurance company, the annuity company and forge jazz could have put an end to this. And then when Chad, if you want to say they picked it up like Chad is, well, then Judge Mullen, she could have stopped all this. She could have simply asked, How is it possible that there's \$11,500 in expenses in December of 2018, when there's no lawsuit

Mandy Matney 20:41

and we'll be right back. According to bland Fleming doesn't have much of a defense for what he's done. In fact, it appears he's dug themselves into a deeper hole while trying to cover for himself bland compared Fleming to Anna del v and the new Netflix series and venting Anna, which tells the true story of a super scammer who pose as a German heiress, while she frauded, New York City's high society out of hundreds of 1000s of dollars,

21:14

you know, she was going to be this big socialite, and she just lied to everybody and stole from everybody. And when she'd be confronted, she would never own up to it. She could spin advocate. Well, that's exactly what Cory is trying to do here. And that if the check hits the attorney's hands, you can never have a structure. So when he got those checks, he should have known immediately, oh, my god, I can't have a structure because I just cashed these checks and deposited them in my escrow account. And he admits he lied about the expenses. But what he says is, well, I say the clients \$750,000 off the scheduled fee, even though there was no sign fee agreement, he said, but everybody knows you get 33 or 40%. So I only really took 600,000 instead of 1.3 million, so I had \$750,000 that I could play with and steal.

Mandy Matney 22:14

So far, even after Western doors damning testimony, Judge Carmen Mullen and Chad Westendorf have evaded accountability for their alleged roles in the Satterfield case Molan is still ruling from the bench in the South Carolina Supreme Court's commission on judicial conduct has been silent about the shocking accusations made about the powerful judges status.

22:40

Now, what's going to happen with the grievance that David Pascoe and I filed against Judge Mullen, God only knows. It's up to journalists, like you guys constantly point out to the public. This is what's happening in this state. There's no sunlight. It's



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not fair. The public is kept in the dark. And there's resolutions and there's decisions made and there's things are dismissed, the public doesn't know if they're dismissed. There's private letters of caution. the public doesn't know that. The only time the public would know anything regarding a lawyer, is if there's a public reprimand or suspension for this form. As far

Mandy Matney 23:19

as we know, Westendorf is still vice president of Palmetto State Bank and the president of the independent banks of South Carolina, despite the fact he said on record that he doesn't understand what the word fiduciary meant.

23:33

We all saw what it does to us. When he was supposed to guide the president of the independent Bankers Association, they should be embarrassed that that's the representative to the world that all these independent banks in South Carolina, there was no need for a chat Western door. They didn't want Tony Satterfield in this seat because Tony was asking questions and not getting answers. Tony was a problem for them. They wanted a mummy in that seat, and they got the perfect mummy and Chad Westendorf. He was Sergeant Schultz from Hogan's Heroes. I know nothing. I have nothing. I see nothing. I hear nothing.

Mandy Matney 24:22

Cory Fleming is scheduled to appear at a virtual bond hearing on Thursday, March 17, at 9am before Judge Allison Lee. Stay tuned to FITSnews.com. And follow me on Twitter at Mandy Matney for live updates on the case. We found out a lot about Cory Fleming's past and his odd connections to other Murdaugh cases, but we're going to save those for another episode because it is a lot to unpack. Before we go. We need to talk about the jailhouse phone call lawsuit, which really is an attack on the freedom of information act, something that all of us should be concerned about. On February 23. FITSnews and the Murdaugh murders podcast posted transcripts and parts from 11 have more than 100 phone calls that Alex Murdaugh has made in jail since he was booked in October five days after we published that episode Bulldog attorneys Decart Caitlin and Jim Griffin filed a lawsuit and an attempt to stop any further release and publication of Alex recorded jailhouse phone calls. Mind you, as the mainstream media has failed to point out the calls made by Alex Murdaugh, who was a former public official and attorney by the way, made his attorney one of whom is a current state senator look foolish because they directly contradict claims that have been made by the defense in court. Neither FITSnews nor the Murdaugh



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murders podcast were named as defendants in a lawsuit instead Harpootlian and sued the jail and the jail director who likely have no incentive to fight for foil laws. Also concerning the federal judges have basically been playing Hot potato with the case since it was filed two weeks ago, five judges had been assigned to this case in less than two weeks, which is highly unusual and shows yet again how far the Murdaugh's tentacles stretch across our criminal justice system. We have asked a handful of attorneys for their opinions on this case, and every attorney so far has told us that the law is clear. There was no expectation of privacy when the calls were being recorded, and the recordings are public record under the law. But oddly, some media outlets have seemed to back the idea that FOIA isn't ideal, opting for a hope that there is an injunction issued that prevents the jailhouse phone calls from getting out. Let me tell you this, no one should be arguing for less transparency in government, least of all journalists, if any journalist or podcaster ever argues for less transparency in government, their intentions in this case deserve to be questioned because clearly they are not here to expose the truth, and they're not here for the victims. Alex Murdaugh is Alex Murdaugh because he was able to operate without accountability for years. He did what he did, allegedly because no one from the outside was watching. I've seen people claiming to be concerned with the release of Alex jailhouse tapes because they take a jury pool. You know what taints the jury pool when your attorney admits on the today's show that you committed crimes when you leave a paper trail while stealing millions of dollars from vulnerable people or when you try to move assets away from victims while on a recorded jailhouse phone call that taints the jury pool. If Alex Murdaugh's jury pool is tainted, it's because of his own actions. Finally, transparency is the only way to fix this mess. Alex was a public official working for solicitor Duffy stones office. He was in a position of public trust, which is why we asked for the tapes. If the tapes showed us anything. Alex keeps swindling, even from behind bars, and his lawyers want to continue to lie to the public about it without being called out. So they will attack a law that is very clear just because it is bending against them. Now, all of this went on for so many years because no one was being exposed. That is now FITSnews and the Murdaugh motors podcast will continue to advocate and fight for every public record in this case until every victim gets the answers they deserve. Stay tuned. The Murdaugh Warner's podcast is created by me, Mandy Matney and my fiance David Moses, our executive editor is Liz Farrell, produced by Luna shark productions