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S.C. SUPREME COURT

EXHIBIT C

**(Hill Guilty Plea Transcript,
December 8, 2025)**

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1 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
2) IN THE COURT OF
3 COUNTY OF CALHOUN) GENERAL SESSIONS
4
5 THE STATE,)
6 Plaintiffs,)
7 Vs) CASE NO. 2025-GS-15-289
8 MARY REBECCA HILL,) 2025-GS-15-290
9 Defendant)
10

11 DECEMBER 8, 2025

12 ST. MATTHEWS, SOUTH CAROLINA
13

14 HONORABLE HEATH P. TAYLOR, JUDGE
15

16 A P P E A R A N C E S:

17 BY: SAMUEL R. HUBBARD, III, ESQUIRE

18 Attorney for the Plaintiffs

19 BY: WILLIAM C. LEWIS, ESQUIRE

20 Attorney for the Defendant
21
22
23

24 KATHERINE A. SPIRES

25 REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTER
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1 THE COURT: Please be seated. All
2 right. Mr. Hubbard?

3 MR. HUBBARD: Yes, sir, Your Honor.
4 We're here today on *State versus Mary Rebecca Hill*.
5 I've got the indictments and sentence sheets
6 prepared for Your Honor, along with a waiver, a
7 waiver from Richland County, and a waiver also
8 from Colleton County. There's four separate
9 charges. Three of them come out of Colleton
10 County. There's two misconducts, a misconduct in
11 office. Those being Indictments 2025-GS-15-289 and
12 290. For the record, Your Honor, those were
13 indicted under the common law, but we've agreed to
14 proceed on the statute. They're both misdemeanors.
15 And so, technically, those would be waivers.

16 And then the obstruction of justice,
17 that's also out of Colleton County; that's a
18 ten-year misdemeanor. And then the perjury out of
19 Richland County; that's a five-year felony.

20 Your Honor, other than what I've just
21 mentioned, there's been no other deals, there's no
22 recommendations, no negotiations as to sentence.

23 THE COURT: Okay. All right.
24 Mr. Clerk, will you please swear in Mrs. Hill.

25 MARY REBECCA HILL,

1 being first duly sworn, was examined and testified
2 as follows:

3 THE CLERK: State your full name and
4 spell your last, please.

5 MRS. HILL: Mary Rebecca Hill, H-I-L-L.

6 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Lewis, have
7 you explained the nature and elements of the
8 charges, the potential punishment, as well as
9 Mrs. Hill's constitutional rights?

10 MR. LEWIS: Yes, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: And have you explained to
12 her her right to have these cases submitted to the
13 Richland County and Colleton County Grand Juries?

14 MR. LEWIS: I have, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: You believe she understands
16 the charges, potential punishment, as well as her
17 rights?

18 MR. LEWIS: I do, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: And have you discussed with
20 her her right to have the Richland County case
21 heard in Richland County, and the Colleton County
22 cases heard in Colleton County?

23 MR. LEWIS: Yes, Your Honor, and we
24 waive jurisdiction.

25 THE COURT: Okay. You agree to have it

1 heard here in Calhoun County?

2 MR. LEWIS: Yes, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: All right.

4 EXAMINATION

5 BY THE COURT:

6 THE COURT: Are you Mrs. Hill?

7 MRS. HILL: Yes, sir.

8 THE COURT: How old are you?

9 MRS. HILL: Fifty-eight.

10 THE COURT: How far did you go in
11 school?

12 MRS. HILL: High school.

13 THE COURT: What do you do for a
14 living?

15 MRS. HILL: Now I'm currently retired.

16 THE COURT: Are you married?

17 MRS. HILL: Yes, sir.

18 THE COURT: Do you have any children?

19 MRS. HILL: I have two children.

20 THE COURT: Do you suffer from any
21 physical or mental condition that would prevent you
22 from understanding what we're doing today?

23 MRS. HILL: No, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Have you consumed any
25 alcohol, drugs, or other medication that would

1 | impair your ability to understand what we're doing
2 | today?

3 | MRS. HILL: No, Your Honor.

4 | THE COURT: You understand this plea is
5 | taking place here in Calhoun County, and you have
6 | the right to have both of the -- or three of the
7 | charges heard in Colleton County, and one heard in
8 | Richland County?

9 | MRS. HILL: Yes, Your Honor.

10 | THE COURT: And you agree to waive that
11 | and you want me to hear it here today?

12 | MRS. HILL: Yes, Your Honor.

13 | THE COURT: When you enter a guilty
14 | plea, you give up important constitutional rights.
15 | Those include your right to remain silent, not be
16 | compelled to testify against yourself. You also
17 | have a right to a jury trial where the State would
18 | have to prove you guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.
19 | In the event you exercise your right to a trial,
20 | you have the right to have Mr. Lewis cross-examine
21 | and confront witnesses against you and compel
22 | witnesses to appear and testify on your behalf.

23 | You also have the right to have these
24 | -- three of the charges presented to the Colleton
25 | County Grand Jury; one of them presented to the

1 Richland County Grand Jury, where in each of those
2 cases, 12 of 18 grand jurors would determine
3 whether or not your case goes forward.

4 Finally, you have the right to present
5 certain defenses which you waive or give up when
6 you pled guilty. Do you understand all those
7 rights?

8 MRS. HILL: Yes, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Understanding the rights
10 I've explained to you, do you wish to plead guilty
11 and give up those rights?

12 MRS. HILL: Yes, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: And you're pleading guilty
14 to two counts of misconduct in office; is that
15 correct?

16 MRS. HILL: Yes, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: And, Mr. Hubbard, the range
18 is not on here.

19 MR. HUBBARD: It's one year and a fine
20 of up to \$1,000. I apologize, Your Honor. I did
21 not put that on any of the sentencing sheets.

22 THE COURT: And the obstruction of
23 justice?

24 MR. HUBBARD: Carries up to ten years.

25 THE COURT: Up to ten. And perjury is

1 five?

2 MR. HUBBARD: Yes, sir.

3 THE COURT: And, Mrs. Hill, you
4 understand the potential sentences in each of those
5 cases?

6 MRS. HILL: Yes, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Now, do you fully
8 understand the nature of the charges against you
9 and the range of possible punishment?

10 MRS. HILL: Yes, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Are you satisfied with the
12 manner in which Mr. Lewis has advised and
13 represented you?

14 MRS. HILL: Yes, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Have you had the
16 opportunity to review all the evidence against you
17 and discuss it with Mr. Lewis?

18 MRS. HILL: Yes, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Do you need anymore time to
20 speak with him?

21 MRS. HILL: No, sir, I don't.

22 THE COURT: Do you believe he's done
23 everything for you that he could of or should have
24 done?

25 MRS. HILL: Yes, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Are you completely
2 satisfied with his services?

3 MRS. HILL: Yes.

4 THE COURT: Has anybody promised you
5 anything or threatened you in any manner to get you
6 to plead guilty here today?

7 MRS. HILL: No, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: You understand you got ten
9 days from today's date to appeal your guilty plea
10 and my sentence?

11 MRS. HILL: Yes, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Understanding the nature of
13 the charges and the consequences of a guilty plea,
14 how do you plead here today?

15 MRS. HILL: I plead guilty, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: To all four charges?

17 MRS. HILL: Yes, sir.

18 THE COURT: Tell me about it,
19 Mr. Hubbard.

20 MR. HUBBARD: Yes, sir. Thank you,
21 Your Honor. Your Honor, I'd like to begin, if I
22 would, explain why I'm here. This was an attorney
23 general's case. This is not a conflict case, but
24 Attorney General Alan Wilson wanted to bring me in
25 as a fresh set of eyes, let me build up my

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1 prosecution team, gave me the benefit of Ben Aplin,
2 one of his appellate lawyers; but I do have the
3 letter where he designated me to handle this case,
4 my team. It's dated July 10th of 2024. I'd like
5 to make that a Court's exhibit.

6 THE COURT: I guess maybe we should
7 explain as well why I'm here. I was appointed by
8 the Chief Justice with exclusive jurisdiction over
9 this case to hear it anywhere in the state.
10 Because by Chief Justice Kittredge's order, so I
11 guess that would explain that as well. So go
12 ahead.

13 MR. HUBBARD: And thank you for having
14 us here, Your Honor. I mean, for us, in talking
15 with Defense, it wasn't important where we handled
16 this, just as long as it was handled. But, Your
17 Honor, the authority given to me specifically, both
18 in the letter and vocally to me, was for me to lead
19 my team and for me to make that decision whether
20 there's anything to prosecute, if there was, to
21 proceed on it. I have carte blanche authority to
22 proceed as I saw fit.

23 So the team I have, I have my Deputy
24 Solicitor Suzanne Mayes who's got 30 plus years in.
25 Bruce Norton from my office an assistant solicitor.

1 And again, I mention Ben Aplin with the AG's
2 office, and frankly, I'd love to have an appellate
3 lawyer on every case I prosecute, so it's been
4 great having him. And I got my staff. I've got
5 Lauren Biggerstaff, who is my paralegal, and I've
6 had two investigators on this case. I've got James
7 Sully Sullivan and John Bishop from my office.
8 This was a collaborative effort. This is how we
9 approach our cases.

10 Our goal was to simply look through the
11 massive investigations that were conducted here and
12 to see what, if anything, rose to the level of a
13 crime. And if something did, could we prosecute it
14 successfully and prove it beyond a reasonable
15 doubt? There's two separate investigations.
16 Generally speaking, there was SLED, but also the
17 State Ethics Commission, each independently had
18 investigations into Mrs. Hill's conduct. Those
19 investigations overlapped to some extent.

20 The Ethics investigation began July of
21 2023, two separate complaints came in concerning
22 Mrs. Hill about potential misconduct during her
23 tenure as clerk of court. These investigations by
24 the Ethics Commission uncovered what they believed
25 to be numerous instances of ethical violations, and

1 | our job was to review those findings and see what,
2 | if anything, rose to the level of a criminal
3 | offense.

4 | The SLED investigation began
5 | January 5th of 2024, into potential criminal
6 | misconduct, again, for Mrs. Hill, involving both
7 | money matters, but also issues arising out of the
8 | trial, *State versus Murdaugh*. What we did is we
9 | met with all of the SLED investigators and with the
10 | investigators from the State Ethics Commission. We
11 | reviewed all their reports, including their
12 | interviews, the audio interviews, their video
13 | interviews. Some instances, we asked for
14 | additional information so we could have some
15 | clarity on issues. And our focus again was, what
16 | appears to rise to the level of a crime and can we
17 | prove it in a court of law beyond a reasonable
18 | doubt?

19 | I'm a firm believer that if I can't
20 | prove something in court, I'm waisting my time
21 | bringing a charge. Our review resulted in four
22 | separate charges, the ones that are before you.
23 | Two counts of misconduct in office, an obstruction
24 | of justice, and a perjury charge.

25 | Beginning with the first misconduct in

1 office, which is Indictment 289, that deals with
2 money and frankly, IV -- Title IV-D money, and some
3 other county money out of Colleton County, and --
4 where Mrs. Hill gave herself bonuses.

5 As you know, Title IV-D money is a
6 program -- a federal program and it's created to
7 help families get assistance with child support.
8 Has an enforcement mechanism where a clerk of court
9 can augment the salary of her employees for that
10 enforcement process. And, technically, it's
11 supposed to be, you give them a percentage of money
12 based on the percentage of work.

13 The money she was providing was styled
14 as a bonus. I didn't have an issue with that. But
15 the issue we did have was that she gave herself
16 this money as well. And, Your Honor, we believe
17 that as an elected official, you cannot augment
18 your salary. It goes directly to the statute that
19 she's indicted under and to the common law as well,
20 you cannot monetarily benefit from your elected
21 position.

22 And so over a period of September 1,
23 2021 through March 5th of 2024, she awarded herself
24 a total of \$9,880 in bonuses entitled IV-D money.
25 In addition, she awarded herself \$2,000 in bonus

1 money from her clerk fund, her Colleton County
2 clerk of court's office funds. We believe all that
3 was inappropriate because that augmented her
4 salary. The total restitution for that is \$11,880.
5 And I talked with the Defense, they do have a check
6 prepared today to pay that amount back and it's to
7 Colleton County. Colleton County will then put it
8 in the proper accounts.

9 As to the other misconduct charge.
10 June 7th of 2023, Mrs. Hill used her official
11 position as clerk of court to promote her book
12 *Behind the Doors of Justice, the Murdaugh Murders*.
13 She filmed the video promoting her book in her
14 office with her nameplate, clerk of court. She
15 clearly used the trappings of her office in this
16 video to promote her book. There was one purpose
17 of the video to sell books. The video was then
18 published through the Walterboro Chamber of
19 Commerce's official YouTube channel to put that
20 information out there to advertise her book.
21 Again, the theory behind this is the same as the
22 first misconduct charge, that she was using her
23 office to make money and you can't do that.

24 Those both charges arose out of
25 initially, out of the State Ethics Commission's

1 investigations. There was overlap of the SLED
2 investigations. Turning to the SLED
3 investigations, the primary one that we ended up
4 focussing on was what we've now got as obstruction
5 of justice which is the ten-year misdemeanor charge
6 under the common law.

7 While serving as clerk of court during
8 the trial of *State v. Murdaugh*, she provided
9 unauthorized individuals with access to sealed
10 exhibits in violation of a written order from the
11 judge, Judge Newman, but also is in violation of
12 her duties as clerk of court. Specifically,
13 January 14th of 2024, SLED was advised that there
14 were several graphic crime scene photos that were
15 designated as sealed exhibits during that trial and
16 they had been released improperly.

17 SLED also received photos of text
18 messages containing pictures of these sealed
19 exhibits. The contents of the photos indicated
20 they had been taken inside the Colleton County
21 courthouse. The investigation established that the
22 photographs of the sealed exhibits were posted on
23 Twitter after a member of the media shared the
24 photos with personal acquaintance. The meta data
25 of those photos, as Your Honor knows in the digital

1 age, you don't just have a photo, but we can tell
2 where it was made and when it was made.

3 The meta data from the pictures of the
4 sealed exhibits show the photographs were taken on
5 February 28, 2023 at 7:49 p.m. inside the Colleton
6 County courthouse during the trial of *State versus*
7 *Murdaugh*.

8 In fact, it was after hours, so there
9 was no business going on at the courthouse. The
10 security card access log show that Mrs. Hill's
11 security card was the one that allowed access to
12 the secured area where the photographs were taken
13 and that access card showed she was there from 7:46
14 p.m. to 8:06 p.m. So it puts her there at the time
15 these sealed exhibits were photographed and these
16 same photographs were then placed on Twitter and
17 shared with others.

18 An interview with a member of the media
19 who admitted being present at the time,
20 acknowledged that Mrs. Hill provided multiple
21 members of the media with unrestricted access to
22 evidence from the *Murdaugh* trial including those
23 sealed exhibits. Obviously, these were photos that
24 the jury was going to see or had, you know, were
25 presented in court, but the judge was obviously

1 very concerned about the public seeing them and any
2 type of influence that it might have on the jury.

3 There's nothing in the investigations
4 that shows that any juror members were affected by
5 this. There's -- obviously, it's a serious charge,
6 it violated a judge order, but also it threatened
7 the integrity of the trial itself.

8 The perjury charge arose much later.
9 That's a five-year felony. January 29th of 2024,
10 Mrs. Hill was called to testify in a hearing before
11 former Chief Justice Jean Toal regarding
12 allegations of improper jury contact during the
13 *Murdaugh* trial. While being questioned under oath,
14 there was an issue of some photos that were sealed
15 that improperly got out into the public. It turned
16 out, those had not been sealed. It was a mistake.
17 But what Justice Toal did is she then questioned
18 Mrs. Hill, specifically, about those sealed
19 exhibits.

20 She asked, quote, "Did you ever allow
21 anyone from the press to view the sealed exhibits?"
22 And this is under oath and Mrs. Hill's response
23 was, "No, ma'am."

24 Later during the same line of
25 questioning, Judge Toal asked, quote, "Were any

1 press people ever allowed to view exhibits, even
2 the sealed exhibits that you had on file?" And
3 again, Mrs. Hill's answer under oath was, "No,
4 ma'am."

5 That constitutes perjury and that's the
6 basis for that charge, Your Honor.

7 These investigations covered a wide
8 variety of actions. A number of them that we
9 looked at, but we didn't believe we had enough
10 evidence to proceed on including allegations of
11 wiretapping. The Court may know that Mrs. Hill's
12 son, Jeffrey Hill, right now has pending charges
13 for wiretapping. He served as an IT director for
14 Colleton County at the same time she was clerk of
15 court.

16 So when they were investigating that
17 complaint, SLED was also looking at Mrs. Hill to
18 see if she was part of that wiretapping. And the
19 -- this was back in 2023. As I said, Mrs. Hill
20 being subject to that investigation, there was
21 never evidence that she had knowledge. That's
22 something I would have to have to proceed forward.
23 It appeared clear that she had information from her
24 son that we know he gleamed from wiretapping, but
25 we had no evidence to link her and show knowledge

1 of wiretapping. And Your Honor knows that would be
2 a fatal charge, there would be a directed verdict
3 if I did indictment and try to proceed, I could not
4 prove that.

5 The other issue we looked at was
6 improper jury contact which was the basis of
7 Justice Toal's hearing. Of course, our standard of
8 review is very different from the one the Court
9 will take. For us, we were looking at, did action
10 take place that rose to the level of a crime and if
11 there was action there, could we prove it beyond a
12 reasonable doubt?

13 It's the way we approach everything.
14 That's what we do as prosecutors. Specifically,
15 there were three jurors who alleged its improper
16 contact. I will just refer to them by numbers,
17 because right now the only person I'm focused on
18 and the authority I have to focus on is Mrs. Hill.
19 But Juror No. 630, who actually served on the jury
20 and rendered a verdict on that case was one of
21 those. Juror 785, who was removed by Judge Newman
22 during the course of the trial before
23 deliberations, he removed for the purpose of
24 improperly discussing the case with others before
25 the deliberation began. And the final juror that

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1 brought allegation was Juror 741 who served as an
2 alternate and did not participate in the verdict.

3 These three jurors, particularly 785
4 and 630, have given multiple and different accounts
5 of Mrs. Hill's conduct. All of them have their own
6 variation of what they say happened and all of
7 them, at least in postinterview, specifically, 785
8 and 630, have changed somewhat in what they have
9 said.

10 None of them brought these issues up
11 before the court at the time. This information
12 came out after defense attorneys for Mr. Murdaugh
13 were looking and talking to jurors, nothing
14 improper on their part, they have a right to do
15 that, just at various issues they were looking at.
16 These inconsistencies that we have, particularly,
17 we have affidavits, but like one affidavit from 630
18 says, her vote, the pressure she felt was from
19 other jurors. She makes allegations about
20 Mrs. Hill's conduct, but that her vote was
21 basically the pressure she felt from other jurors.
22 That has since changed.

23 As Your Honor knows, if I were to
24 prosecute this case, all three of these jurors
25 would be my key witnesses. And the inconsistencies

1 would be insurmountable if I proceeded forward. In
2 addition, what SLED did, is they interviewed the
3 remaining 11 jurors. None of them corroborate
4 these three jurors. One juror out of that whole
5 bunch said something about Mrs. Hill said something
6 about the Defendant's demeanor. But in his
7 statement to SLED, he said, I didn't know what she
8 was talking about. My vote was my vote. It was
9 based on the evidence. So there was no -- nothing
10 to really go on with that juror.

11 Otherwise all of them denied everything
12 that was said in the backroom by Mrs. Hill. Many
13 of them said she was very professional when she was
14 back there and she only talked about the things
15 that the judge had sent her back there to talk
16 about. So they -- I would be facing a trial with
17 11 witnesses on a jury coming in to say everything
18 the State is saying is not true.

19 In addition, Your Honor, when Justice
20 Toal had her hearing in Columbia on jury misconduct
21 -- or Mrs. Hill's improper contact with the jurors,
22 she also interviewed each of those 11 jurors under
23 oath and again, they all reiterated that they
24 didn't hear anything and that it didn't affect
25 their vote.

1 The Court has a different standard,
2 obviously, and I know there is appellate issues in
3 *Murdaugh*, that's not my concern. My only and sole
4 concern was, what evidence do we have and then can
5 I prove it in a court of law beyond a reasonable
6 doubt? And the answer is, frankly, I don't know
7 that I have enough based on what we have to even
8 get an indictment. But I do know this based on my
9 35 years experience, and the collective experience
10 of the team we have, we cannot get a conviction
11 because we cannot prove that case beyond a
12 reasonable doubt.

13 Your Honor, those are the major issues
14 we looked at. As Mrs. Hill pleads today, she has
15 no record. And, again, other than the misconduct
16 charges being from common law to a statute, there
17 are no recommendations or negotiations as to the
18 sentence.

19 THE COURT: All right. Mrs. Hill, do
20 you substantially agree with the facts that the
21 Solicitor just told me?

22 MRS. HILL: Yes, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: I find there is a
24 substantial factual basis for the decision to plead
25 guilty. I find that her decision to plead guilty

1 is freely, voluntarily, and knowingly made.
2 Mrs. Hill understands she's giving up important
3 constitutional rights by pleading guilty and she
4 has had the advise in counsel from a competent
5 attorney with whom she says she's satisfied.

6 Mr. Lewis?

7 MR. LEWIS: Yes, Your Honor. I do want
8 to address just a couple of things regarding
9 sentencing. And I know Your Honor is familiar with
10 everything as laid out by Solicitor Hubbard.

11 First and foremost, Mrs. Hill is coming
12 here accepting responsibility here today. I think
13 Hubbard and the Attorney General would agree, all
14 of those investigations that were discussed, from
15 day one, Mrs. Hill has cooperated. And in every
16 courtroom that I've been in, cooperation was also a
17 benefit for the Defendant.

18 But I would be remiss if I did not talk
19 about what Mrs. Hill is not pleading guilty to.
20 Okay. Solicitor Hubbard hit this a little bit, but
21 frankly, for the benefit of a lot of people
22 watching, for the last few years, the allegations
23 about Mrs. Hill whether it be jury tampering or
24 wiretapping, that's not why we're here. That is
25 not for consideration for Your Honor. And that is

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1 not what she's accepting responsibility for. She's
2 accepting responsibility for what she did. And it
3 was serious crimes and serious misconduct and
4 that's why she's here.

5 But when we get rid of the noise
6 surrounding this and we actually look at the
7 conduct in front of Your Honor and, Your Honor, I'm
8 a product of federal court predominately, that's
9 kind of how I think about these sentencing issues.
10 And I think about the three goals of sentencing
11 that when someone is sent to you in what you're
12 doing and it's specific terms to prevent her from
13 reoffending, general terms, someone else sees this,
14 we don't want them to do it and then full justice
15 for the victims.

16 And when I look at that framework for
17 Mrs. Hill, well, there is truly no one who come in
18 this courtroom and say that Mrs. Hill, 58-year old
19 grandmother, a mother, has been employed her whole
20 life, helps almost every single day one of her
21 special needs grandchildren. Taught herself sign
22 language to help people including her god daughter.
23 Served her community and continues to do up to
24 today, is that any risk of reoffending? And the
25 fact that she has agreed from day one to accept

1 this perjury count as a felony, she's literally
2 logically prohibited from creating misconduct in
3 office again. I mean, she can't legally do it.

4 So the risk of reoffense, at least to
5 Mrs. Hill is nonexistent. Regardless -- of all
6 respect, regardless of your sentence. If I think
7 about general deterrence, I don't think anyone
8 who's watched the saga of what Mrs. Hill has gone
9 through over the last couple of years would think
10 this is a good idea. I mean, a lot of times we
11 think about collateral consequences in this
12 circumstance, she's lost her life. She's given up
13 her position. She faces shame every day. I mean,
14 she's frankly on home detention right now in her
15 own community just trying to avoid the hoopla
16 that's going on surrounding Mrs. Hill. I don't
17 think anyone in their right mind would think this
18 is worth it.

19 On top of that, Your Honor, for the
20 last consideration, you know, full justice to the
21 victim, the only victim that has been named is
22 Colleton County. And before she pled guilty,
23 Mrs. Hill has given a check for full restitution
24 for every single dime that she has of any monetary
25 benefit for any of these alleged schemes, she is

1 paying back. And that is her trying to write the
2 wrongs before her.

3 So when we look at it from those
4 circumstances, Your Honor, if we're thinking about,
5 you know, a punishment that's sufficient but not
6 greater than necessary to achieve those goals, a
7 noncustodial sentence is the only reasonable
8 sentence.

9 The last thing that I will touch on
10 before Mrs. Hill speaks to you is, we always try to
11 avoid sentencing disparities in these
12 circumstances. And unfortunately, in South
13 Carolina at least recently, we do have a history of
14 attorney general prosecutions of former public
15 officials involving misconduct in office. And when
16 I looked at prior sentences involving misconduct in
17 office involving significantly more money, taken
18 over a longer period of time, with more repeated
19 conduct than what we have here, these limited
20 bonuses, we have noncustodial sentences.

21 I even ran the federal sentencing
22 guidelines because I couldn't find a perjury
23 prosecution sentence fully, Your Honor. I couldn't
24 find one from state statistics. And I ran it under
25 the guidelines which I know from your prior

1 | experience you're familiar with, you know, that's a
2 | base level 14, three levels down, she's 11. That's
3 | a split sentence noncustodial even in federal
4 | court.

5 | So if we're looking at similar
6 | sentences given for these type of crimes for
7 | someone with no criminal history like Mrs. Hill,
8 | frankly, there isn't a precedent unless they know
9 | something otherwise, and I don't think they do, for
10 | a custodial sentence in this case, Your Honor, at
11 | least from a sentencing disparity.

12 | And the last thing I will say before
13 | you hear from Mrs. Hill, Your Honor, is, she's
14 | going to give a short statement and I've been on
15 | the other side of hearing these statements, I've
16 | observed a lot of sentencing's, I've been here
17 | where you hear, I'm sorry. And you hear, I'm
18 | shamed. And you hear, I'm going to do better. And
19 | a lot of times I think those statements fall on
20 | death ears because the person making them can't
21 | support it. You know, it's just something said
22 | after I get caught. That is not the circumstance
23 | that we have with Mrs. Hill.

24 | We have support she's trying to make
25 | things better. She literally is paying back every

1 dollar she owes. Since day one she's been
2 approached with this, she has cooperated. She has
3 done what she's supposed to do. This does not
4 minimize her crimes, but in the context of
5 committing them and who she is as a person and what
6 she's going to do, she's doing the right steps. So
7 when you do hear the statement from Mrs. Hill, I
8 hope that you see the support behind it. And we do
9 ask for any noncustodial sentence within your
10 discretion whether that probation, home detention,
11 anything else, but we do feel that a custodial
12 sentence in this case would result in a sentencing
13 disparity unwarranted by the circumstances, Your
14 Honor.

15 THE COURT: All right.

16 MRS. HILL: Thank you, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Mrs. Hill?

18 MRS. HILL: Your Honor, I want to say
19 that I am truly sorry and I do take full
20 responsibility for my actions. And I know that I
21 have let down this court, my community, and the
22 people that put their trust in me. There is no
23 excuse for my mistakes. I am ashamed of them and I
24 will carry that shame with me for the rest of my
25 life.

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1 I have already begun the hard work of
2 rebuilding the relationships that I damaged by
3 accepting responsibility, by seeking forgiveness
4 from those that I love, and by repaying any
5 improper bonus I received. I am committed to
6 making amends. To be honest and to living in a way
7 that reflect the values that I failed to uphold.

8 Your Honor, I respectfully would ask
9 for the opportunity to continue supporting my
10 family and to work every day to rebuild the trust
11 that I have broken.

12 MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else?

14 MR. LEWIS: No, Your Honor, nothing
15 from the Defense.

16 THE COURT: All right. Anything else
17 from the State?

18 MR. HUBBARD: No, sir, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Mr. Lewis, does she have
20 any time served?

21 MR. LEWIS: No, Your Honor. She was
22 there for about eight hours.

23 THE COURT: Oh, so a day. Okay.

24 All right. I have certainly taken in
25 what all has been presented here today and I can

1 tell you, Mrs. Hill, had Mr. Hubbard's team
2 uncovered any sort of jury tampering, there would
3 be a much different sentence here today. There's
4 probably nothing more sacred than our system than
5 the jury. And had there -- and I have known
6 Mr. Hubbard since his hair was dark and I had some
7 hair. So if his team -- and I know both the
8 lawyers on his team, and if they tell me at least
9 they couldn't prove it, then that's enough for me.

10 I'm sure you have -- and I know you've
11 been humiliated throughout this whole ordeal, but
12 of your own doing. I think a lot of folks got
13 swept up in the hoopla that was that trial and
14 unfortunately, you know, with the obstruction
15 charge, a lot of folks probably made a lot of money
16 that you didn't by virtue of that.

17 But with that being said, I would agree
18 with Mr. Lewis, I don't think this -- the conduct
19 here warrants an incarcerated sentence. So on the
20 misconduct in office on each of those, I find she
21 be committed to the Department of Correction for a
22 term of one year, provided upon the service of one
23 day time served. The balance will be suspended
24 with probation for three years. There would also
25 be 100 hours of community service associated with

1 one of those. I didn't put it on all the
2 sentencing sheets because I didn't want probation
3 to misinterpret it and give her 400 hours.

4 On the obstruction of justice, I find
5 she committed to the Department of Correction for a
6 term of five years, provided upon the service of
7 one day time served. Balance to be suspended with
8 probation for three years.

9 And, finally, on the perjury. I find
10 she be committed to the Department of Correction
11 for a term of five years, provided upon the service
12 of one day time served. Balance to be suspended
13 with probation for three years.

14 Good luck to you, ma'am.

15 MRS. HILL: Thank you.

16 MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Are y'all going to get
18 these sentencing sheets to the appropriate --

19 MR. HUBBARD: Yes, Your Honor, and if
20 we could, I think we have some SLED agents that are
21 actually from that area can take them, if the
22 Court's willing. And, also, the check that
23 Mrs. Hill has provided, if we could get that to
24 Colleton County today, if that suits Your Honor?

25 THE COURT: All right. That's fine

1 with me.

2 MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Your Honor.

3 - - -END OF REQUESTED TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD- - -

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

COUNTY OF CALHOUN)

I, KATHERINE A. SPIRES, Registered Professional Reporter for the First Judicial Circuit of the State of South Carolina, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate and complete Transcript of Record of the proceedings had and the evidence introduced in the trial of the captioned case, relative to appeal, in the Court of General Sessions for Calhoun County, South Carolina, on the 8th of December, 2025.

I do further certify that I am neither of kin, counsel, nor interest to any party hereto.

December 9, 2025

Katherine A. Spires

Katherine A. Spires

Registered Professional Reporter

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