

Renee S. Beach, et al. v. Gregory M. Parker, et al.  
Case No. 2021-CP-25-00392  
THE PARKER'S DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISQUALIFY ATTORNEY MARK TINSLEY

# EXHIBIT B

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LUNA SHARK MEDIA

# Murdaugh Civil Case: Journalist Refutes Claim She Paid For Confidential Court Documents

[Will Folks](#) October 5, 2021

Over the weekend, I ran a story on the [latest developments](#) related to a high-profile civil case involving the now-notorious Murdaugh family of South Carolina – which is at the center of one of the nation’s most gripping real life soap operas, the ‘[Murdaugh Murders](#)’ true crime saga.

The case in question is a wrongful death action filed by the family of 19-year-old [Mallory Beach](#), who died in the early morning hours of February 24, 2019 following a [boat crash](#) in Beaufort county, S.C.

Allegedly driving the boat at the time of this fatal collision was [Paul Murdaugh](#), who has since been [brutally murdered](#) in a still-unsolved double homicide that also claimed the life of his mother, 52-year-old [Maggie Murdaugh](#).

Paul Murdaugh, who was nineteen years of age at the time of the crash, purchased alcoholic beverages at a Parker’s [convenience store](#) in Ridgeland, S.C. using a driver’s license belonging to his brother, **Buster Murdaugh**.

The owner of the boat – 53-year-old [Alex Murdaugh](#) – remains a “person of interest” in connection with the ongoing investigation into the double homicide. He is also the focus of an ongoing [obstruction of justice](#) investigation related to his alleged conduct following the boat crash. Additionally, Murdaugh is at the center of an investigation into

allegations that he stole millions of dollars from his [former law partners](#) at the once-prestigious Peters, Murdaugh, Parker, Eltzroth and Detrick ([PMPED](#)) firm.

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Oh, and if all of that weren't sufficiently troubling ... Murdaugh was [recently charged](#) in connection with a bizarre roadside shooting incident on September 4, 2021 which appears to have been an attempted insurance scam.

Anyway, my update on the civil case focused on allegations that British-born author, reporter and commentator [Vicky Ward](#) – who is currently working on a Murdaugh documentary – purchased confidential court

files from one of the corporate defendants in the wrongful death case.

This allegation was made in open court last week by attorney [Mark Tinsley](#), who is suing Alex Murdaugh, Buster Murdaugh, [Parker's Kitchen](#) and its founder, [Greg Parker](#), on behalf of the Beach family.

Tinsley issued multiple subpoenas late last month in an effort to get to the bottom of these allegations – including one issued to Ward herself.

That subpoena sought her testimony at a deposition this week, as well as any materials in Ward's possession related to the Beach case, "including but not limited to the confidential mediation presentation video and anything else whether written, electronic or in any other form." More specifically, Tinsley's subpoena sought to ascertain whether Ward obtained confidential mediation information from "any individual, business, or entity, who were operating on behalf of, related to or in any way associated with Gregory M. Parker, Inc., Parker's Corporation, Gregory M. Parker, or their agents or employees."

*(Click to view)*





*(Pic: Askryan via Wikimedia Commons)*

According to a filing ([.pdf](#)) from Ward's attorney, the 52-year-old reporter (*above*) has invoked South Carolina's journalistic "shield law" in refusing to be deposed by Tinsley – and in refusing to comply with his demand for the production of documents.

Does the shield law apply to her, though? Not according to Tinsley.

The plaintiffs' attorney said Ward broke confidentiality – and thus

revoked any legal protection to which she may have been entitled – when she told him and another lawyer, [Tabor Vaux](#), the source of the information she received.

“She told us what she had and where she got it which is why the subpoena asks for what it asks for,” Tinsley told me last week, adding that “the reporter shield law only protects confidential information.”

Ward’s attorney, [Andrew Celli, Jr.](#), disputed that interpretation – issuing a statement to this news outlet last week referring to Ward as “a working investigative journalist entitled to the full protection of South Carolina’s reporter’s shield law.”

This week, Ward broke her silence on the issue – chalking the whole thing up to “crossed wires” in conversation.

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“The allegation that I bought anything is false,” Ward said in a statement provided to this news outlet. “I had a very pleasant meeting with Mark Tinsley but there were obviously some crossed wires in our

conversation which he may have misinterpreted. I never bought anything from anyone for journalistic purposes and I never would. I am deeply sorry he got that impression."

I put this quote to Tinsley, who told me another witness allegedly heard Ward make reference to purchasing confidential court files from someone connected to the corporate defendants in the Beach case.

Tinsley told me an affidavit from this witness would be forthcoming soon ...

The attorney also recalled Ward being crystal clear with him during her September 2021 visit to the Palmetto State as to where she received the confidential court files.

"I don't know how she thinks there were any wires crossed," Tinsley told me.

Stay tuned ... as I noted in my original treatment of this story, the drama involving Ward "underscores the ferocity of the competition for insider information related to the broader Murdaugh saga by those looking to capitalize on it in the media realm."

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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR ...**



(Via: FITSNews)

**Will Folks** is the founding editor of the news outlet you are currently reading. Prior to founding FITSNews, he served as press secretary to the governor of South Carolina. He lives in the Midlands region of the state with his wife and seven children. And yes, he has LOTS of hats (including that New York Knights' lid from '[The Natural](#)' pictured above).

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# Murdaugh latest: Mallory Beach family files suit alleging social media harassment, conspiracy

Lawsuit exhibit shows Mallory Beach memorial marker.

Exhibit from lawsuit Renee S. Beach, Phillip Beach, Robin Beach, Savannah Beach Tuten and Seth Tuten vs. Gregory M. Parker, Gregory M. Parker, Inc. d/b/a Parker's Corporation, Blake Greco, Jason D'Cruz, Vicky Ward, Max Fratoddi, Henry Rosado and Private Investigations Services Group, LLC," was filed in Hampton County Court of Common Pleas on Friday, Dec. 3.

**Recently:** [SLED releases 911 call on fatal Gloria Satterfield fall at the Murdaugh residence](#)

**Related:** [Connor Cook files suit against Murdaugh family members, store clerk, for 2019 boat crash](#)

**Case so far:** [What we know about the murders, investigations, insurance fraud scheme](#)

The new suit, "Renee S. Beach, Phillip Beach, Robin Beach, Savannah Beach Tuten and Seth Tuten vs. Gregory M. Parker, Gregory M. Parker, Inc. d/b/a Parker's Corporation, Blake Greco, Jason D'Cruz, Vicky Ward, Max Fratoddi, Henry Rosado and Private Investigations Services Group, LLC," was filed in Hampton County Court of Common Pleas on Friday, Dec. 3.

...

The suit alleges Civil Conspiracy and Outrage/Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress and was filed by Allendale, S.C., attorney Mark Tinsley, of Gooding and Gooding PA, who is also representing the Beach estate in the wrongful death suit.

The new civil action alleges that Parker, owner and CEO of Parker's, and his attorneys Greco and D'Cruz, conspired with journalist Ward, as well as Fratoddi and Rosado of Private Investigations Services Group, to launch "...a social media campaign to inflict severe emotional distress upon the Plaintiffs to diminish their resolve to prosecute Parker's for contributing to causing the death of Mallory Beach in the Civil Action and arranged for or participated in the distribution of the confidential mediation and other private materials... "

The suit alleges that, prior to Sept. 14, 2021, Parker, Greco, and D'Cruz hired "social media knife fighters" and others to devise a plan to emotionally harm, harass and discourage the Beach family from prosecuting the wrongful death suit by creating fake social media posts.

The suit further claims that Parker, Greco and D'Cruz conspired with Fratoddi, Rosado and Private Investigations Services Group to "...misappropriate the private property of the Beach's, invade their privacy and misappropriate their images, all in an effort to inflict severe emotional distress upon the Plaintiffs..."

This conspiracy was allegedly done by Parker and his attorneys providing videos and photos, which were reportedly confidential images to be used in the wrongful death civil mediation process, to Ward, a New York-based journalist.

These confidential images included photographs of Mallory Beach's dead body as it was discovered on a mud flat in a Beaufort County river, a week after the fatal boat crash, the suit contends. These images also include other members of the Beach family, which they say were stolen for the profit of others as well as being an invasion of their privacy.

On Friday, Parker's attorneys released the following statement:

The logo of a charity founded in memory of Mallory Beach, who died in a 2019 boat crash.

Photo submitted.

"Parker's denies any allegation of providing crime scene photos, video footage or other confidential mediation information to Vicky Ward. Parker's is disappointed that anyone would leak or discuss information contained in these items with the media. In fact, when Parker's filed a motion in November of 2020 regarding mediation material, Parker's was careful not to disclose anything that could be considered confidential. We continue to send our condolences to the Beach family for their loss and will be filing a timely response to the Plaintiff's false, baseless allegations."

Ward is a journalist working on a documentary entitled "The Murdaugh Murders," which released an online trailer Nov. 24. The trailer video incorporates six different sections from a confidential mediation video belonging to the Beach family, the suit alleges.

The suit states that Ward and others aided and abetted the other defendants in their civil conspiracy "to inflict severe emotional distress upon the Plaintiffs and to harass them in a manner so unconscionable it

shocks the conscience."

The Beach family states in the civil complaint that at no time did they ever agree to participate in "Ward's tasteless and completely obscene production."

The suit further states: "In an attempt to get the Plaintiffs and their counsel to appear in her documentary, Vicky Ward acknowledged that Parker and his law firm, referencing Defendant D'Cruz's law firm Baker Hostetler, 'had an agenda' and that she had 'nothing to do with them other than having their stuff.'"

On Dec. 8, Ward released a statement:

"As I've already stated, I've never bought any materials for use in a proposed documentary about the Murdaughs. Nor have I ever met, or spoken to, Greg Parker or his lawyers. Nor did I publish, promote, or create the video, that was wrongly described as a 'trailer' and which contained very sensitive photographic images... The video at issue was created and intended for internal use by the production company I am partnered with. It was for internal development purposes only and supposed to have been seen by approximately ten people...

Unfortunately, an outside contractor at the production company inadvertently uploaded the internal video to an open (as opposed to private) Vimeo site. As soon as this was discovered immediate action was taken to remove access to the video... I am deeply upset for the Beach family. As with all of my investigative reporting activities, I am devoted to finding and telling the truth. Any suggestion that I would ever seek to exploit a tragedy is utterly false and disgusting."

According to her website, Ward is a New York Times bestselling author, a former journalist for CNN and HuffPost, and most recently the host and producer of "Chasing Ghislaine," a project based on the lives of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, which has been published as Audible Original podcast and a Discovery Plus documentary.

In a prior related legal matter, on Nov. 30, Beach attorneys filed a "Rule to Show Cause" motion in regards to the wrongful death suit asking why Parker should not be sanctioned and held in contempt of court for violating Rule 8(a), SCADR mediation rules by releasing confidential materials. This motion will be heard on Friday, Dec. 10, at 10 a.m. at the Moss Justice Center in York, S.C.

The fatal boat crash involving former S.C. attorney Alex Murdaugh's boat, allegedly piloted by his late son, Paul, has sparked another civil law suit from the family of Mallory Beach, who lost her life in the crash.

Photo courtesy of the S.C. Attorney General's Office.

This motion states that on July 7, 2020, Beach's attorneys emailed to Parker's counsel the confidential mediation video to be used as a part of the confidential mediation process. The mediation conference was held on Sept. 20, 2020.

The motion also alleges that around Sept. 14, 2021, Ward contacted Beach's attorneys and stated that she had purchased portions of what she called "the Beach case file" from "Parker and his law firm of Baker Hostetler" and that Ward further confirmed that she had a copy of the the mediation presentation video among other materials related to the case which had never been made public by law enforcement or legal counsel.

The most recent Beach family' conspiracy suit contends that the defendants "exceeded all bounds of decency and were atrocious and utterly intolerable in a civilized society" and as a result, they have suffered "extreme emotional distress, nervousness, worry, anxiety, hysteria, physical sickness, loss of sleep, loss of enjoyment of life, depression and other damages." They are demanding a jury trial and seeking actual and punitive damages.

Parker's, headquartered in Savannah, Ga., operates retail stores throughout southeast Georgia and South Carolina.

Paul Murdaugh, who was allegedly driving the boat occupied by five other minors when it crashed into a bridge on Archer's Creek, allegedly purchased alcohol from a Parker's store near Okatie, S.C., on the evening before the fatal boat crash that killed Beach.

Murdaugh had pleaded not guilty to three felony boating under the influence charges and was waiting trial when he, along with his mother, Maggie, were shot and killed at their Colleton County, S.C. home in June 2021.

His father, Alex Murdaugh, who owned the boat, is also named as a party in the wrongful death suit. This defendant, who is also the target of several other civil suits, is currently detained in the Richland County, S.C. detention center on financial crimes charges.