



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

Mandy Matney 00:02

I don't know how it got this bad, but I am furious. I am furious at Becky Hill who chose to remind the world on Monday that she hasn't learned a thing. I am furious with the Feds for actually believing Alex Murdaugh would pass a lie detector test and offering a foolish deal based off of that improbable request. I am furious with the South Carolina Attorney General's office who was showing zero concern about the Colucci murder trial coming up in May. However, I am more convinced than ever that sunlight is the only solution in the land of no consequences. My name is Mandy Matney. This is True Sunlight, a podcast exposing crime and corruption previously known as the Murdaugh Murders podcast. True Sunlight is a Luna Shark production written with journalist Liz Farrell. Well guys, it's the end of another era, sort of. Becky Hill is no longer the Colleton County Clerk of Court. And true to Becky style she announced her resignation in the strangest most dramatic way possible in front of a pack of reporters outside of the Colleton County Courthouse. Now I have been a small town journalist for over a decade. And before this week, I've never seen a clerk of court hold a press conference ever. While the position is elected it is more of a behind the scenes ensuring the court is functioning type of job. It is not a spokesperson job. It is not a job that warrants resignation speeches, but y'all know the Murdaugh story and the players in it are full of first. And wow, Becky was on brand Monday morning. Now, we knew two things heading into Monday morning's press conference. We knew that Becky's co-author Neil Gordon said on the Surviving the Survivor podcast over the weekend that he met with SLED on Friday to discuss Becky in their book, meaning the investigation into possibly abusing her role in office is still ongoing and it's pointed at her. We also knew thanks to reporter Drew Tripp at ABC News, Becky told her staff Monday evening that she would be resigning from the clerk of court position. So obvious girl math says the two have to be related, right? One would

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>

COPYRIGHT © 2024 LUNA SHARK PRODUCTIONS, LLC - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

think and if she's holding a press conference, that means that she is doing something beyond resigning, right? Silly me. I thought she would be finally apologizing to her constituents to the people of South Carolina to the entire justice systems. She nearly compromised by shoving herself into the spotlight that she wasn't prepared for. I thought she would be apologizing to people like us, who gave her the benefit of the doubt when Dick and Jim threw her to the wolves only to find out that she was a part of the lie that hurt our team's reputation. And speaking of apologies, I recently looked back at some of the things I said about Becky and I will be the first to admit that I gave her way too much grace and I am sorry if I ever made you listeners feel sorry for this person. Because Wow. She has turned out to be so much worse than I thought. Well, let's be clear. She's not Alex Murdaugh bad, or anywhere near that. And her being awful does not mean that you tampered with the jury and then Alex deserves a new trial. There was a whole hearing on that. And for a reminder, Justice Jean Toal determined that team Murdaugh did not meet the burden of proof when it came to evidence of jury tampering. We don't believe Becky, but we believe the jurors who testify. So Becky being awful and needing to apologize is separate from Alex Murdaugh's jury tampering accusations. Becky should have said the words I am sorry if nothing else she could have said I'm sorry for plagiarizing a story from a BBC reporter. She talked a lot about her grandchildren during her speech. What kind of example the stealing someone else's work set for children without admitting to criminal activity. A blanket statement like I got wrapped up and I am not proud of some of the things I did and I am sorry for those I hurt would have gone a long way that would have elevated this press conference from should have been an email status. But no Becky out Becky'd herself Monday morning. And unfortunately her attorney Justin Bamberg stood beside her while she did it. So here is Justin from Monday morning.

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>

COPYRIGHT © 2024 LUNA SHARK PRODUCTIONS, LLC - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

Justin Bamberg 05:08

Good morning everybody. My name is Justin Bamberg, myself along with Will Lewis, are counsel for Miss Becky Hill, the Colleton County Clerk of Court. Today, we'll be brief. But today's important. Obviously, over the last few months, Miss Hill has really wanted to address her constituents. Well, obviously with things that were going on, she has certain rights, and she's got to protect herself, most of which came under the advice of counsel. And that I think has been lost on a lot of people with everything that's been going on, is that as clerk of court you do have a constituency of the residents here in Colleton County. And today could have occurred hiding behind a computer screen or hiding behind her lawyers and Miss Hill was committed to that not happening. And I stand with her and also respect her very much for being here today.

Mandy Matney 06:11

So when Justin Bamberg said that I was thinking, okay, cool. Becky is finally here to face the music and apologize. But no, with an entire bouquet of microphones from press who traveled from all over the state to capture the moment before her, Becky stood with the demeanor of a small town pageant queen who had done absolutely nothing wrong.

Becky Hill 06:38

Good morning, everyone. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as your Colleton County Clerk of Court over these past four years. The clerk's office has provided many services to the college to the citizens of Colleton County. The Colleton County Clerk's Office is proud of our services and the significant impacts we have made in the history of South Carolina. Here at the Colleton County Courthouse, you will find a full service passport office was certified agents ready to help you as well



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

as notary services and E filing that has streamline our civil processes. Another significant impact in our clerk's office was in 2023.

Mandy Matney 07:16

I knew this was going to be bad when she started bragging about our E filing system, you know, using a computer in a courthouse in the year 2024. But then, it got worse.

Becky Hill 07:30

When we had to manage one of the biggest trials in South Carolina history. Our small town came together and made everyone proud. Managing a trial was such importance to the people of South Carolina, as well as the national and international media interest and public scrutiny and has caused me to reflect upon decisions involving my stay in the Office of the Clerk of Court.

Mandy Matney 07:54

Make everyone proud? What in the Barbieland is Becky saying right now? She is going to bring up that trial? Okay. So she has to say something owning up to something, right? Wrong.

Becky Hill 08:11

And so after much reflection, I have decided that it is best not to run again for reelection. I will now be able to focus on being a wife, a mother and grandmother to my two green boys. And we'll be spending time with the people who mean the most to me. With the upcoming election. I wanted to ensure that I provided ample time for other Republican candidates who may be interested in pursuing this position. I want to publicly thank all of the citizens of Colleton County voters who have supported me and who have stood by me.



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

Mandy Matney 08:47

Okay, so the filing deadline to run for clerk of court is April 1st, she gave them a week. So that is an ample time for candidates to file for that position. By the way Wanda Taylor and Leslie Jamison but anywho I was thinking okay, she is thinking people like she won an Oscar. Maybe this is where she shows some humility and acknowledges the Alex Murdaugh sized elephant towering over her. But no, Becky then took a moment of silence for a Colleton County woman who died last week. I'm sure she was a beautiful person. But I really hope Becky got permission from the family to bring her name and to the circus of a press conference. She said it with the vibe of someone who knew hard questions were coming so she blurted out that she knew someone who recently died. I hope that wasn't her intention, but I don't have a lot of hope for Becky anymore. Now, I know we're at the point of no return with Becky and this press conference absolutely should have been an email. She continued to speak like she is not a disgrace Clerk of Court under criminal investigation whose carelessness and taste for fame nearly jeopardize the most important verdict in South Carolina history.

Becky Hill 10:09

I also want to thank my amazing staff who work in the clerk of courts office for the wonderful job that they have done and that they will continue to do. We are fortunate to have strong leadership within our office. And I am proud to say that our clerk's office will seamlessly move forward, I look forward to all of the future holds, and will finally remember the true amazing friendships that I have made while serving the incredible people. So as we fix our eyes forward, I would like to announce also that my resignation as corporate court will be effective immediately. Thank you.



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

Mandy Matney 10:47

So again, she is under criminal investigation for allegations unrelated to the Murdaugh murders trial. I get that she cannot acknowledge specifics about that, as Justin said earlier, but a simple sentence or two just recognizing that she did in fact disappoint the people of Colleton County or that she stole someone else's work for her own book, that would have gone a long way. But she did not. Then Justin doubled down on behalf of his client who put him in an unfortunate position.

Becky Hill 11:22

So let me be extremely clear. Today is not in response whatsoever to anything going on with any investigation or anything of that nature. I'm gonna say that one more time. Today is not in response to any new development of some investigation or anything like that. Today is about the people of Colleton County. There is still another week available for filing for the clerk of courts office. And it is what it is. If Miss Hill had stayed in office the people of Colleton County would be the ones who get distracted to a certain degree. Because there are a number of candidates running for clerk of court. Those candidates have different things that they have different platforms that they want to campaign to on. And it would be inevitable that if Becky was still serving, while those candidates were campaigning, every time they mentioned something every time there's an article every time there's a forum and candidates are discussing the future that they seek to create for all the courthouse behind us there will be a degree of a cloud over there because it'll be talking about the city park etc. So this decision was made wholeheartedly by Miss Hill for the benefit of the citizens of Colleton County.



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

Mandy Matney 12:55

Here is the thing. Becky gave the good people of Colleton County only five business days before the deadline to file for clerk of court. Couldn't she have made this decision earlier if she was truly concerned about the people of Colleton County? Justin again said that they would not be answering any questions about the investigation into Becky and where it stands. But he said again that her decision to resign was not a response to anything related to the investigation. A reporter pushed them on this thankfully and old Barbieland Becky had a very on brand response.

Becky Hill 13:32

Without a doubt my grandchildren. If you have grandchildren you know.

Mandy Matney 13:41

And then it got even weirder when reporters asked who would take over for Becky in the meantime, and Becky pointed to a man named Gary Hale who was awkwardly standing behind her. Becky was acting as if she took off her pageant crown and was given the power to decide who was next in line for the throne. Interestingly, she said Gary Hale would take her place. And yeah, that name should sound familiar. Hale was a bailiff during Alex's trial, but in July, Becky did some finagling to get him promoted. Well, according to her emails, he is now deputy clerk of court, basically number two. Hmm. Remember around the time Becky was promoting her book last summer, there was a big controversy about the photo of Alex lying on his cot reading a John Grisham novel during the trial and that picture was taken from a courthouse security camera and it was posted on Facebook by Becky's co-author's wife. Well, Becky was blamed for that and one of the ethics complaints which she is still being investigated for. In her response to



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

the Ethics Commission, Becky claimed that Gary Hale took that photo from his cell phone and then she later sent that photo to her co-author's wife. Sources have told us that Gary Hale is not the person who took that photo. But it is short interesting that he got promoted right around the time the ethics complaints were filed, right? Ultimately, the photo was not used in the book, nor does the photo have anything to do with Alex getting a fair trial. But her ethics complaint alleges that she used her access as a clerk of court to obtain special material that was not public for her book. And let's just say we hope that SLED and the Ethics Commission are still investigating those claims. So essentially, when asked who would take over for her Becky pointed to the guy she blamed for one of her ethics debacle who recently got promoted from bailiff to Deputy Clerk. That is interesting. But soon after the press conference ended, Governor McMaster released a statement appointing Seth Utsey to the position which is a another name that should sound familiar. Seth, you'd see is the husband of Megan Nuzzi, the Public Information Officer for Colleton County who Becky's son Colt was reportedly spying on last summer for which he was charged with wiretapping around Thanksgiving. Y'all see how small these circles are? Gary Hale has not filed to run for clerk of court yet, but if he does, let's just say we have found quite the paper trail between Barbieland Becky and Gary Hale. And boy, do we have questions. Again, SLED's investigation into Becky Hill is ongoing. She is by no means in the clear of anything. While I have zero faith in Becky's moral compass right now I hope she is smart enough to stay away from the clerk's office and books and the media. I hope she does focus on her family and her grandchildren right now. Because after all, she could be facing charges and jail time at some point.



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

Liz Farrell 17:29

So I bet you thought we were done talking about Russell Laffitte. Turns out not so much. Last Friday, the federal government filed its response to Russell Can't Admit Defeat defeats whiny foot stomp of an appeal. And well, it's pretty epic. It's 126 pages with redactions. As you all know, we have mixed feelings about the federal government's involvement in the murder cases. Obviously, it's the federal government. So at first we were really encouraged that the FBI and the US Attorney's office were going to investigate Alex Murdaugh's criminal enterprise. Maybe they could get to the bottom of this. But that was back when we were naive and thought the Feds were the big guns and not as easily influenced by small town power players as local agency seem to be. Now years later, we can all see that the fed's involvement was nothing more than them allowing Alex, Cory and Russell to use them in their attempts at getting the state to back off so they could have softer landings in a country club prison. Worse than that, though, the Feds seem to be super concerned with making sure PMPED and Palmetto State Bank got classified as actual victims deserving of financial justice. And it's that last part that really gets us but stick a pin in that thought for now. I just wanted to get that stuff out of the way before I complimented the US Attorney's Office for their response to Russell's appeal, in a lot of ways, almost all the ways actually, it's better than their original presentation against Russell in the courtroom back in November 2022. Because they were able to lay out his crimes in a much more understandable format, instead of the facts being split up in little pieces among the witnesses and among the exhibits. And instead of us having to remember 100 Different very specific dollar amounts. Everything was connected and all the context was included in this file. Here's David with an example of that.



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

DAVID MOSES 19:33

On December 22, 2011, the day after Laffitte negotiated all of Hakeem Pinckney and Natasha Thomas' settlement money for Murdaugh's benefit instead of putting it in their conservatorships Laffitte filed paperwork telling the probate court that Pinckney and Thomas' conservatorships had never received any money. He asked to close the Pinckney's conservatorship because Pinkney had passed away in October 2011. He asked to close Thomas' because she had turned 18. Incredibly, just two weeks after he told the probate court that neither Pinkney nor Thomas needed a conservator and that he had not managed any money for either he collected \$75,000 in conservator fees from them.

Liz Farrell 20:22

What a nice crisp portrait of a criminal. So Russell's chief complaint in his appeal is related to affidavits he got from jurors sound familiar when these guys have nothing but the facts against them. They want to poke around in the jury room in the hopes that they'll find something that'll get that conviction overturned. As you all know, what goes on during jury deliberations is meant to remain secret. So this portion of Russell's appeal and the government's response is redacted. Which is very frustrating because it seems like Russell is making an argument that his jury was about to be hung and Judge Gergel ruined everything for him by removing two jurors after they had deliberated for more than 10 hours and that Judge Gergel should have declared a mistrial at that moment. And that might be the part the government is most worried about. Side note, after five months of talking about Alex's motion for a new trial, and Becky Hill and the egg lady juror and the blanket juror and juror 630 with her flippity flops it makes Russell's jury issues look quaint and easy. It's like visiting your kindergarten class after your eighth grade graduation. We had no idea back in November 2022 Just



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

how far we were gonna get from making macaroni necklaces and coloring in the alphabet. So Russell says that Judge Gergle erred when he decided to remove jurors 93 and 88 and replace them with alternates. The way it went down is this about 10 hours into deliberating and after asking to rehear portions of testimony. The jury sent gurgle for notes in quick succession, two more from juror 93. The first and I'm going to paraphrase this was like I need to take my antibiotic at such and such time and it's at home. The second was like PS I feel pressured to change my vote in here. One note, again, I'm going to paraphrase here was from juror 88, who was like, replace me with an alternate because I have to stress out in here, and what note was from an unknown number of jurors, and that note said quote, A jurors previous court experiences influencing that jurors ability to discuss the trial in a group setting and that this jury had made comments on quote, having been bullied as a juror on previous trials and advise that the juror in question would not consider evidence in this trial was hostile to hearing any debate from certain other jurors and disagreed with the jury charge. Now a jury charge is the instructions that a judge gives to the jury, and it's what they're supposed to consider when making their decision for each charge against the defendant. The jurors who wrote that note asked Judge Gergel to consider speaking to this issue so they could proceed with deliberations. Okay, so in response to that the prosecution asked the judge to dismiss the juror who needed her medicine to ask the juror with the anxiety whether she could do the job and to remove the juror who wouldn't follow the law. The judge decided his plan of action would be to talk to the jurors with no one but a court reporter present and that he would take action as needed. He asked for all their opinions and thoughts on the matter. In the end, he decided to dismiss the two jurors with medical issues meaning the one who needed her medicine and the one with anxiety. The point of contention there for the defense is that they were surprised when he came back in

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>

COPYRIGHT © 2024 LUNA SHARK PRODUCTIONS, LLC - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

the courtroom and told them that the juror with anxiety had been removed. Russell contends that the judge should have personally consulted with him first on that. As you can imagine, the state had a robust and well informed response to that and all other points coming from the defense. All told the response cites more than 90 cases and asserting its arguments. I'm not going to go beat for beat with it because it's a lot. We'll make the full document available to Premium members in case anyone wants to dive in further. But back to the thought that I told you to stick a pin in earlier. The fact that the federal government's greatest achievements so far is that they're the ones responsible for classifying PMPED and Palmetto State Bank as victims during Russell's sentencing hearing in August of last year. This wasn't apparent by the way. It wasn't until I got back to my hotel room and talked with sources that I understood what the federal government had done, and it wasn't until his sentencing sheet was filed that we could see it in black and white. The only two parties listed on Russell's criminal monetary penalties page were PMPED for \$1.2 million and the bank for upwards of 2.3 million, remember, Judge Gergel didn't find Russell, he just ordered him to pay restitution Plus, he waived interest for Russell, meaning Russell can essentially take his sweet time and paying that back to an extent. And the reason Judge Gergel waived that interest is because he had determined without investigation, according to the government's 126 page response that Russell couldn't financially handle the burden of interest. But here's the thing. During the sentencing hearing, it came out that Russell had \$10 million in assets and a \$5 million debt burden. It wasn't clear if that burden included the restitution. But in his pre-sentencing report, the US probation office determined that Russell could afford to pay around \$4 million in fines and restitutions. Again, the fine was \$0.00, the government of the United States declined to find Russell the feed in lieu of making sure there was enough money to pay his victims, which would be great if

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>

COPYRIGHT © 2024 LUNA SHARK PRODUCTIONS, LLC - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

those victims weren't PMPED and Palmetto State Bank, because they were the gatekeepers, the institutions that allowed for anomaly after anomaly after anomaly from these clowns whose responsibility was to protect their clients and customers from bad actors in their own companies. But victims, like Mark Tinsley said, a five year old could have seen what Alex and Russell were up to. And yet these two longtime historical businesses couldn't victims. It's sick. It's a moral and eight spirit close to being corrupt. There was no reason for the feds to step in with Russell, Cory, Alex, at least none that we've seen so far. Maybe they'll wow us with some more co-conspirators by holding others accountable. But for now, nothing. The state had it under control. The state was well within his right to prosecute these crimes that happened in South Carolina. The fact that the feds stepped in means it costs taxpayers more money. And when Judge Gurgel had a chance to recoup some of that money, he instead said let's give it to the victims and the victims or the people who by simply doing their jobs could have stopped this in its tracks years ago. So yeah, the prosecution spent a solid amount of time arguing with the appeals court that Judge gurgle had made a mistake when he waived interest on Russell's payments to PMPED and Palmetto State Bank. Here's David with what they wrote. Buckle up because you're going to feel queasy after hearing this.

DAVID MOSES 27:38

Laffitte's bank and Murdaugh's law firm paid millions to make Laffitte and Murdaugh's financially whole.

Liz Farrell 27:45

Okay, sorry, we're only one sentence in and I have to cut in here because that's debatable. It's unclear how many victims receive compensation. But we do know that many of the victims receive only the amount of



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

money that had been taken from them with no consideration for inflation or the passage of time, which makes this next part even more sickening.

DAVID MOSES 28:07

Laffitte has means to repay them. And every day he doesn't the victims lose more money.

Liz Farrell 28:13

Again, the victims are PMPED and Palmetto State Bank.

DAVID MOSES 28:18

They should be paid the statutorily mandated interest.

Liz Farrell 28:22

And that's our federal government, ladies and gentlemen. But wait, there's more.

DAVID MOSES 28:28

Finally, the district court's error seriously affects the fairness, integrity and public reputation of judicial proceedings.

Liz Farrell 28:36

Mandy, are you hearing this?

Mandy Matney 28:40

Yep, it is unbelievable. Keep going, David.

DAVID MOSES 28:44

The mandatory Victims Restitution Act makes restitution mandatory and US Code 3612 makes interest mandatory unless a defendant is



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

unable to pay love feet is able to pay, allowing him not to despite the laws unequivocal directive diminishes the purpose of restitution and making victims whole. It also weakens public trust in the criminal sentencing scheme by allowing similarly situated defendants to face desperate consequences.

Mandy Matney 29:19

I swear. It is like they took the stuff we have been writing about them for years, and found a way to repurpose it to help PMPED. And Palmetto State Bank of all people. If you don't make Russell pay PMPED and Palmetto State Bank interest it will erode the public's trust in the criminal sentencing scheme. What they should have read this out loud to themselves before committing it to the docket. Okay, David, give them the last part. I feel like blocking my ears for this.

DAVID MOSES 29:54

Laffitte and Murdaugh's crimes have attracted substantial attention from across the world and they have seriously undermined public faith in the legal system, particularly in South Carolina, allowing Laffitte to escape paying required interest on the restitution he owes the victims.

Mandy Matney 30:11

Meaning PMPED and Palmetto State Bank.

DAVID MOSES 30:18

He also risks further eroding the public's trust in judicial proceedings. The waiver of interest should be vacated and the case should be remanded for factual findings on Laffitte's ability to pay.



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

Liz Farrell 30:31

I think it's going to be a long time before I can forget that the US Attorney's Office basically took one of our True Sunlight or Murdaugh Murder podcast scripts, and turned our words around to benefit PMPED and Palmetto State Bank. It's unbelievable. The public trust is going to be lost unless Russell Laffitte is forced to pay hundreds of 1000s of dollars more than the millions he already has to pay to PMPED and Palmetto State Bank. Now, prosecutors would argue back at us and say that the mandatory victims restitution act ties their hands here and that they're obligated to bring this to the Court's attention, which sure I get that. But who decided that PMPED and the banks were victims? America, it was you. As victims the firm and the bank are now entitled to money to cover associated expenses with any internal investigations they conducted and money lost as a result of the defendants actions. Remember how we talked about that Murdaugh economy and how it's cyclical? How money only ever seems to enter it and never seems to leave it? We saw this with Johnny Parker's personal jumbo loans to Alex we saw with a complaint, Johnny filed against Alex at a time when Alex had been enlisting family and friends to help liquidate his assets to hide from the boat crash victims. We saw it when Johnny petitioned for a slice of Alex's assets and got in line with the rest of the victims. And we saw the same kind of thing coming from Randy Murdaugh, too. There was no good reason for the federal government to insert themselves into a case that the state seemed to be managing just fine or fine enough anyway. Let's not get ahead of ourselves here. yet. I want to say that part. There's no good reason that we can see yet for the federal government to have inserted themselves into the Murdaugh mess. No matter how many times we've been disappointed here. We continue to hold out hope that they will hold others accountable. Which brings us to Alex Murdaugh's sentencing hearing which is going to be held on Monday. But first one last line from the government's response to

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>

COPYRIGHT © 2024 LUNA SHARK PRODUCTIONS, LLC - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

Russell, quote, these crimes would not have happened without Alex Murdaugh, but they could not have happened without Russell the feet. See, it's moments like that when they really seem to get it.

Mandy Matney 33:02

On Tuesday afternoon, the US Attorney's office filed a very interesting brief, titled The government's motion to hold defendants in breach of plea agreement. I say interesting, but I really mean annoying, because guess who lied to the federal government? The liar did the biggest liar and all of South Carolina, Richard Alexander Murdaugh's senior, he did. Raise your hand if you predicted that would happen. Yep. That's a lot of hands. Like over 100,000. The only hands not up appear to be the US Attorney's Office, where they were like, Hmm, maybe this time guys. So let me summarize this for you. The state indicted Alex, Russell and Corey. Then in each of those cases, the federal government came in and was like mind to we want some of that. And then very redundantly charged them, for all intents and purposes for essentially the same crimes, meaning we are paying for Alex, Cory and Russell to be prosecuted twice, which would be fine if it wasn't for the dumbness of it and the lack of results by the feds. It would be one thing if the feds came in with better cases. Like if they arrested a whole ring of good old boys who helped Alex become the monster he is today. But they didn't. They came in with rolls of cheap red carpet under their arms. And over and over and over. They gave Alex, Cory and Russell leeway that they did not deserve. Beyond that. The only conclusion we can come to here is that the feds did 10 Because they thought they could muscle the state out of the picture. And that would leave Alex, Cory and Russell with a chance at much better post conviction lives. But that is not what happened. Right? it backfires. And now, the federal government is left holding the silly bag on this one. Okay, I will give them some grace here because with Tuesday's filing, there were some glimmers of hope.

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>

COPYRIGHT © 2024 LUNA SHARK PRODUCTIONS, LLC - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

Liz Farrell 35:12

Before we get into it, remember when we did our Cory Flemming Is Missing episode on October 5. If not, it's true sunlight episode 19. In case you want to go back and listen, a quick refresher though, in mid August, Corey was sentenced by the federal government. He was taken into custody immediately afterward, but was taken to the Charleston County Detention Center where he continued to be held until his state sentencing in mid September, because he was sentenced by the federal government first, he was to be taken to a federal prison to serve out that time, about four years, and then he'd be returned to state custody to serve out the rest of his state sentence. But then he went missing. And here's what I mean by that. Neither Charleston County Detention Center nor the Bureau of Prisons could confirm that he was in their custody, and he appeared in neither of their online databases as an inmate or prisoner. Why? Well, back on October 5, at one of our theories was that Cory was turning state's evidence and trying to get a reconsideration for his unexpectedly hefty state sentence. Which brings us to now we think there's a timeline here that has some significance anyway. So Okay, to start with, here's David with the sterling opening paragraph to this motion.

DAVID MOSES 36:32

When he pleaded guilty, the defendant Richard Alexander Murdaugh agreed to be fully truthful and forthright with the government by providing full, complete and truthful information about all criminal activities, about which he has knowledge and to submit to a polygraph examination.

Liz Farrell 36:51

I want to point out that the emphasis on the all of all criminal activities was the government's and not ours, because it sounds like Alex might



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

have given them some info but was holding out in the places where it counted. Here's David with the rest of that opening paragraph.

DAVID MOSES 37:08

In exchange, the government agreed to recommend Murdaugh's federal sentence be served concurrently. With any state sentence imposed for the same conduct. Murdaugh has failed to cooperate as required under the plea agreement and has failed a polygraph examination administered at the government's request. Murdaugh thereby deprived the government of the benefit of its bargain, the government requests the court bind Murdaugh breached in the plea agreement and relieve the government of its obligations.

Mandy Matney 37:41

Now the timeline here is very interesting. And I mean that it is actually really, really interesting. So we all know in March 2023, Alex was convicted for killing Maggie and Paul, and that before that he had forced the state to give them a speedy trial, making it so he would be tried on the biggest charges first, then tackle the financial thefts. The strategy there, of course, was see if we can get them off the murder charges, then get the federal government to indict Alex and then send them before the state can prosecute him for those same crimes. Get him the lowest federal sentence we can negotiate and get them transferred to clubs that when he was found guilty that change things but by April, he and his team were already hot on the heels of his jury trying to cobble together some after discovered evidence they could exploit to get Alex a new trial in May Alex was indicted federally, then in June, July and August, ethics complaints were filed against Becky accusing her among other things of having an abnormal relationship with Alex jury, and in July she published her book further handing Alex and his team evidence to exploit her in order to get a new trial. Oh, and



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

also one juror, a juror who was removed and Dick's paralegal signed affidavits accusing Becky of jury tampering gave Alex some light at the end of the tunnel on his plan B. I say Plan B but actually this time Alex with like on Plan M so many things hadn't gone his way. That said between April and August Alex and his team truly seem to believe that they found an exit door for him on those state murder charges at the end of the summer. In early September, shortly after they announced their motion for a new trial and publicly accused Becky of jury tampering. And shortly after their Alex approved Fox nation documentary aired, Alex was in good spirits. He really thought they were going to pull this off because right after that came the plea deal with the federal government. The state still had not scheduled a date to try them on the financial charges and there was a fair chance that they might not be able to do it before Alex got sentenced by the feds. Not only were diggin Jim trying to get judge Newman disqualified and constantly reminding him that he was about to retire, Dick almost threw himself down on the tracks to stop the crate and waters free train. They needed to get to the federal finish line before the state had their bite of the apple. Now, during that time, before the plea agreement, and late September 2023 Alex had already met with the FBI three times according to Tuesday's filing, he met with him on May 4, which is shortly before he was indicted by the US Attorney's Office. And again, on June 7, you know, the anniversary of him killing Maggie and Paul and again on August 18, which is a day after Corey Fleming was sentenced in federal court. Remember, at this point, Cory had only mildly cooperated with the federal government. He cooperated just enough to strike a deal where he only had to plead guilty to one charge.

Liz Farrell 41:19

Now, a few things happened after Alex's plea hearing at the end of September. One is like we said, Cory disappeared from the public

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>

COPYRIGHT © 2024 LUNA SHARK PRODUCTIONS, LLC - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

databases and we couldn't get anyone at the Bureau of Prisons or South Carolina Department of Corrections or the Charleston County Detention Center to tell us where he was. The day after our Where is Cory Fleming episode aired on October 5, he suddenly popped up on the Bureau of Prisons page again, why did Cory seeming disappearance stick out to us? It's because we were told that it could be an indication that he was turning state's evidence a few weeks after he popped up again. And this was on October 17. Hilton Head attorney, sorry suspended Hilton Head attorney, Peter Strauss was charged with one federal charge of removing property to prevent seizure in relation to a billion dollar Ponzi scam out of California. If you don't remember who Peter Strauss is, you can learn more about him and two previous truths on light episodes number 29. And number 38. Long story short, though, we had reason to believe that he Peter Strauss might hold some answers as to where Alex had stashed his money because we knew Peter specializes in offshore Asset Management in that he had crossed paths with Corey and that Alex had made one or two trips possibly to the Bahamas on private planes after Maggie and Paul died and before he was arrested that fall. Now, Peters federal charge came nearly four years after he ended up on the federal docket, and his indictment was sealed for months until last month. He is set for federal sentencing on April 29, by the way, so a few weeks after Cory went missing and one day after Peter Strauss was charged in a sealed indictment. Alex Murdaugh met again with the FBI. This time they held him to the plea deal and hooked him up to a polygraph. Here's David with what the government had to say about that.

DAVID MOSES 43:19

Although Murdaugh accepted responsibility for the charged criminal conduct and admitted the involvement of his co-conspirators, Russell Laffitte and Cory Fleming, the government believed Murdaugh had not



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

been fully truthful as required under the plea agreement. Despite numerous interview sessions, during which the government gave Murdaugh every opportunity to be fully truthful and forthright, the government decided to polygraph Murdaugh on issues related to hidden assets and the involvement of another attorney in Murdaugh's criminal conduct. On October 18 2023, an FBI polygraph examiner administered a polygraph examination of Murdaugh in two separate series on two topics of interest.

Mandy Matney 44:11

Another attorney you say? Interesting, right? Again, look at the timeline, all in October, Corey panics about his hefty state sentence a month before this polygraph. Then he disappears from the public custody logs, which sources told us could be a fine he was turning state's evidence. Then Peter Strauss is indicted, whom Corey knew and who sources said might hold the key to where Alex's stolen money went. Then the FBI decides to polygraph Alex the next day in what was a fourth meeting with him. But here is the weird thing. What the government seems to be thing here is that even though they entered into a plea deal with Alex Murdaugh at the end of September, a plea agreement that was fully based on Alex promised to be truthful, they did so knowing that he had not been honest with them. Why do I say that? Because three of the four meetings that Alex had with the FBI that they cited and Tuesday's motion took place before the plea deal. Only one meeting happened afterward. And that was the meeting where he was polygraphed, which they did, because they didn't think he had been truthful before that. So what happened there? Either the government learned some new information between the time they entered into their dumb but hopeful agreement with Alex and when they polygraphed him a few weeks later, or they knowingly entered into an agreement with a liar in the joke is on all of us. And now, we're going to



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

have to listen to Dick and Jim squawk about false pretenses. Speaking of Dick and Jim, aren't you curious about how they're going to handle this on Monday? Remember, when they tried to get cousin Eddie's polygraph admitted into evidence because Eddie had shown some signs of deception. When asked if he knew what happened to Maggie and Paul, and whether he was at Moselle that night. They argued in favor of polygraphs back then, if they even tried to question the authority of Alex's polygraph I hope Emily Limehouse and her team are prepared to interrupt Dick with a spirited remix of his own sputtering voice huffing and puffing its way through a courtroom monologue in front of Judge Newman, about how polygraphs are amazing. Okay, all of that set on March 15, Judge Gergel issued an order giving Dick and Jim notice that he planned on considering an upward variance of the sentencing guidelines provided in the pre sentencing report. Then, on March 18. The prosecution alerted Dick and Jim, that they plan to file a motion telling the court that Alex is a big fat liar. And they want to be released from the plea deal. So we are going into this April 1 sentencing not knowing whether Alex is the fool or the federal government is. Hopefully it is the former and not the latter. And hopefully this motion is a sign that the feds are actually on to something here. Because in the motion, they mentioned that \$6 million dollars and stolen money remains unaccounted for. And then Alex failed his polygraph when asked about that money and where that money is. Now, after hearing the government's earnest plea to the appeals court to vacate judge gurgles waiver on Brussels having to pay hundreds of 1000s of dollars in interest to PMPED and Palmetto State Bank. We have to question is the federal government actually interested and tracking down Alex's money? Or is this another assist to PMPED and the bank? Is this just the federal government trying to get more money in the pot for the law firm in the bank to have? I guess we will know the answer to that when we see who they list on Alex's restitution page. Alex is set for federal

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>

COPYRIGHT © 2024 LUNA SHARK PRODUCTIONS, LLC - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

sentencing at 10am. Monday, April 1. Luna Shark will be there and we plan on reporting live for Premium Members Only on the cases against Alex Murdaugh discord thread. As you all know, during the height of the Murdaugh story, we often would find ourselves in the middle of writing a script for the show. And right before the deadline, there would be breaking news that were totally up in our plans. It happened almost every week to the point where it became a running joke. Well, it totally happened to us again this week. We got sidelined by breaking Murdaugh news, because of course, so we will pick up where we left off with a Michael Colucci case in the Stephen Smith case next week. In the meantime, there are a few things that we just have to talk about regarding Colucci. Over the past week, we have learned several disturbing things about the Michael Colucci case. The first is the stack of police reports that we have gotten back from Beth Brandon's various FOIA requests. These police reports tell a story of what kind of person Michael Colucci was before and after his wife Sarah was killed. The second thing that has been really disturbing Beth Braden has been extra pesky with the South Carolina Attorney General's office. But they can't seem to answer simple questions about Michael Colucci has been On conditions, where is he living? Does he have an ankle monitor tracking him? Does he have to submit any drug or alcohol tests? Is anyone checking police reports and making sure he is staying out of trouble? These questions should have very clear answers. We are talking about a man out on bond for murder. A man who has been out on bond for murder for nearly eight years. For example, when Beth asked if Michael Colucci had an ankle monitor, the AG's office spokesperson answer included the words pretty sure. This is disturbing, because it feels like the Attorney General's Office is not on it's a game with Michael Colucci. And the trial is quickly approaching and there is no telling what kind of tricks Andy Savage has up asleep. We need the AG's office to take the Colucci case seriously. And sunlight is the only answer. Get

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>

COPYRIGHT © 2024 LUNA SHARK PRODUCTIONS, LLC - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



EPISODE 44: Feds Fight For PMPED & Palmetto State Bank. Did Cory Provide Evidence? + Becky Hill's Absurd Presser

ready for a deep dive into the Colucci case and an extra deep dive on Luna shark premium. As the May trial date gets closer. Sara Lynn's family and friends have waited almost nine years for justice. There should be nothing pretty sure about this case from the AGs office. They acted pretty sure the last time and it landed with a mistrial. Stay tuned, stay pesky and stay in the sunlight. True Sunlight is Luna Shark production created by me Mandy Matney and co-hosted by journalist Liz Farrell. Learn more about our mission and membership at lunasharkmedia.com. Interruptions provided by Luna and Joe Pesky.

TRUE
SUNLIGHT
EXPOSING CRIME & CORRUPTION

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>

COPYRIGHT © 2024 LUNA SHARK PRODUCTIONS, LLC - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.