



EPISODE 84: Becky Hill's ENORMOUS Lineup of Ethics Charges + Mica Miller Case Keeps Getting Stranger

David Moses 00:03

Hello and Happy Tuesday. It's your faithful producer David here. And before we get into it, I want to share just a couple words about Mandy. It's her birthday today. And I want you all to know how incredibly proud I am to be Mandy's husband, partner, and producer. If you have a moment, send a kind word on social media or drop her an email to share your appreciation for her tireless efforts to build towers of justice for the very real people we cover. She reads as many as she possibly can, the positive notes at least, and it really does motivate her to continue this challenging and often very grim work. I'm privileged to work with Mandy and honored to share this very special birthday episode with you our amazing listeners, Premium members, and all those that vocally or silently cheer us on. Happy birthday, Mandy. On today's show, Mandy, Liz and Eric talk about Dick's campaign strategy with the primary just one week away. Strictly a-politically speaking, of course. Also we break down Becky Hills 76 ethics violation charges. I don't know if this is a state record, but it seems like it could be. Our hosts have never seen someone get that many charges before. And wow, the Ethics Commission didn't hold back. Becky is obviously innocent until proven guilty. But these charges definitely seemed to point to a clerk of court who forgot who she worked for. And worse than that, it almost seems like taxpayers paid for Becky's time and publicity while she created her book, the book that caused so much drama, and almost cost the AGs office their historic conviction of Alex Murdaugh. Also on today's show, we continue our discussion about the Mica Miller case and how each week we've been covering this case led us in strange and unexpected directions. I know it's cliché to say this when talking about true crime, but things are not adding up here. And in so many ways. It seems like Mica has left us all clues on a path toward finally getting accountability

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for her pastor husband, JP Miller. We received a ton of new documents to share later this week on true sunlight. But suffice to say you're going to be shocked at what we're turning up. Definitely more beneath the surface where this case is concerned. Premium members get extended discussions about the Mica Miller case that add significant context to the wild twists and turns there. That said, let's get into it.

Mandy Matney 02:35

Cups up everybody! Long time.

Eric Bland 02:37

Cups up. So long.

Mandy Matney 02:41

How's it going?

Eric Bland 02:42

Good. You were in Hawaii for four days. Mandy, tell me about it.

Mandy Matney 02:46

Hawaii was amazing. We met up with a fan there. Her name is Jennifer. And she was telling us about just all of the craziness after the Maui fires. And I didn't think it was a conspiracy. But I started to think it was a conspiracy with some of the things that she was telling me. I mean, but regardless, like they've had just a really hard time with government corruption after the fact with the Maui fires. And we stayed really close to where it was. And it was horrifying.



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Eric Bland 03:21

Did you see any of the damage?

Mandy Matney 03:24

Yeah, I mean, it's just wiped out. But it was really weird. Like it's wiped out and like some neighborhoods are completely wiped out. And then there's like a nice shopping center that's across the street that's completely untouched. And it's like, how did that happen? Exactly. And it's a lot of the poor people's houses that were lost. And people wanted to develop on that land too. So there's just a lot of really weird things going on there. Yes, I was on vacation. But I was like, oh, this is like, I'm really interested. I want to hear more about this. And we met like, I mean, we sat down at the bar and talked to the bartender and she said that she lost her house, like immediately after we got there. And then we think another waiter that we talked to lost their house. The whole area is really devastated. But they really are appreciative of tourists being there.

Eric Bland 04:17

isn't weird when he you know, it's still surreal for me, and I'm sure it is for you too. When people come up to you and say, they don't say I know you or whatever, they just look at you and say hey, I listen to you guys. Thanks for what you're doing and they just keep walking. You know what I mean? They don't even stop. It's just a nice acknowledgement. And it never gets old. It humbles me. Yeah, you know, in the strangest of places you could be you know, whether it's in you know, a grocery store line, or like you said, and vacation and halfway across the world, you know, 23 hour plane flight and somebody walks up and says, Oh, my God, it's Mandy, man. I mean, it never gets old.



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Mandy Matney 04:57

No, it doesn't. I will say that I'm so awkward and I'm never going to be used to it. Like at the O'Hare Airport, I don't know if I told you guys this. When we were on our way to California, we had a really early flight. And I was just really out of it. I was trying, we had a several hour layover, and it was trying, we're both hungry, just trying to find a place to eat. I was following David, we were trying to figure out things and this woman came up to me and was like, I follow you. And I said something along the line. I was just so out of it and was just like, what, and I said something along the lines of I don't know where I'm going. And she was like, no, like, I follow you get your podcasts, they listen to you, and you're wonderful. And that's your husband, David and blah, blah, blah. And I'm like, Oh my gosh, I feel like...I don't know where I'm going. Don't follow me. Funny. But yeah, it's just always catches me off guard. And and it's very humbling and kind.

Eric Bland 06:00

How about you, Liz? I mean, doesn't it? It's weird in a way and it's always humbling.

Liz Farrell 06:06

No. One I don't live in South Carolina anymore. So I don't have that same. I don't go anywhere, to be honest with you. So I don't really have...

Eric Bland 06:15

But when you were in South Carolina, I mean, wasn't it surreal in a way that like people are coming up to you and that they're that invested in what we're doing?



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Liz Farrell 06:24

Yeah, it's great. Except it was scary when we lived when I lived in South Carolina. So it would be like people coming up to me and being like, I live right around the corner from you. And you're like, how do you know where I live? Like, so it was just during the when I lived in South Carolina it was during the trial.

Eric Bland 06:40

Yeah, yeah, you're heightened...it was heightened alert.

Liz Farrell 06:43

And I'm basically when I go places I drive so I don't really have those encounters anymore. But you know, that's fine by me. I'm more private than you guys. I'm more like, you know, I feel like I'm getting assaulted when people come say hi to me. So.

Eric Bland 07:00

But in the beginning, but in the beginning, they were very, you know, enthusiastic to stop and talk about it. And I would, but now it's just quick and passing. It's like the nod like, hey, at least you guys keep it up good. And they have a place to go. And it's just great. It's interesting how it works like that.

Mandy Matney 07:18

Every single person has been not a lingerer like they seem completely aware of your time. Did you all see the Kylie Kelsey video this week as a perfect example of how a person should not act if they want to take a picture of somebody. Yeah don't just scream at them and demand things. Nobody owes you anything. Nobody owes you a picture you



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everybody should be able to live their own lives. I totally that that was such a weird situation. I have never had that. Granted, I'm nowhere near as famous as Kylie Kelsey, never will be because she's amazing. And I really love her and I love her even more after watching that video, I will tell you that. But I don't know what to say to people. And it's also weird to be like, Do you want a picture with me? To like, kind of get the sometimes they don't ask and some most? Most of the time, David, we've kind of done this thing where David will be like, Do you want a picture? Because I can't even say those words because it just seems so absurd. Do you want to selfie with me? Like, just absurd.

Eric Bland 08:24

It's such a humbling and an honor that, you know, they say that we are making a difference but that people even want to talk to me. I mean, I don't think much of myself you know, I have about...you'll see in my book. I mean, I have feelings of insecurity we all do in such a way but I've harnessed them but it's just it never gets old. You know, it just never gets old.

Mandy Matney 08:49

Yeah the other day, we had a liquor store encounter, like just this woman and it was one of those in passing. And all she said was thank you. I just want to say thank you so much for what you're doing. And she said I don't need any of that. Like, just thank you go about your night, but thank you. And I was like, Oh, that's so awesome. Nice and sweet. But yeah, it also makes me just a little sad. Especially during all the Murdaugh drama, it heightened my social anxiety because I never I also never knew if people were staring at me because they knew who I



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was or they hated me or they were hired to take me down like there was all this paranoia going on.

Eric Bland 09:32

Yeah, good. Well, we have a lot to talk about. And you know, the politics the political season is in high gear. We got Harpootlian versus Ott. We have you know, a lot of Becky Hill to talk about. Just there's some good South Carolina stuff. A new lawsuit that's related to the Murdaugh matters, that Liz will get into and, you know, Alex fighting in jail. I mean, we're in full tilt right now.

Liz Farrell 10:00

Well Let's start by talking about Dick. I tweeted...so I saw that The State newspaper endorsed him yesterday. And I worked really hard on coming up with an appropriate Dick joke. Capital D, Dick joke. And I think I succeeded. I said something like The State newspaper really loves stroking Dick. And then. Yeah, it's no surprise. It's just no surprise. It's like, and I kind of just love when the chickens come home to roost because for two years, we were shouting it from the rooftops that the State Newspaper in particular had Dick as one of their star sources. So it colored their coverage of the Murdaugh trial. And so now you see like that, that payoff is there, right? Like he was, he was there, giving them their info, and now they've got his back.

Mandy Matney 10:57

Yeah access journalism, like right there in front of our faces. That's what I tweeted about. And also, I don't know, did you ever participate in those endorsement meetings at the packet? They were ridiculous.



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Liz Farrell 11:09

Yeah, like back in the day.

Eric Bland 11:12

What are they like? So when the editorial, you know, the editor rights, you know, we've, we sat around the roundtable, we went through it, it was a tough deliberation back and forth. But we've decided that we're putting our name, how does it work? Does it work like that?

Mandy Matney 11:26

It's a bunch of white men. And they support other white men. And it's usually and then occasionally, usually somebody like me or Liz is thrown in their token. And they say, sit down and shut up, we're endorsing this old man.

Liz Farrell 11:49

Mandy did you remember though, instances like the Hilton Head Island Mayor mayoral race, and like Kim Likens came in guns blazing, the woman candidate. She comes in and she's got a giant binder. She's like...every topic that gets brought up, she goes to the page. And she knows exactly what her position is. And then the guy who ended up winning The Packet endorsed.

Mandy Matney 12:13

John McCann.

Liz Farrell 12:15

McCann. And then he just...all he did was breathe. And like I was sitting outside. I remember because you were in the meeting. And I was sitting



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at the old receptionist desk, working on a story because it was like in the dark little corner. Yeah. And I just remember that. I remember seeing the editor, our editor, coming out and clapping John on the back, like just a hearty big clap. Likens's like five two, there's no way I can like clap her on the back that hard. Like it was just no surprise when Mandy told me that The Packet was going to end up endorsing John over the person who actually did the work and studied and really cared about getting the job.

Mandy Matney 12:55

And not only was he like hunky dory, he said like he said he didn't like Millennials and didn't care about millennials in that meeting. He said all sorts of blanketed racist things like borderline racist. He was beyond unimpressive in that meeting. And I remember leaving and being like, we can't support that guy. And they're all like, ooh. And I was like, what about Kim Likens? She was like, Leslie Nope, she has a solution for everything. Did you see that binder that was amazing. That woman did her homework and they were like, there's just something about her.

Liz Farrell 13:36

They said she seemed nervous. I remember this because I, our editor, would say that stuff to me, like, you know, kind of like make it sound like I forget, he told somebody that like I come off very, like I'm very nervous all the time. And it's like weird to me, because like inside my head, I'm not nervous at all. But I know that my effect can sometimes look like that. But that really bothered me because I was just like, that goes back to the days of like, talking about somebody's tone or like the interpretation was just way off.



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Eric Bland 14:06

Somebody who's nervous is earnest. Somebody who's nervous is, you know, nervous about am I getting my message out? I have a lot to say, you know, I'm you know, thoughts are ruminating in my head, the smooth silky guy. I mean, that's just prepackaged. You know, I'm so down on politicians right now. You know, just take your way off track. I'm reading this book called The Demons Within by Eric Larsen. And yeah, I read that he wrote The Devil in the White City, one of my favorite books. And I'm learning so much about South Carolina politicians in the 1800s. But one of the governors, James Hammond, who then became an appointed senator, even before he was appointed Senator came out that he had incestuous relationships with four of his nieces between the ages of 11 and 17. Any justified publicly by saying that they loved me they're more mature in their age, and they enjoyed the fact that I had sex with all of them at the same time and didn't pick one over the other. And they named him a senator's stop. And now they have a school named after him. And my kids went to their school.

Mandy Matney 15:13

I was gonna say, I've heard of things that are named after Hammond.

Eric Bland 15:17

And I never knew I never knew why the name Hammond and it's named after a guy that had sex with his kids and wanted to succeed from the union. So I'm really down on politicians. Sorry for the rant.



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Mandy Matney 15:30

But I'm sure Hammond was super confident and not nervous. So I'm sure everybody just patted him on the back and said, go get 'em boy.

Eric Bland 15:45

Oh, but this Dick and Russell, I think it's starting to get really dirty. Obviously, it's always dirty politics, but, you know, they're trying to say, who's more of a good Democrat, you know, I believe in pro choice more than you did, because you didn't speak up within 10 seconds. Or, you know, I'm more racially sensitive than you, you're more racially insensitive. And then of course, Russell says, Well, tell me why in 1985 or 86 when you ran for county council and somebody asked you do you want the black vote, you said only want to rent it for a day? But yeah, there you know, Russell Ott came out and said Dick sponsored or advanced 38 pieces of legislation, zero which have been adopted. And Russell came back and said...well Dick said, well, how much did you do? And Russell said, well, I've done 10 out of 58 which isn't bad in the house if you're a Democrat considering how Republican the house is, but this is a race to watch. If I'm probably an early predictor I think Dick will somehow pull it out. Because he'll get the support of Nicky Settlers supporters more than Russell Ott will, but it's fun to watch.

Mandy Matney 16:55

I think it'll be close. I'm really excited. And well, did you guys see that? Dick Harpootlian's people like photoshopped different hands on to Russell Ott?



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Liz Farrell 17:06

What are you talking about? Like, smaller? I didn't know that was like a big male insult until like 2016.

Mandy Matney 17:17

But I've never noticed that before in my life.

Liz Farrell 17:20

How does that conversation even go? Like that's what I think I learned the most over these last few years. He's like people who you hire to like have smear campaigns against your opponents, whether political or otherwise, like the the brainstorming meetings, I would love to be on a zoom. Yeah, I want to hear that. Like, you know, we'll do we're gonna we're gonna take his hands off. Yeah, it's really cool. You're not gonna even notice it's gonna everyone's gonna think it says that'd be wrinkled and smaller. We'll make them smaller. You know? Yeah.

Mandy Matney 17:50

No one trusts it. No one votes for a guy with small wrinkly hands.

Eric Bland 17:55

Yeah, it's been tested.

Mandy Matney 17:58

Tested. So ridiculous. And I mean, I'm really interested. But the Post and Courier article that ran this week I want to talk about for a second it was loaded with just it's kind of jaw dropping this part I just want to read critics have often pointed to Harpootlian's quote from a 1986 County Council campaign that he quote, didn't want to buy the black vote. I



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just want to rent it for a day, which Harpootlian said was a bad joke and as apologized. I don't ever think he has apologized, to be honest.

Eric Bland 18:35

No, and it's not a joke. He's never said that before. Now, it's been a joke.

Liz Farrell 18:41

He apologized.

Mandy Matney 18:43

I hate it when reporters couch things like that and add oh, but he was it was a joke and he apologized at the end. That is bias journalism in my opinion, because you don't have to put that at the end especially I've got I don't think that that's factual that he apologized. I haven't found much of anything Dick ever apologizing for anything.

Liz Farrell 19:04

But also calling it critics or criticism after...like, it's not criticism to point out that a man said something racist. It's literally people pointing out that somebody said something racist. It's, I don't even know what you would say.

Mandy Matney 19:18

People with common sense.

Liz Farrell 19:20

I know. People it's called accountability. Its response people responded by being angry when he said X, but they call it critics because they're looking at it from their perspective like how they would feel if all these



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people were saying, Oh, God, did you hear that? What did Harpootlian say? It really bothers me. I hate it. I see that all the time.

Eric Bland 19:41

But think how easy it rolled off his tongue.

Liz Farrell 19:44

Oh you think that was easy? You should wait till she tells you the next part.

Eric Bland 19:47

What I'm saying is you're gonna get to it but today it would be harder to say because people are very sensitive to that. But how insensitive do you have to be in 1986 likes to say it and know that no one's going to ever challenge you on it. What kind of dark heart do you have to say, to say that publicly? No, I just want to use the bat black people just pull the lever for me today and then I'm done with you. I mean, how could anybody have that in their heart to be able to say it is what I'm saying? I don't know if I'm articulating it right.

Mandy Matney 20:21

No, you are. You're right. And I again, I hate the part that the reporter included. He said it was a bad joke. I am so tired of old men in particular dodging accountability by just saying that something was a bad joke. Like you know what you said was offensive. What you said was hurtful to people. What you said was awful. But it's not funny. There's nothing that doesn't make it any better that you thought it was funny.



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Liz Farrell 20:49

But Mandy also hasn't changed. That's the thing.

Eric Bland 20:55

Right. In the trial, what did he say? What makes you special Agent Worley? What's special about you?

Liz Farrell 21:00

Eric, remember also he said about black judges don't usually give a bond like that. Black judges don't usually give a bond. So he's still the same person. And that was a pretty ubiquitous. All of us knew he said that like that was out there. So I don't know who the reporter was at the Post and Courier didn't read the byline. But that made me think like that's the perspective that Mandy's talking about is that if you know this other thing, like he said this in 1986 and was also, you know, whatever the word we want to use, had an angry response against what he said in about black judges in 2023 or whatever. You said 2022.

Mandy Matney 21:45

And he could have, the reporter I say he I don't know who it was, the reporter could have also mentioned that the next thing that he said was kind of racist.

Liz Farrell 22:00

And then there's the thing that happened in the moment.

Mandy Matney 22:01

So after the blah blah blah, he apologized, don't worry about it. The paragraph says Harpootlian said he has fought for the black community



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since his racial awakening at college during the Civil Rights Movement, which is hilarious.

Eric Bland 22:18

I was born in the 60s. Be careful. I was smart enough to watch TV in 1968. Be careful.

Mandy Matney 22:25

Yeah, and there's plenty of great people who were born during that time. In an interview he recalled going to a bar near Clemson decades ago with a black friend, only to have the bartender draw a gun and refuse to serve as friend. Here's where it gets that. Dick is quoted saying he said you can have the beer but the expletives gotta go. But also, I really hate it when people say I'm not racist. I've done so much for...and it's the same thing that did Harpootlian says about sexism all the time when like he's he's incredibly sexist that has been proven over and over and over again and then he'll say, but I am the one I'm the biggest champion for women and I stand up for women and blah blah, but and my votes. And it's just like that, that also doesn't. That doesn't make any better. That doesn't that doesn't make up for you still being sexist, right? And you still having like the fact that you're thinking about the one time that you're it's basically equivalent to him saying I had a black friend and 1960 and that's why I'm not racist.

Liz Farrell 23:37

I do have to say that I'm getting a lot of pleasure, though, out of watching him campaign because I know how miserable he has to be in striking. You can see yeah, like he has to put on a smile. Yeah, to be charming.



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Eric Bland 23:50

Listen, he's the last guy that could shake hands and go into a church. He hates it. He's, you know, you think you hate people at times. This guy. He only likes the people that are liking the big time politicians. The plebes are the world's proletariat to the world. Yes, he talks about wanting to help him, but he doesn't want to be with them.

Mandy Matney 24:15

Also, this is the first time that he's campaigning after like the general the general public knows who he is and very much dislikes him as a person. And I'm sure he's at a lot of those shaking hands events and people are like, I hate you.

Eric Bland 24:38

You're getting a little bit too much pleasure out of this Mandy.

Mandy Matney 24:40

I'm excited. It's next month. It's a couple of weeks. I like Liz said though, no matter what happens, I'm glad that he got a run for his money. And I'm glad that he's had to parade around churches shaking hands and taking pictures with children and doing evil looks incredibly powerful and it's funny.

Eric Bland 24:58

I think he's raised \$260,000 And I think Russell's raised like \$110,000 or something like that. So, you know, obviously big money and you don't know whether Dick's putting the money in I just Well, he's got more money than God but he's winning the money war probably.



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Liz Farrell 25:18

I would pay if anyone out there has been at my Michaels or Hobby Lobby and they've run into Dick they're buying little things for his gift bags that he's been given out to people according to these photos from the campaign trail definitely let us know because I would love I just that tickles me.

Eric Bland 25:35

You want a Hobby Lobby bag?

Liz Farrell 25:36

Oh no. So Dick puts together these gift bags for his...

Eric Bland 25:41

Holly does. Holly and Heather, twins that work for Dick. They're amazing. I used to get Christmas gifts from Dick when I was friends with him. And they go around the local craft stores here and they get some very neat stuff. Very, very nice fabric.

Liz Farrell 25:59

I like the image of Dick in his dictum standing there trying to figure out how to do the self checkout. Love it.

Eric Bland 26:09

He screams Holly order six baskets and send them here near and Holly and Heather are so good at this.



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Mandy Matney 26:16

Like to see Dick. You guys had to make a gift basket you have to like blow dry shrink wrap. Like to see Dick deal with...

Eric Bland 26:28

The little fuzzy things that are around the edges. You got to stop any addict just...

Mandy Matney 26:31

Putting together a gift basket is hilarious.

Liz Farrell 26:33

It's just funny thinking about Dick doing anything that's at what a normal person does like having to experience any sort of like, you know, impatient, just the kinds of stuff that we all have to put up with like a line at Subway or even just thinking of him in those scenarios is pretty funny.

Eric Bland 26:52

Dick in shorts and a muscle shirt.

Liz Farrell 26:53

Nope! Too far. Too far.

Eric Bland 26:57

Kinda like the Richard Simmons look.



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Liz Farrell 27:01

More like trying to get his icemaker work in his house. And like just like the little annoyances that happen in your own home where he doesn't have Holly or Heather to call out. Yeah, I would like love. I mean, honestly, just love to see it.

Mandy Matney 27:22

Let's take a commercial. And I would like to talk about Becky Hill when we return.

Eric Bland 27:43

Ah, Miss Becky.

Liz Farrell 27:45

This is crazy how fast time moves because I already feel nostalgic for the Becky time. Like, it's only been like, what? Four months? Three months, three months? It's just this feeling February 1. Yeah, there's this I was just when we were reading through her ethics complaint. And I was looking through old emails of hers. And I just I remember this time.

Eric Bland 28:10

What would it have been like, guys, if this ethics violation complaint that they're going to try or on came out before the motion for a retrial? Would it have been harder for Justice Toal because now we're seeing the gravity that she was like the Boss Hogg, of her little clerk of court Treasury there.



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Mandy Matney 28:33

So kind of, but let's explain what happened this week first. So on Tuesday, the Ethics Commission that we've talked about a lot, I think it's one of the most worthless entities in our state, and I'll talk about that in a minute. I think that I think that our ethics commission is the reason why South Carolina is so corrupt, because they pick and choose who they go after. And they go after low hanging fruit people. And Becky is the lowest hanging of all of the fruits. She was charged by the Ethics Commission, which really doesn't mean anything. Ultimately, the Post and Courier did a story about how many politicians in the last like 10 years have gotten ethics, have been charged and convicted of ethics, charges, complaints, whatever, and they never paid their fine. I think there's like \$3 million in unpaid fines in our state. And the Ethics Commission can't really do anything about it. It's not like a traffic ticket where you can haul that person for not paying their fine. I think they said like there's over 50 politicians in our state, who are still in office and they have never been there and they were like, Oh, that's cute. You gave me a \$2,000 Fine, whatever, and then they still move on so they're delinquent will matter whether or not Alan Wilson takes This to a criminal charge. And that will be interesting. But she was hit with 74 counts, and they got her for every nickel and dime that she allegedly misused. And oh boy, Liz, what did you think of the whole thing?

Liz Farrell 30:19

So like you said, it's kind of like with the Office of Disciplinary Council, because it's also used as a weapon. So it's not just that it's like ineffective and what have you, but it does, if you do get an ethics complaint filed against you, it's gonna cost you a lot of money to defend it. So you, you do have to hire an attorney, and you do have to, it does



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affect your career. So that's kind of the point of it. I think that's really what happens is that and I know, I know, Andy, right, you're gonna set you're gonna say that people who had these ethics complaints go on to keep their jobs and what have you.

Mandy Matney 30:54

Yeah, I've also seen them use taxpayer money to hire lawyers to defend their own ethics complaint. I've seen that before and charging tax, so charging taxpayers like 10 grand to defend a \$2,000 Ethics chart, is absurd, kind of because the entire thing is crazy.

Liz Farrell 31:15

I say kind of, because I know situations where people have had it written into their contracts before they took their job with the government, that if something were to come up that the town or the Council or the county agrees to pay for legal representation, so that's like, prearranged, right. The other thing is, like I said, it's used as a weapon. So what happens when you have for instance, a county administrator who's being bullied by people in the county because he or she won't agree to some sort of development deal, then an ethics complaint is filed against them right and now they have to accrue like that that's their own money that they have to use doesn't seem very fair, right. Doesn't seem fair. Yeah. So it's, it's but the people who are ethically corrupt, like just corrupt to the core, and then use taxpayer money to defend themselves or are obviously gross. But with Becky, there's so much to talk about here, because it's just like, the first thing I had a question about is, I mean, I did not like that the ethics complaint did not include dates for each of the expenditures. And these are generally speaking, very small expenditures. 100 and something dollars



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here 300 and something dollars here, mostly for meals, and mostly for gifts and decorations. And alcohol is on there, too. She had, she had some lemon, cello and Jaeger Meister to celebrate the last day of a solicitor's office employee saw a lot of that to see some meals for the attorney general, like and here's what I'm wondering, is were those actual meals that she was having? Or is this the scale? Was there a scam involved? Like, because some of those expenses seemed like...

Eric Bland 32:56

Yeah, they were very picayune. There were some very picayune things that that are nice to have as an office because it creates good way. So if the funds came from general operating for a going away party, I think that's okay, because people work hard and a birthday or a visiting judge his birthday lunch, whatever.

Liz Farrell 33:17

But she's an elected official. So that makes it a little different, because it's like bribery.

Eric Bland 33:22

It does. The real problems I had, though, with the self help bonuses that she was giving herself of 2020 \$500 per year, and then appeared to us the courthouse as a, you know, a tourist destination. And there was money associated with that. I don't have any problems with the ornaments, I don't have any problem with the meals, little bit with the dog stuff and a little everything that was really personal to her. I did have a problem with it so I think 76 or 74 complaints were too much. There probably was a number that should have been done, and they should have focused more on the meat instead of the potatoes. But



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Liz Farrell 34:02

This is payback. This is her getting paid back by the state right for putting Alex Murdaugh's case in jeopardy. And we knew this was coming on some level, we thought it was going to come in the form of Justice Jean Toal giving her a sanction just ending that hearing by saying like, I don't think you tampered with the jury, but I do think XY and Z and just like you're not credible, yeah, just scorching her in front of the public. So this is surprising in the sense that it's I didn't think it would come out like formally like this, I guess. But let me go back to this. When she had the this. These are different complaints from the ones that she received over the summer after she published her book. They are obviously somebody sled, somebody did a forensic look up the finances there. What's going to be interesting to me is how she defends herself on the bonuses because within her response to the Ethics Commission, which we've seen from sources, she has an email where she spoke with the coordinator of that particular grant that IV D funds or something, asking if it was okay, so to give a bonus, and she includes parts of the grant language in there, which makes it look like it's okay to give people bonuses from that money. So and there's a couple of emails in there, too, to the finance director, where he's telling her like, this is not the font you're supposed to be taking this from, you're supposed to be doing it from this for other things. But for the bonuses, it looks like he signed off on it. But I might be wrong about that. But at least I saw I did see one email where she sent him a list of the bonuses from September 2022.

Eric Bland 35:47

Why should she defend herself? If ultimately, the scuttlebutt is that it is going to be referred to the Ag for some kind of prosecution. So the AG



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looks like it's not pursuing justice. Why should she even respond? She's no longer a public official, she resigned?

Liz Farrell 36:06

That's interesting.

Eric Bland 36:07

I'm just pausing that I'm not saying she should. Could she know what their jurisdiction is over her at this point?

Mandy Matney 36:13

There's going to be a hearing in December.

Eric Bland 36:17

I got it in December, which is crazy.

Liz Farrell 36:20

Okay, they're not busy. Right before Christmas too?

Mandy Matney 36:24

Yeah, it's like, who else are you getting between now? And then? Ethics Commission?

Eric Bland 36:28

She's no longer a public official. So what's their jurisdiction over her?

Liz Farrell 36:33

I think they still have jurisdiction because it happened while she was in office, because by that rationale, so find her. Any everyone just has to



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quit their job once they get ethics violation. And then it's all you know, out in the wash? I don't think so.

Eric Bland 36:47

I know they can go forward. But what can they do to her fine her?

Mandy Matney 36:49

Fine her right?

Liz Farrell 36:51

And then she doesn't pay it. And then we have another podcast episode where we talk about that.

Eric Bland 36:55

If there's going to be a referral. Every good lawyer is going to say, Miss Becky, you can't waive the fifth. Now. If they're gonna put you before a grand jury after they find you guilty of all these violence. You can't talk now, you've already talked enough when you were in the murder trial, and you made some denials from that other the moral retrial when you made where the other clerk of court came in and said something? Yeah, you got to stop talking. So she may have to take the fifth in the Ethic's Commission.

Liz Farrell 37:26

You ever been in one of those, Eric? Like, do you know?

Mandy Matney 37:31

I have not.



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Eric Bland 37:32

I haven't either. I heard they're star chambers. Yeah. They're very secretive. Nobody talks about how they run them. You know, they're not open to the public.

Liz Farrell 37:43

They are if the person agrees to that consent, but nobody ever agrees. Yeah. So you have to consent to it. Some people do. Yeah, I'm, I know that there's been a few times where they want to show that they're being used against them as a weapon. So they do go to open it up.

Eric Bland 37:59

But if I'm from you know, Justin Bamberg, and we'll lose. I gotta tell her, Becky, I'm sorry. I totally get the word that they're not going to prosecute you regardless of what happens in here. You better not talk. Yeah, because every time she talks, she's starting to get herself in trouble. You think?

Mandy Matney 38:15

Yeah, I mean, I think Liz and I were looking over the counter earlier. And I was giggling because of the amount of holidays that she likes to celebrate. She's really into her holidays.

Eric Bland 38:29

And it accuses her more than the traditional ones.

Mandy Matney 38:32

Well, what was weird, there were only holidays between, like, five February and June. So there was no Christmas presents. Chris, there



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was lots of Mother's Day presents. Lots of Easter goodies. She wrote that on a check, which was kind of grandma and cute Easter goodies. But I think what was going on is because at first I was looking at this and I was like office supplies that I feel like any public official, if you open their books, could have something that could have a 70 some count very similar to this. However, Liz pointed this out, and we looked up the statute that they're saying that she violated and it is using your public office for personal gain. So I think that they are using everything that she did in the lead up to her book promo.

Eric Bland 39:26

Well, I think they're gonna weaponize it. I think the team Murdaugh are going to weaponize this in their appeals to make justice to seem that she made the wrong decision that this lady has had, you know, a single minded business purpose and she's being a clerk of court to do things that no other clerk of court would do and you know, be aligned stepper constantly look at how many times she overstepped the lines. I think it's going to be used against her for sure.

Liz Farrell 39:55

But Eric, do you remember the part and this is Mandy and I were shocked about this. So one of the expenditures was for Valentine's Day gifts for jurors. So how did Dick and Jim not use that? That they just not know about it? Because that is quite literally, like I understand like them meals for jurors, right? That's the clerk of courts job is to provide that, especially for a prolonged trial like that. I shouldn't say job, it's not her job to provide meals, if you have a short trial that's on you to go get your own lunch. But there have been cases during deliberation, right where they put to give you meals.



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Eric Bland 40:34

You have a problem with her buying a couple of candy bars of like the Valentine hearts, I don't have a problem with that, don't you think on Halloween, she would have brought in Halloween candy for a jury.

Liz Farrell 40:45

I think that it's in writing now. And I think Dick and Jim are going to use the black and white version of it, which is you bought gifts for Valentine's Day for the jurors, and you're accused of tampering with a jury. So it doesn't matter. And like Mandy and I were talking about this too, like for us in journalism, our ethics code includes not taking gifts from sources. So generally, you know, if we go to an event, we wouldn't, you know, eat their food. It's kind of a little bit loose, and a lot of newspapers have their own basic policies on it.

Eric Bland 41:18

But does that preclude you from giving a piece of candy to somebody on Halloween?

Liz Farrell 41:23

No, but I mean, again, going back to the black hole, and lawyers aren't gonna like you think Dick and Jim are gonna look at that. And they're like, Oh, it's just sweethearts. Okay, nevermind, we were gonna use it. But now that we know, it's just candy.

Eric Bland 41:34

No, no, no, they're gonna use it as a weapon. For sure.



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Liz Farrell 41:38

They're gonna make it sound like she was driving around in a white van going around to the jurors with candy bars, like trying to get them to come in. I'm a little nervous about that. I don't like that. You know, as far as we all know that that's not enough to sway anyone. Right? We all know that. That's a kind thought what have you but you're an elected official. And you've been accused of jury tampering. And now we see that the word gift is attached to jurors. So thank you, Becky.

Eric Bland 42:08

Especially, you know, in this trial, especially if it was the murder trial, everything you're doing you do is going to be scrutinized. So you're telling your staff, you know, p's and q's. Everything's got to be straight, you know, no slouching I mean, you're on guard because you know that this trial is going to be watched and dissected. Oh, she knew too.

Mandy Matney 42:27

And this is all in the lead up to her book and I think that that what they're going to data is going to be the ultimate story that they tell is that like you were trying to get jurors to like you because you wanted to get the the tea and the good information and and swam you did yeah, to sway them you you bought the AGs office lunch to sway them and that's where the problem is. Again, I was a little well, first of all, I think it's the whole thing is just a little funny because...

Eric Bland 42:59

David, you just said Jaeger shots? She did Jaeger shots in the clerk of court?



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Mandy Matney 43:04

Jager with the solicitor's office.

Liz Farrell 43:07

And limoncello.

Mandy Matney 43:12

Yeah, for going away party for the Solicitor's Office at lunch.

Eric Bland 43:13

Whoa now that's a little bit much. That's a little much.

Liz Farrell 43:16

There's two and there's another David, what's the other alcohol that she bought and there was like White Claw or like around one of the white claw types.

Mandy Matney 43:24

Smirnoff Ice, Smirnoff Ice right there. It's all high school. Jager and Smirnoff.

Eric Bland 43:33

I know. Not like bourbon or scotch. It's like you're at Senor Frogs in Cancun or whatever.

Mandy Matney 43:41

Right? It's what you drink when you're a baby. You don't know. And you don't have a lot of options. It's very and like, weren't you embarrassed Becky to write down Smirnoff Ice or Jaeger. I feel like there's just some



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things when I used to, you know, work for companies and things. I wouldn't write off a lot of things because I'm like, I don't want to deal with that. But I would be mortified to be bigger. In again and it goes back to this. These are tax dollars that she is using. This is different from a business. This is different from a business expense. These are tax dollars. And there's a lot of people in Walterboro who can't afford \$600 picnic tables like Becky apparently got on tax money and they they they don't have Valentine's Day parties because they don't have that in their budget because they're paying taxes and if they don't pay taxes, then they go to jail. So she should take that very seriously and every elected officials should take that seriously. The idea with tax money is Becky should be using that as she uses her own money and not just like spend spend spend.

Eric Bland 44:54

Do you think Dick is using his political power our power pushing this ethics complaint mean, along when she resigned, and maybe it lost some steam and Dick is back jet. I'm just pausing.

Liz Farrell 45:08

I guess the question for you, before I ask that question, I just wanted to comment, because I don't want to forget this. But there was also an accusation that she traded with somebody to use their courtroom as a way to promote their books for future promotion of her book, right? It's not what that said, yeah, it was something like that. It was like she made some trade with somebody in media, right, that she would get coverage for her book in the future if she allowed them to use the courtroom. So it's not clear if that's a local reporter, or if that or if that's part of the documentaries that we're interested in using the courtroom.



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So I mean, all of us is about the book. Right. But the question I have for you, Eric, then is how could Dick and Jim use this information to their advantage in an appeal, because isn't the appeal about what happened in the courtroom.

Eric Bland 45:57

The appeal is what happened in the courtroom. The appeal is about the standard that Justice told applied to determine interference. But Dick and Jim may say this is after acquired evidence that is relevant that was available, then we didn't get it, we would have been able to cross examine her on it, we would have shown further that she had not just some lack of credibility is just as tall said, but no credibility, it's going to have to be to the benefit of of Alex and to the detriment of Becky, it can't be in the reverse. Becky can't look good. And this doesn't benefit Alex, I think Alex is going to get a million miles out of this.

Liz Farrell 46:39

And the idea of there being again, because like the whole reason we had the hearing with Justice Toal was for after discovered evidence. I mean, Becky has already right? This has already happened. So I can't even imagine having this happen again. But there, like I said, there are no dates attached to individual expenditures, which I think is significant. Because that, you know, we know, we all know what indictment type things look like. I mean, this is as close as you get with an ethics commission, they tell you when this occurred. So I'm wondering if this were something that Dick and Jim could have used, they would have used it, because I do find it hard to believe that this would have happened and they didn't know, already, you know?



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Eric Bland 47:20

Well could it be a little bit from when we had the hearing on January 15? And she said this is not going to be a trial about Becky Hill?

Liz Farrell 47:29

No, I guess what I'm saying is that like jurors that Dick and Jim has spoken to especially the egg lady juror and the juror 630, who said that she was influenced by Becky, I feel like those women in that alternate would have said like, and on Valentine's Day, she came in with heart shaped boxes, and we all got candy or whatever. So I'm wondering if the lack of a date being on there is indicative of this, like, so we can't line it up with certain right events. Right. So now it just looks generally...

Eric Bland 48:01

Like how many of those were Murdaugh events is what you're asking? Right?

Liz Farrell 48:04

Exactly. And like, generally speaking, she looks real shady now, like, even more shady than she was coming off. But yeah, so I'm just wondering what the trickery is going to be here. Like, what sort of shenanigans are afoot? Because we don't know there are? There's got to be something.

Eric Bland 48:19

Well, obviously, you know, the transcript from the trial is probably done. You know, now Alex is getting ready, you know, to write his appellate brief, it wouldn't start surprise me, if somebody starts to say, well, we need an extension, because we want to see how the ethics complaints



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going to turn out or even, you know, as Bekijk ultimately going to be prosecuted, because that could have some relevance to.

Mandy Matney 48:44

Yeah let's talk about that after we take a short commercial break, and we'll be right back. I'm torn about this entire thing, because in one, on one flip of the coin, I'm happy to see any public official who was abusing their position to actually be held accountable for that. I also don't want people to have the idea that what Becky did in those accounts, except for there's like five that are pretty serious. But the rest of them I swear that it's like breathing for these public officials like they.

Liz Farrell 49:29

That's important what you're about to say, because it's we were talking about this before the shower, remember, it's the normalization like what did Becky witness before this? Like, what did she think the job entailed? Was she seeing this kind of thing because she was in a courtroom for a long time. So she would have seen the clerk of court, the clerks of court and all of the 14th circuit like doing things so she probably thought nothing of it.

Mandy Matney 49:52

And all those Clerks of Court just didn't have a book.

Eric Bland 49:55

It's like the rules changed and she didn't realize they changed.



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Mandy Matney 50:00

I think they didn't get changed because she did her book and I think that her book opened up and because the book got it turned everything into a circus and a mess and obviously the government is angry at her for that as they should be. But I don't want people to think that it's that nobody in county government is ordering little Easter baskets or doing so much worse. I mean, I highly encourage people to FOIA especially their local school districts and see what they're spending their P cards on P cards or their credit cards. I have found like baseball too. I found Red Sox tickets for a South Carolina principal. Why was that principal getting Red Sox tickets?

Liz Farrell 50:46

Where is he going to see the Red Sox in South Carolina?

Mandy Matney 50:49

He wasn't. He even bought the flight and everything. Like I have found all sorts of things. I've found \$1,000 dinners that halls for school board members. I've found \$50,000 on Chick-Fil-A one school district spin in a year.

Liz Farrell 51:07

I was gonna say that a Beaufort County Chick-Fil-A was the biggest expense that the shady superintendent at the time had on his expense reports. Chick-Fil-A.

Eric Bland 51:19

I'm just going to be honest. I think I'm just so my radar is up and I'm so gun shy that I just don't want to hear anything related to Alex. And then



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all of a sudden if something's related to Alex directly or indirectly, it's got me nervous about is this going to help him? Is this going to reverse a sentence? Is it going to create a new trial? I mean, I'm just so hypersensitive, I wanted him just to go away and go away. I want him to do his time the system worked. And these are all little chisels, chiseling away at the system, how it worked against him. And anything that ignores to his benefit makes me nervous.

Liz Farrell 51:58

Yeah I think that gave us a dirty bomb for him.

Mandy Matney 51:59

And it's also just extremely frustrating when we talk about public officials in their roles and all of this Murdaugh mess. And a lot of it seems very, a lot of what we have found seems way more significant and concerning than Becky's Valentine's surprises and Easter goodie baskets. And like for instance, everything with Duffy Stone just moved on. I would like to see an ethics charge for Duffy Stone for giving Alex unchecked power all of those years and giving him a badge that he did not earn. And he was able to get lights, who gave him police lights like that is an abuse of office that is actually extremely concerning to the public. And it's just really frustrating that Becky is the only one out of all of this to get ethics charges. And her ethics charges are like grandma stuff. It's like a grandma went wild with a checkbook.

Eric Bland 53:01

And you know, Carmen Mullen, where's she? Where's all the lawyers that were involved in these cases that either referred cases to the lawyers involved, whether it was Alex or Cory and some of the victims



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cases? We haven't heard anything. I mean, how long does it take? It wasn't just three people. It wasn't just Russell, Alex and Cory. It couldn't have been right?

Liz Farrell 53:24

That's on the US Attorney's Office, Eric, because they've been given proof of things that were they could move forward and they've done nothing with it. So or it's hard as we know, they've done nothing with it. But we know they know. So, you know...

Eric Bland 53:36

Why is it only on the US Attorney? Why isn't it on the attorney general as well.

Liz Farrell 53:40

It's on him as well. He's a little busy though. He's he you know, he's got to travel the country and do things in other places other than South Carolina.

Mandy Matney 53:49

But with the Attorney General's office, I think that's a good subject change. With the FBI and the US Attorney General's office being involved in cases. I feel like a lot of times, people hear the words FBI and they're like the best of the best is on this case, hurray. The big guys are coming in and they're going to get the corruption out. And unfortunately, the Murdaugh case has taught us all I mean, I was wildly disappointed in the FBI's involvement in that case, beginning to end.



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Liz Farrell 54:23

100%.

Eric Bland 54:24

Meaning they never found the money. They didn't find the facilitators.

Mandy Matney 54:28

They didn't find anything they didn't like all they did is piggyback off of the state. And nothing that they did was impressive. Nothing.

Liz Farrell 54:38

They also allowed PMPED to give them the narrative of what happened they allowed PMPED to tell them where to look and what to do so and if they want to deny that they can try but I know they did. So it it's disappointing. So when we hear that in the Mica Miller case, for instance, that the FBI is looking into it, I can't help but have that knee jerk where I'm excited because I am like, oh my god, good. Okay, the serious people are here. But then you remember that it depends on who gets the case and what their connections are to other people, because it's gonna, will it go? Will they actually look into things? Or are they just doing this for, you know, to check a box publicity wise so that, you know, it'll die down because FBI investigations take a long time, blah, blah, blah.

Eric Bland 55:28

So do you think that the powers to be both state and federally have made this statement? Enough with Murdaugh. In the rear mirror? It's time to put all Murdaugh related matters in the rear mirror? Are we there yet? Or we're not there?



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Liz Farrell 55:42

I think emotionally we're there. I don't I mean, legally, we shouldn't be there. That should not be.

Eric Bland 55:48

Yeah, I understand. We shouldn't be there. But have they said it? That's what I'm asking you?

Liz Farrell 55:52

I think that's what they're hoping for? Like, I think what they're looking for is like we've all emotionally moved on from it, the audience has, you know, sort of shifted to other things, right. So for them, they can just jump right in and use that, you know, indifference or what have you or seeming indifference, the lack of spotlight on them to just sort of shuffle away from it. And that was always going to be like, that was the thing that has always made us afraid that that's what they were going to do that.

Eric Bland 56:17

There wouldn't be full accountability. Right.

Liz Farrell 56:20

Yeah, that there wouldn't be full accountability. But I don't know. Yeah.

Mandy Matney 56:24

And it just it takes these cases they take with the with the Mica Miller case, I am hoping and praying with everything that there is some super pesky, hopefully a female FBI agent out there who sees what happened to Micah and has a problem with it and figures out, the FBI can charge



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people for whatever they want. And call it fraud. I've seen it a billion times.

Eric Bland 56:54

Is there something there more than just suicide? Yeah.

Mandy Matney 56:57

I think we got confirmation this week that the FBI was asking questions to people who really knew Mica and JP and not about church finances, because that's been the rumor that it's the FBI. And that's a normal thing for them to investigate. This church has all sorts of international mission trips and things. And that would be something that the FBI would investigate, but the people that they are talking to, and the questions that they're asking, aren't about that they're more about Mica and JP in their relationship, and what happened in the months leading up to her death. And was he following her and I also noticed there is a federal stalking law that came into effect in 1996. Uh, you can't follow somebody into you can't cross state lines, harassing, stalking, etc, and making them concerned for their life. And there are laws like that. But I'm seeing that if somebody if just one part one or two people in either the US Attorney's Office, or the FBI could see this case, as a game changing case, as men can't do this to their wives that they're trying to divorce, they cannot make their lives so miserable, and make them so afraid to wake up every day that they end up either ending their own life or being forced to in their own life. We don't know. I mean, I really have a problem with that. And I think the reason why it's harassment and it's basically cornering somebody into having no options except for dying, and that should be illegal.



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Liz Farrell 58:45

Let's be clear. So I think it's important for people to understand what was happening between October 2023. And when Mica died, and there's a lot and we'll find out more in a week because there's going to be hearing, somebody might get a little bit more insight. What type of hearing was, it's a motion for temporary relief, okay, in October when Mica filed her divorce, sorry, when she made her motion for a divorce. She included in it that JP had heard that the grounds were adultery and that he had cheated on her. So that was now in writing. And it was a public document. So you start to see and we'll talk about this in true sunlight, but you start to see a weird pattern of filings with the family court for divorce. It starts off with Mica and then in February JP is filing something they dropped the case through a consent order in February which means they both agreed to drop the divorce and this is a Hmong this is after she's been involuntarily hospitalized. This is when she's actively being stalked and things were being put online. All of that.

Eric Bland 59:51

What do you mean involuntarily hospitalized? Who put her in?

Liz Farrell 59:54

He put her into a mental hospital and she checked herself out two days later. So this is how smack dab in the middle of that. So you ask yourself why would Mike have agreed to drop that divorce right? That was a game for JP all along; he wanted that divorce to be gone. And I assume he wanted the replacement divorce to now is a no fault divorce where that is removed from the reasons for because again, we go weak, you have to keep talking about this, but it's like he really was going to lose a lot of congregants.



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Eric Bland 1:00:29

He could lose the pulpit. Why should he lose the pulpit? If you're teaching the 10 commandments and you're committing adultery? How do you retain your pulpit?

Liz Farrell 1:00:38

I don't know. Is there a pastor police? I mean that there's there should be can you imagine?

Eric Bland 1:00:44

They come in with like the white robe on with a gun belt, the badge.

Liz Farrell 1:00:48

Better say your Hail Marys? Yeah.

Eric Bland 1:00:51

I love that Liz.

Mandy Matney 1:00:54

Or arrest the pastor, please. Yeah, the elders are supposed to be the place. But we have found out a lot about the elders in the church. And they knew about a lot of this alleged abuse that was going on and did nothing. And it sounds like the elders are just enablers. It's a circle of enablers that had never had never. I don't see any history of any of them ever standing up to JP, it seemed. It seems like more of a cult structure than anything. And he's the leader. I don't think anybody at that church holds him to account.



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Liz Farrell 1:01:33

Yeah well, they did in 2016, when they all left the church and he lost money. Yeah. So I mean, it took him from 2017 through now to rebuild the membership of the church. So we had a lot to lose. And just going back to the FBI thing, though, you know, there's some corners of TiC tock and, you know, social media and news reports, saying, you know, they're really splitting hairs last week, I think it was or maybe two weeks ago at this point, saying that the FBI had been asked to investigate, do what Robeson County Sheriff's Office calls a parallel investigation. And while all the while they're saying this is not an investigation into the death, they're not investigating. And then there are reports out there saying this wasn't the FBI investigating, it was simply that they had been asked to investigate, right, so that hair kept getting split. And then now we know for sure that there's an investigation going on. And it seems like it might be a little bit about death. Like I mean, that's based on what we're hearing. So what bothers me about that is that we don't every time we turn a corner in this case, you know, with Alex we used to say like there was a monster around every corner. So we would turn the corner and then there'd be more cars, and then we turn the corner and there'd be more crimes or more more documents that we would see that we're like, well, this points to something great. With this case, every corner you turn is a new question that we can't even possibly answer through logic, like it does. It doesn't make sense. So what for me the question with the FBI right now is why is the Robeson County Sheriff's Office and surrounding people there as part of the people who reported that it was definitely a suicide, they are holding on so tightly to that in a way that I don't understand. Because I feel like once you declare, hey, it's a suicide. Yeah, we're all ready to believe you on that. Like, you guys are the ones who tell us what this says. And we believe you. We don't

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need you telling us over and over again. But it's definitely suicide guys. It's definitely because that's when we get suspicious, right? When you keep having to tell us the thing is true that you said the first time around, we would have accepted it as true. But now you have to keep saying it. Now we think maybe that's not true. So that's kind of the spirit of this case is just that you have all these weird little hairs getting split all these weird little turns of phrases of how things are and then all these things that just don't sort of actions that don't add up when you look at the timeline of things. Right. And I don't know how to make sense of a lot of it, personally.

Mandy Matney 1:03:58

Yeah, I don't either. And I really hope that the FBI is making sense of it.

Eric Bland 1:04:03

Well, it sounds like you guys are on it. And you know, the more you talk about it, and the more the listeners talk about it, the more information you get. Something may come up though, people have to ask more probing questions.

Liz Farrell 1:04:19

Well, we have a probing question for you. Actually, what I was going to ask Eric is, in this week in Tucson like we had, we had to the last minute add a section to the episode because we had asked the Orange County Register of Deeds to give us a receipt showing who came in to file Micah's health care power of attorney. We wanted to note because that's significant, obviously, because this POA was signed in December of 2022. And then it wasn't filed and in South Carolina, you have to file you have to file it right. So it doesn't get filed until March 20 2024. So



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about a month before her death. Okay, so you as a lawyer What reason, would Mica and that's according to the receipt that it's Mica and we have to do a little more digging there for next week's episode. But what reasons would Mike, who's in the middle of this just contentious situation? That's very dangerous. Why would she file that legally? Like what legal reasons would there be?

Eric Bland 1:05:18

Depends on who the attorney in fact was going to be? And what does that mean, if the attorney in fact was going to be somebody else other than JP, then she filed it because she was in fear for her life?

Liz Farrell 1:05:29

No. So JP is the agent.

Eric Bland 1:05:33

So he's the one that would become her attorney, in fact.

Liz Farrell 1:05:36

So it's a healthcare POA? So is that what that would be called an attorney effect. So essentially, he gets to make the decisions about whether she gets intubated if she becomes mentally incapacitated.

Eric Bland 1:05:45

Unless she didn't make those herself. Otherwise, he's just an enforcer. He has a duty to enforce what her wishes are. But if she left it in a nebulous way that He has authority, then that's a completely different story. I don't I can't figure it out.



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Liz Farrell 1:06:02

If it's just a standard healthcare POS. It's literally like they they copy and pasted the text from the statute.

Eric Bland 1:06:08

On the why she would file it?

Liz Farrell 1:06:11

There's nothing legally that you can think of strategy wise, like you file it because you're about to file for divorce, and you want to nullify it to make sure that it's like officially nullified. Do you file it so that you can nullify it? Or do you just never file it? And it's not ever valid?

Eric Bland 1:06:26

It is valid. People do rely on unfiled POA's.

Liz Farrell 1:06:30

But okay, why would she like what are some of the reasons? Do you think that maybe she filed it so that she could have her attorney? Cancel it?

Eric Bland 1:06:39

Well, I think you can cancel without having it filed. But maybe she doesn't? I don't know. I mean, maybe she felt that she was going to be killed and we don't know. Have you? You haven't read that living wills? So you don't know if she gave all these directives that nobody would have any discretion?



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Liz Farrell 1:06:57

No, it's not it's there's a living will, there's no will, so she died intestate.

Eric Bland 1:07:02

It's that right Living Will as a health care power of attorney. That's right.

Liz Farrell 1:07:05

Okay. So yeah, I have read it. I've read it.

Eric Bland 1:07:10

I don't want hydration, I don't want sustenance.

Liz Farrell 1:07:15

No, she just leaves it up to him. So he gets to make the decision for whether she gets checked into a hospital or whether she gets checked out of the hospital. And again, this is all like, it's on whether she's mentally incapacitated at the time.

Eric Bland 1:07:29

But maybe she's so under. So under his spell that she just can't get out of it. I don't know.

Liz Farrell 1:07:34

Or maybe she misunderstood what she was filing. Maybe she thought it was that's possibility, too. Yeah, maybe she was misled into thinking that she was doing something that she wasn't doing. Because essentially what she's doing is she's giving this man even more power over her life at a time when she's trying to get him completely out of her life.



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Eric Bland 1:07:53

Where she's trying to distance herself, she's bringing them so much closer.

Liz Farrell 1:07:57

So that could be some insight, Mandy and to her being under a spell and believing something he might have said to her, you know that because it's behavior like that, when I talk about is turning the corner and seeing another thing that doesn't make sense. That's one of those things, I would not have guessed that Micah would have been the one to file that if she was right.

Mandy Matney 1:08:17

And if she was, and we're still trying to figure that out. I mean, it looks like she did. She seemed very intuitive and aware of the importance of a paper trail with everything else that she was doing to document her relationship with her husband, the abuse, the things that she was saying on Facebook at the time, she was documenting everything right or journal, she knew that that was important. And it's just really strange. And then the POA document that was filed was from a couple years ago. And the weird part is that the two witnesses which were an attorney, and a worker at his law firm signed the POA document as witnesses like eight days before Mica signed it. So what were they witnessing if she wasn't signing that document at that time? There's things like that that are like what is actually going on here. And I mean, tick tock and other people online are over analyzing the hand the handwriting is weird, but I feel like handwriting is impossible to prove anything. It just varies so much every like Alyssa. There's just monsters everywhere.



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Eric Bland 1:09:41

So I want to ask you guys about some technological things that popped up this week and it goes into your concept of true sunlight and you know, everything out in the open. We had two things I think that are pretty important this week. I'm not talking about the verdict. In the New York trial, it wasn't televised. And I think New York and all other states and the federal courts should recognize that we need to televise trials that people need to see for themselves, so they can make their own decisions. The second thing is Scottie Scheffler who was the number one golfer in the world, the charges were dropped against him. He was in the PGA and supposedly he drugged a cop and disregarded some traffic signals. And it turns out that the officer wasn't, didn't push his body cam on. And so there was no body camera. And then luckily, luckily for Scotty, there was a camera on a telephone pole that disputed that the cop was ever drugged by the car. So we need to learn lessons here. Police have body cameras for a reason they have them on their dash cam, they have them on their body, we need as citizens to make sure they put their body cams on you know, it's just the push of the button. It's no different than when they get out of the car and they unsnap their holster. You ever see a cop every time they get out of the car, they unsnap their holster, press the button on the thing. And then the other thing, court administration in New York State court administration and federal courts start filming trials and hearings so that we can see what's going on, I want to make a decision on my own. I don't want it to be spoon fed. I mean, do you guys agree on this?

Mandy Matney 1:11:30

Also, the breakdown of trust in that as journalists have not, do not have the public's trust at this point. And they haven't earned it in a really long

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time. Right. And because there's no trust with the media, it makes trials like that can't be broadcast extremely difficult to follow and understand because you believe and again unless you trust the person who's going in there everyday to give you all the quotes and to not spin their own narrative etc. As we have said many times on the show, every journalist has bias one way or another and that is going to apply to their stories, but a camera is not a camera in a courtroom. It's just wide open for the world to see and usurper things, how they go, you can put the camera at certain angles to make people look worse. But yeah, I mean, I'm increasingly frustrated these days, with the business sector of society, just using technology for everything and adapting to AI and adapting to the future and living in the future. And then the government side, it's like 1982.

Eric Bland 1:12:48

Still where would Scottie Scheffler be but for the camera on the phone booth on the phone pole? It's his word against the cop at that point.

Liz Farrell 1:12:56

But you know why?

Mandy Matney 1:12:58

Right. Right. Right. Cell phones.

Liz Farrell 1:13:01

Black Americans until you had cameras on phones and widely. Yeah, exactly. You who now gets exactly exactly.



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Eric Bland 1:13:10

Michael Slager would have never been would Michael Slager ever been prosecuted for what happened in North Charleston, but for the the the young man who was filming it up through the fence.

Liz Farrell 1:13:20

Right? You know, now you can get cameras in your car. So you can get a discount on your insurance. So that, you know, basically they can monitor what your cameras like the technology to monitor how you're driving, so that they can determine whether you're a safe driver, and then you can you know, pay less than insurance or whatever, there's ways to monitor just about everything. And I know why New York and why the Federal government would not be so inclined as to have their cases filmed, or at least why because the federal government deals with a lot of cases, like drug trafficking, human trafficking, and then a lot of business malfeasance, right, like a lot of big corporations a lot of big, like heavy corporate issues that involve brand names, right? So do you think that these guys want the ability for somebody to go in and film a trial that might reveal you know, I don't want to say trade secrets, but like information that makes them look bad that just makes you know, whatever the company is look bad and bad publicity? Like it's not gonna look good if a Bernie Madoff character goes in and talks about, you know, the trial is talking about as clients and those names are coming out like that kind of stuff.

Eric Bland 1:14:36

Right? Yeah. The Black Book of the guy who killed himself Jeffrey Epstein right hit the black book.



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Liz Farrell 1:14:42

That's it to all it is to protect powerful people that's all it is and powerful people's and business interests, their economic interests. So that's why I mean, I don't think it's a matter of can't do it. I think it's a matter of they don't want there's too many powerful people that use the federal court. Were any New York City's courts that I think there's just no what would you call that like incentive? There's just no incentive to do it.

Eric Bland 1:15:07

I did learn in the watching the New York trial have a weird way of doing closing arguments it's different than anywhere in the country the defense goes first and prosecution finishes it's not the prosecution does a closing argument defense goes in you get a rebuttal.

Mandy Matney 1:15:23

Yeah, I mean, all of this would be solved with cameras in the courtroom and I could go on about that for a long time.

Eric Bland 1:15:32

But I do have one question before we go: How's Alex coming on finding out who the murderers are? You guys hearing any words or anything on the street?

Mandy Matney 1:15:40

I haven't heard anything.

Eric Bland 1:15:42

I keep waiting. I'm waiting. Okay.



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Mandy Matney 1:15:45

Yeah, Dick and Jim have not found the real killers yet. It's very shocking.

Eric Bland 1:15:49

No I know but they're not even close. Great show everybody.

Mandy Matney 1:15:53

Cups down. Cup of Justice is a Luna Shark production created by me Mandy Matney and co-hosted by journalists Liz Farrell and attorney Eric Bland. Learn more about our mission and membership and lunasharkmedia.com. Interruptions provided by Luna and Joe Pesky.

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