



EPISODE 37: Dear Cory - Letter, Lies, and the Law

Mandy Matney 00:02

I don't know if Cory Fleming will be able to convince a jury that he is just another one of Alex Murdaugh's victims but even after the former Beaufort attorney has taken a fall from grace recently it seems like he's not going down without a hard and embarrassing fight. My name is Mandy Matney. I have been investigating the Murdaugh family for more than three years now. This is the Murdaugh murders podcast with David Moses and Liz Farrell. Last week, huge news broke about Cory Fleming who's Alex Murdaugh's BFF and alleged co conspirator in multiple schemes including the Gloria Satterfield case, but the thing is, we've barely scraped the surface with Cory Fleming and a deep dive into his history shows that despite his decent reputation, and Beaufort, South Carolina, he seems to pop up in a lot of shady places. Nearly two weeks ago, Cory was indicted on 18 felony charges related to the Gloria Satterfield case; he was booked at the same Detention Center where Alex has been behind bars since October. On Thursday morning, Cory Fleming appeared before Judge Allison Lee for his bond hearing. Fleming's bond hearing was so different from Alex's other bond hearings that we've watched in this case. First of all, the big difference was that Cory didn't hire a good ole boy. He hired a legitimate defense attorney named Deborah Barbier unlike Alex's defense team who managed to insult victims and the judges while arguing baseless claim after baseless claim Barbier stuck to the task at hand, arguing that her client Fleming deserved bond. In fact, one of Barbier's main tactics was drawing a distinct line between her client and Alex Murdaugh.

Debbie Barbier 02:20

This is not Alex Murdaugh. This is a completely different situation, a completely different case and they're completely different people.



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Mandy Matney 02:28

In her argument Barbier made it very apparent what the big difference between the two men was; that Cory would have family support. Even though the hearing was virtual, Cory's wife, parents and step parents are all positioned so they could be seen on camera behind Barbier or it was a stark contrast between all three of Alex's hearings where he had nobody show up to support him.

Debbie Barbier 02:56

And your honor, I submit to you if we were not having this hearing virtually there will be a courtroom full of people supporting quarry in the courtroom today. I do have with me behind me might be able to see many members of course family. They are here today to support him. His wife Il Fleming is here today. They've been married for 24 years this May. She is also a member of the South Carolina bar. She serves as a public defender in the Lowcountry representing juveniles. She is accompanied by Cory's mother and his stepfather who are also residents of Beaufort. His father and his stepmother are here. They live in Georgia and he has a cousin who's here who's also a resident of South Carolina. Your Honor, Cory has two children aged 19 and 20. They're both outstanding students in college. He is an involved and devoted father. He has coached teams you've attended cross country meets, swim meets, basketball games, theater productions, Cub Scout meetings.

Mandy Matney 04:00

This is important because in a bond hearing, a defense attorney needs to show the court two things that their client is not a flight risk in that they're not a danger to the community, showing that a defendant has deep community ties and a loving family that supports them is a big deal. It shows the court that there are people who will be watching on after them when they're set free awaiting trial. It shows the court that



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they are a lot less likely to drop everything and run because they have people at home who care for them.

Debbie Barbier 04:39

Your Honor, I tell you this because he has led an exemplary life. He has no history of drug or alcohol use. He has no criminal history. He has helped, in the practice of his law, a tremendous number of people throughout his lifetime. He's been very active in his community; he served on the board of the YMCA. He volunteered his time and his skills to many charitable organizations. So as you can see, Your Honor, he has extensive ties to his community and to the state. And he is in no way shape or form a flight risk.

Mandy Matney 05:12

Barbier went on to say that Fleming actually turned himself in which he did, and Barbier or said something really interesting. And core, she made a point to show that a variety of people supported her client, including law enforcement, which surprised us.

Debbie Barbier 05:31

And one of the reasons, your honor that he's been able to persevere during the situation is because he has the overwhelming support from his colleagues in the South Carolina bar. I can't tell you how many people approached me every week to offer their support of Cory and that is throughout the state. He has friends who have been extremely supportive neighbors, the deferred community, law enforcement community, they know he's not a criminal. And they have been very supportive. As I said, Your Honor, he's known about this investigation for more than six months. He cooperated in the production of documents. He resolved the case with the Satterfield's, the civil case, within less than a month. They have been made whole in terms of what it was



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alleged that was taken from them. And that was at great, his great personal expense, but he reached settlements and immediately,

Mandy Matney 06:32

Creighton Waters, prosecutor for the South Carolina Attorney General's office responded to this and said something very crucial to this case.

Creighton Waters 06:41

Your Honor, if I could very quickly respond. Yes, ma'am. Yes, sir. Couple things I feel compelled to address. Now, first of all, I want to make clear that Mr. Fleming has not in any way cooperated with this investigation. And as much as I may have been implied. Secondly, as much as it's been implied that the victims have made home Mr. Fleming did disgorge the fee that he did take from this legend scheme, and that, of course only was after everything came to light and the writing was on the wall. However, Mr. Fleming, Mr. Alex Murdaugh could not have gotten nearly three and a half million dollars that he was able to misappropriate allegedly from the settlement without the Express systems of Cory Fleming and in furtherance of their alleged scheme. And so I think to imply that he has fully made restitution at this point, would be inaccurate from the state's perspective.

Mandy Matney 07:34

Now, the fact that Cory has not in any way cooperated with the investigation, that is a big deal. If Cory was truly duped by Alex Murdaugh as he claims, why wouldn't he cooperate? Why wouldn't he tell SLED and the FBI every single detail of the Satterfield case, we get that he's a defense attorney who is used to telling clients don't talk to law enforcement, you could accidentally implicate yourself, even if you're innocent. But this is about as bad as it could get. For Cory right now, this is his entire career, his way of earning money for his family, his reputation, all of that is on the line. If ever, there was a time to help law



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enforcement to save yourself, it would be now that's why to some people, the fact that Cory Fleming isn't cooperating seems to show that the rot in this case goes so much deeper than Alex Creighton spoke about this during the hearing.

Creighton Waters 08:38

But I want to say this for the benefit of everyone here that it is important that every individual have their presumption of innocence, that they get a fair trial. And the reason why I say that is because I believe very much in the system. And that system provides those benefits to every defendant. It's important that they're tried and resolved in the courtroom, not in the media. But because of that belief in the system is why these allegations here are so important because they go to the heart of the system. And of course, people entrusted with power to act in any system can abuse it. And that's allegedly what we have here a corruption of the system.

Mandy Matney 09:16

I'll say it again, the Cory Fleming charges are important because they go to the heart of the system in a case where vulnerable people grieving the death of their mother went to a lawyer for help and they were grossly taken advantage of and stolen from Cory Fleming was the lawyer who was supposed to protect the Sattar fields from that devastation. That's what makes his alleged role in this so much worse than Alex. He's even facing more charges than Alex and seeing him in a jail jumpsuit on Thursday in court. Absolutely send a message to the other attorneys in the state that this behavior from lawyers will not be tolerated, at least not anymore, that no good ol boys are protected, that the law applies to everyone, including those who seem to think that they are above it. Attorney Eric Bland also spoke at the bond hearing.



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Eric Bland 10:21

So I would like to tell the court that we would like a bond set, it would send a signal to our profession that you must protect your clients and that you must be there for your clients. You can't work in concert with people like Alex Murdaugh, that is the job of somebody like Cory Fleming to keep a guardian for our clients to protect them. And that is what was not done in this matter. And I would ask that, Your Honor set an appropriate bond that would send that signal to our bar that this can never be done again.

Mandy Matney 10:54

Waters asked for a bond of \$25,000 per felony charge, which would have added up to about \$450,000. And he also asked for the standard conditions such as relinquishing his passport and being barred from leaving the state judge Allison Lee ultimately decided on \$100,000 surety bond for Cory Fleming with the ability to pay 10% Fleming must surrender his passport to the state and is barred from leaving South Carolina without permission from the court. Fleming was released from jail a few hours after the hearing. And we'll be right back. So one month before he was indicted, Cory Fleming made a last ditch effort to save his law license in the state of Georgia. A 50 page single spaced letter from Fleming civil attorney Thomas Pendarvis to the State Bar of Georgia was recently obtained by Fitz news. It paints a detailed picture of Fleming's defense and both the Satterfield case and the Connor cook case, considering the fact that the prosecution said this week that Fleming has not been cooperative in this investigation. This letter is significant and perplexing that Fleming would be willing to put his side of the story on the record and Georgia, especially in such detail.

Eric Bland 12:27

You know, I thought Dick had to carry his nuts in a wheelbarrow Corys right knit and Pendarvis you know, there isn't a jockstrap big enough to



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hold those nuts. I don't know of a lawyer that could have written these things.

Mandy Matney 12:41

The response also included a stunning handwritten letter from Murdaugh to Fleming as well as a screenshot of two back to back text messages. Alex sent hoping that Cory would respond. Fleming's response to the bar was written on February 10, which was a few weeks before Chad Westendorf sat for his deposition with Eric Bland; the theme of the letter is this Cory made a few tiny mistakes. This is everyone else's fault. And Cory was simply another victim of the fraud and other professional misconduct by Alex Murdaugh.

Eric Bland 13:20

But when you really peel the onion, you see that it is just these excuses are just excuses and they don't make sense. They just don't make sense. They don't pass the smell test. It just gives you a queasy feeling in your stomach after you read that letter.

Mandy Matney 13:37

Pendarvis argued that while there may have been quote minor technical violations of some of the South Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct, Mr. Fleming's conduct was, quote, consistent with the objectives of the rules of professional conduct.

Liz Farrell 13:56

So this letter needs to be bound and printed and distributed to every debate club in America. It's like one of those tick tock videos of cats delicately maneuvering their way through a cobweb of string. It is so epic that it reads like satire. You guys know how worked up Eric Bland gets when he's talking about what Cory allegedly did. That's because what Cory allegedly did in this case is so obviously egregiously wrong



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and against the rules of professional conduct Cory's lawyer trying to claim that here in South Carolina, this was basically cool to do is as ridiculous as trying to return a box of cheese to Bloomingdale's. We know you didn't buy that here. You know you didn't buy that here. Plus, you ate all the cheese. So what are you doing?

Mandy Matney 14:39

Cory's response letter details his relationship with Alex dating back to the 1990s when they became close friends in law school at the University of South Carolina, here is David reading the letter.

DAVID MOSES 14:53

During their 25 plus years of friendship Mr. Fleming developed a strong trusting relationship with Mr. Murray Doc never doubted for a moment Mr. Murdaugh's honesty, trustworthiness and fitness not only as a lawyer but also as a friend.

Mandy Matney 15:08

But according to Fleming their friendship was quote destroyed on September 3 2021, when he allegedly first learned of Alex Murdaugh's misdeeds that is the same date when Alex allegedly told his partners about the fraud at PMPED, which is what he said led him to the alleged suicide for hire situation the next day. According to this letter, Cory was contacted by Lee Cope as one of the PMPED's attorneys.

DAVID MOSES 15:43

As soon as Mr. Fleming heard Mr. Cope described Mr. Murdaugh's use of a forge account to secret money away from PMPED, he realized he had been duped by one of his best friends Mr. Murdaugh.



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Mandy Matney 15:56

Even though Fleming says he first learned of the fraud in early September he did not report any of this to law enforcement. Nor did he contact the Satterfield family, which prosecutor Creighton waters noted during the bond hearing. According to Eric bland, he also never reported this to the bar either, which is a huge problem.

Eric Bland 16:18

So of course, he should have self reported the minute he was told on September 3, allegedly, that you know, the firm found out that Alex had taken money and there was no forge deposits in the correct forged consulting, so he had a duty himself to self report, it's presumed that he would have gotten a lawyer at some time.

Mandy Matney 16:38

In early September, Eric Bland contacted Fleming twice asking him to produce documents on the Satterfield case. Fleming didn't respond to either request, which prompted Eric gland to file a lawsuit on behalf of the Satterfield family, Cory claims that he didn't have to give the Satterfield family documents, because technically at that point, he says his client was Chad West and Dora, which Eric bland says is preposterous.

Eric Bland 17:08

The clients, the ultimate clients are the beneficiaries of the representation. And the beneficiaries, of course representation work to be Tony and Brian, not Alex and himself, and every single thing that Cory did during his representation other than obtaining a settlement. And other than coming to the table, and being the first to settle was for the benefit of Cory himself or for Alex and never wanted it for the benefit of my clients.



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Liz Farrell 17:41

Not only did Cory use the strictest definition of who he was representing as a reason to keep the client file away from Eric, his definition of who his clients were is at the heart of his defense in the letter to the Georgia Bar Pendarvis notes in the letter that Cory never represented glorious sons. No, no, he represented glorious sun Tony as the personal representative of her estate. He's sticking to this definition because it changes the duties he had. But like Eric said, Korea's ultimate responsibility whether Tony or Chad was the representative was to glory as beneficiaries and not Alex. It's just hard not to notice that Korea is accused of breaking a lot of rules and a lot of laws. But handing over the Satterfield case to Satterfield at the Satterfield request was just a bridge too far for him.

Mandy Matney 18:28

The letter outlines Cory's involvement in the Satterfield case starting at day one. Well, sort of Corrie claims he doesn't recall when exactly he was first contacted by Alex Murdaugh. He says he doesn't remember if it was before or after she died considering the fact that glorious death is still under investigation. That is a big deal that he doesn't remember that the Satterfield family was told that Gloria had tripped on the steps of the Murdaugh's property on February 2 2018. They were told that the Murdaugh's dogs caused her to trip leading to a fall that resulted in her sustaining a traumatic brain injury. However, Fleming's attorney said in the letter that Murdaugh told him a dog had jumped on Miss Satterfield, causing her to fall off the porch steps and Mr. Murdaugh's house and hit her head. This is a slightly different version from the story we've heard so far. But that's relevant again because her death is still a mystery that's being investigated specifically due to inconsistencies discovered by the Hampton County Coroner last fall



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Liz Farrell 19:45

Pendarvis' letter seems to say that by the time Cory became involved in the case, Alex had already been trying to get money from his insurance carriers, but needed court help. He apparently asked Cory to send a demand letter to him and allegedly told Cory that he let him know how it went. He apparently also told Cory that he might need him to represent Gloria or if she died her estate, it's clear that Pendarvis is depicting Cory as a pal who was doing a favor for a friend rather than an attorney who was hired by a client. They also seem to be showing that Alex was the one with a fire in his belly, and that quarry was simply brought in to do a task or two.

Mandy Matney 20:23

At Gloria's funeral, Alex allegedly started railroading glorious sons and convinced them to hire Fleming to get money for their mother's death. However, Cory maintains in the letter that he believed he and Alex were essentially and astoundingly co counsel with each other in pursuit of the same goal of getting big money from the insurance company for the sadder fields. Why would an attorney working for the plaintiffs believe that he was co counsel with the defendant?

Eric Bland 20:59

I mean, I think some of those justifications, explanations, rationale, whatever you want to call it, or preposterous that the CO counsel thing, you have to get permission from your client. More importantly, if you're acting as CO counsel. With Alex, you're committing fraud on the insurance companies.

Mandy Matney 21:18

In the letter Fleming claims that he told Tony Satterfield about his friendship with Murdaugh. However, Tony says that this did not happen



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if there was no written consent document outlining any potential conflict of interest in the Satterfield file.

Liz Farrell 21:36

This is why the Rules of Professional Conduct exist plain and simple. This is why lawyers and judges are supposed to be explicit and transparent about even the appearance of conflicts of interest, let's say Pendarvis. This letter is 100%. Correct. And that Cory is just another of Elux alleged victims. If Cory had abided by the most basic of rules, one that is meant to protect the client and him he could have avoided this whole thing. And this is important because it's a key component of the good old boy system, doing favors, bending the rules, doing things differently in this case for this person and not asking too many questions. I'm not saying the court is a victim. To be clear. I'm saying that if what he and his attorney say is true, no matter who he tries to blame in this, he is the one who made the decision not to formalize the arrangements. So

Mandy Matney 22:23

According to Fleming's account, former Palmetto State bank CEO Russell the feet told Fleming that he didn't want to serve as a Satterfield personal representative, a role that he appears to have taken and several other sketchy cases involving Murdaugh. But the bank's vice president Chad Westendorf said he was up for the job Corys let her claim that quote, the proposal sounded reasonable given Mr. Satterfield was in his early 20s, and seemed to Mr. Fleming to be unsophisticated on financial matters. I asked Eric Bland about the statement.

Eric Bland 23:06

He was 27 and a half years old at the time, he doesn't know how sophisticated or unsophisticated Tony is, because he never talked to Tony, except for 15 minutes. He didn't realize because Alex never told



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him that Tony was badgering. Alex with tons of questions about medical bills, paying creditors, what should I file with the probate court? He took it from Alex that Alex allegedly told him, Hey, there's going to be a lot of these business issues. I think we should get a banker. It was up to Korea to actually interview Chad Westendorf just because Chad's a banker, didn't imbue him with sophistication. Obviously, everybody watched his deposition. And he told the world that he's done by his answers. I mean, there isn't a banker in the world who doesn't know what a fiduciary is or fiduciary duty. I mean, that's going to haunt him forever. But it wasn't Aleksis obligation or right to interview a prospective personal representative. It was Cory. Cory should have sat down with Chad and said, Chad, do you understand what your obligations are? Chad, do you understand what your duties are to the bullies, the Satterfield and he had a duty to satisfy himself that this substitute personal representative was competent. He was no more competent than a dog. Tony was more competent than him. And there was really no reason to substitute Tony for anybody, or Chad for Tony, because there were no business issues.

Mandy Matney 24:51

And then the 50 page document gets even more absurd. Fleming maintains that he did the Saturday yields a good deed by reducing his attorney fee that Judge Carmen Molan approved. He actually called it a \$758,000 gift to, quote benefit the Satterfield estate. But there is a huge problem with that statement. The Satterfield has never received a dime of the \$4.3 million settlement, and they never knew about it until they hired Eric bland. That's like saying, you gifted someone else a car, but you never actually gave it to them or told them about it. Another issue. Fleming doesn't appear to have informed the Satterfield's of this fee reduction effect that Waters noted in the bond hearing, saying that it's highly unusual for an attorney to do something like this without making sure he's getting credited for such an act of kindness. And then



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the letter gets crazier when Pendarvis wrote, quote, Mr. Fleming's generosity should be recognized and rewarded, not criticized and condemned.

Eric Bland 26:06

Generosity is not going to be recognized because he didn't give the fee to the Satterfield's. If he wanted to give the fee to the Satterfield's, he would have given it to Chad Westendorf to distribute, as required by Judge Mullins orders. Remember, he didn't even give Chad the \$50,000 survival fee that had to go to the probate court. If he wanted to be generous and give that money to the Satterfield's then he could have given he should have given it to him directly and written him a check, but to say, well, I gave it to them because I was given it to Alex, because Alex, supposedly had this account Forge. One of the things that was interesting is he actually believed that Alex opened up an account at Forge in the fall of 2018. Before there was any settlements. Now, how do you open up an account at Forge anywhere, when there hadn't even been a settlement reached yet? So he supposedly believes that Alex opened up this account at Forge? Again, no particulars? No, nothing in his file that would indicate forge no account numbers, one for Tony, one for Brian, no allocations, it's just all after the fact coming up with an excuse.

Mandy Matney 27:31

In another odd defense, Fleming claim that he was having quote, disagreements with his law partners at Moss Kuhn and Fleming now moss and Kuhn, and that is why he misappropriated more than \$26,000 from the law firms trust that he claimed was supposed to go to an expert witness for the Satterfield case. According to the indictments, Fleming spent most of his money on video game entertainment, and used it to pay for his large credit card debt, which sounds a lot like he's



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stealing from his law partners. And why would he admit to doing that, while trying to get his law license back, and

Eric Bland 28:13

then this justification? Well, I'm feuding with my partners. And so I didn't want them to get a piece of my fee. So I lied about some of my fee and made it in the false expenses, so that they couldn't get any of my fee. But that didn't hurt the clients because I had a \$750,000 cushion. That doesn't help him one bit. And one, it's not true, but two, now he's stealing from his partners, and he's misrepresenting the cause to a court of law. Remember, I told you that one of our Canons is candor, to tribunals and candor to third parties. You can't lie. I know, everybody thinks that. It's just part of the lawyer's everyday routine, we lie. No, we were not allowed to do that.

Mandy Matney 29:00

According to Westendorf's recent deposition, Fleming was the one who asked Molan to sign off on the settlement while taking Alex name, who was the defendant off of the case to keep the Murdaugh name out of the press because of the 2019 Bo crash that killed Mallory beach. When

Liz Farrell 29:19

Mandy and I read documents like this, we take a lot of notes. Obviously, for the Pendarvis letter, I did something a little different. I took notes, but I isolated some points like a lawyer does and a complaint or a motion. At the end, there were 115 points 115 different times that I was like, Whoa, most of those points were where I marked that Cory was blaming someone else for something that was ultimately on him. And it's truly artful how that's done in this letter. Pendarvis doesn't ever say this is person A's fault. It's way more subtle than that. He uses phrases like commonly known or should have been known to explain the times Korea wasn't being as formal or explicit as a lawyer might be expected



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to be about details with Judge Mullen. Pendarvis refers to the hearing as a quote informal hearing, which puts it on Mullen for allowing such a thing to occur. He says Cory never lied to Marlin that Cory answered every question she asked of him. But when it comes to the kinds of questions that might have produced answers that would have given her pause well Cory doesn't recall her asking knows he knows that Cory doesn't remember Mo and telling him to file the order and thought it was better handled by Alex attorney given the publicity with the boat crash, but it was always Korea's responsibility to file the order always and Alex attorney there's an email in which he told Cory he couldn't disperse the money until the order was signed and filed, which as we all know by now was never done. Also with the publicity about the boat crash Pendarvis squarely puts that on the lawyer Alex insurance company hired John Grantland. He indicates that Cory made the decisions he did based on quote Mr. Grant Lin's concerns about publicity. Why would an insurance company's attorney care about his clients' fear of publicity over a boat crash case?

Mandy Matney 30:58

A case from which Mullen had recused herself because of her connection to the Murdaughs. Fleming didn't really provide a defense for this in the document. He claimed that he believed Murdaugh's attorney again for the defense was supposed to file the order, and he remembered quote, discussions about the publicity surrounding Paul Murdaugh's indictment in the 50 page manifesto. Pendarvis failed to offer a justification as to why Fleming the plaintiff would write three checks and deliver them to Alex Murdaugh, the defendant totaling millions of dollars while the Satterfield's, his clients received \$0. Yet he maintains that Fleming is a victim of Alex Murdaugh.



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Eric Bland 31:49

But you can't lie and he lied to judge mowing on those petitions, when he said he had 11,500 expenses, and then 105,000. So none of it helped him and then you highlighted the one just ridiculous thing where he said he helped hold the principles of South Carolina law as required under our rules. I mean, it's just that even a third grader knows he didn't do that.

Mandy Matney 32:18

And we'll be right back. In September, Connor Cook a survivor of the 2019 Bo crash that killed Mallory beach filed a lawsuit claiming that Alex Murdaugh conspired with others, including Fleming to frame him as the driver Connor Cook's lawsuit alleges that Alex Murdaugh, quote, encouraged and instructed him to retain Fleming as the defense lawyer without disclosing the relationship. Fleming represented cook briefly after the crash. And immediately after the crash, Connor cook and Paul Murdaugh were the two main suspects in a chaotic and muddled initial investigation. Connor Cook was asked to take a field sobriety test at the hospital that night, while Paul Murdaugh, who was ultimately charged as the driver was not in Fleming's report to the Georgia Bar. He claims that Connors father was already aware of Fleming's close ties with the Murdaugh family because he remembered meeting him at one of Randolph Murdaugh's, quote men's barbecues. Fleming claims there was no significant risk that Mr. Cook's representation by him would have been limited by Fleming's personal and professional relationship with the Murdaugh family.

Liz Farrell 33:39

There are three important things to note about Cory's Connor Cook defense. The first is that the letter repeatedly points out that Connor did not include Cory as a defendant in his personal injury case connected to the boat crash. Why would he? Cory didn't play a role in Paul driving the



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boat into a bridge. What Pendarvis is likely referring to is the petition that Connor Cook's attorney Joe McCulloch filed for pretrial discovery alleging that the Murdaughs and others had conspired to set him up for the crash. That petition was filed at a time when there was a real fear that sled and the AGs office were slowly backing away from the obstruction of justice investigation related to the boat crash that pre-existed the murders of Maggie and Paul and the subsequent revelations of Alex alleged financial schemes. Yes, Cory wasn't included in that but also from what we understand quarry wasn't under investigation for attempting to set up Connor which sure one point inquiries column. The second thing to note is that as Pendarvis also notes Cory's only advice to Connor was not to talk to law enforcement. He charged \$200 for that advice. By the way, Cory met with Connor's parents and Connor and took notes his notes are basically Connor says he wasn't driving the boat but his story is inconsistent and wouldn't hold up to law enforcement questioning. I'm sure you have Question here which is Yeah, but did Cory tell Alex anything that Connor told him in that meeting? Pendarvis says no and not only declined not share that with Alex Cory told no one about what he and Connor had discussed. So two points for Cory I guess but now I'm about to erase all his points. The third important thing to note about Korea's Connor cook defense is that Pendarvis maintains that Cory didn't have to disclose his close relationship with Alex and a formal conflict of interest letter because Connors parents should have known he and Alex were tight because one time Cory and Connor's dad were at one of Randolph Murdaugh's quote men's barbecues together, what's a men's barbecue us? You wouldn't believe where our minds went on this one. But it turns out it was likely a potluck get-together that Randolph hosted once a month with an assortment of invitees, like a French Salon of intellectuals except probably the exact opposite of that. Pendarvis his rationale here is that because Cory and Connors dad met each other once at a men's barbecue that Connor's dad and mom and Connor should have known



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that Alex and Cory were so close that they take care of each other's children should something happen to one of them.

Mandy Matney 36:13

In an attempt to prove that Fleming was a victim of Alex Murdaugh, Pendarvis included a screenshot from a text message and a handwritten letter between Alex and Cory.

DAVID MOSES 36:25

It was Mr. Murdaugh's disciplinary misconduct, tortious acts and criminal conduct alone intercepting and converting the settlement proceeds that defeated the objectives of the representation Pendarvis wrote

Mandy Matney 36:39

Pendarvis showed a text message from Alex Murdaugh to Cory Fleming sent supposedly on September 28, 2021. Well Alex was supposed to be in rehab for his alleged opioid addiction. But what's weird is that the screenshot said it was sent on a Wednesday and September 28 is a Tuesday. But what's weirder is what the text said.

DAVID MOSES 37:08

Cory, this is Alan. Finally feeling a little better each day. not sick anymore, just really weak. I know you aren't ready to talk to me yet, but wanted you to have my number. The worst part about getting better and thinking clearly is I know how bad I hurt the people I love the most. I cannot rationalize the justifications I used to do the things I did. I know how much trouble I've caused you. And I'm willing to do absolutely anything to try to make it right. All my love the next day. Hey, Bo just wanted you to know I think about you every day. Let me know if you decide you're willing to talk.



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Mandy Matney 37:47

At this point, Fleming's name was plastered all over the media for his role in the Satterfield case and his relationship to Alex Murdaugh and he was days away from losing his law license and job Cory apparently didn't respond. Also, we noticed that Alex apparently got a new number in September after his little suicide for hire incident. And after a few months after the double homicide of his wife and son, which is interesting. And finally, Fleming's attorney shared a shocking handwritten letter that Alex sent Cory on November 22 2021, while Alex was in jail.

DAVID MOSES 38:34

Dear Cory, Happy Thanksgiving to all of you. I'm so sorry for all the damage I have caused you and your family. You were the last person I would want to hurt. And I know I did. I'm still not sure how I let all this happen. I think about you all the time. I miss you more than you could know. I hope you are doing as good as you can. Under the circumstances. Let Jim know if I can do anything at all to help you in any way. Love and apologies to Eve and the children as well. Just wanted to say hello. I hope I get to see you or talk to you soon. I miss Mags and Paul so bad but I am more proud of Bus than ever. He has been so strong. Not sure how he does it given all I've put on him. Check on him if you get time and feel like it. All my love, Alan.

Liz Farrell 39:37

As we all learned from the jailhouse calls, we can always count on Alex Murdaugh to end all his conversations by asking for a favor.

Mandy Matney 39:48

But the question is, could this entire letter written by Cory's attorney end up hurting not only Cory's slim chance of practicing law ever again, but couldn't affect his criminal case.



EPISODE 37: Dear Cory - Letter, Lies, and the Law

Eric Bland 40:05

We always counsel our clients, one, let us do the talking. Now when we talk in court that becomes binding to our clients, because we're their agent. But we say never say anything except your lawyers because it's an admission that can be used against you. This is even further than admission, because he, under oath, verifies the accuracy and the truthfulness and the completeness of Mr. Pendarvis has a statement that was notarized and that's to a governmental entity. So there's a high likelihood that Georgia may do something such you know, this could be additional charges, if they find that what he said in there was false.

Mandy Matney 41:11

The Murdaugh Murder's Podcast is created by me, Mandy Matney and my fiance David Moses, our executive editor is Liz Farrell, produced

DAVID MOSES 41:19

by Luna shark Productions.