

**JAN 20 2022**

MARGARET J. SELF  
CLERK, SC STATE GRAND JURY

**STATE GRAND JURY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	Case No. <u>2022-GS-47-01</u>
	)	
	)	
	)	
v.	)	<b>INDICTMENT FOR BREACH OF TRUST</b>
	)	<b>WITH FRAUDULENT INTENT AND</b>
	)	<b>COMPUTER CRIME</b>
	)	
RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	
_____	)	

At a session of the State Grand Jury of South Carolina, convened in Columbia, South Carolina, on January 20, 2022, the State Grand Jurors present upon their oath and charge as follows:

**COUNT ONE**  
**BREACH OF TRUST WITH FRAUDULENT INTENT**  
**VALUE \$10,000 OR MORE**  
**S.C. Code Ann. § 16-13-230**  
**CDR Code: 3424**

That RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH, in Hampton County, on or about December 21, 2011, did willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously convert to his own use, with intention to permanently deprive the owner of possession, goods to which he had been entrusted by the owner for the care, keeping, and possession, to wit:

While relying on his prestige and reputation as a lawyer, and the trust of Natarsha Thomas, who had come to MURDAUGH for help after a vehicular collision injured her, MURDAUGH caused a check with the description "Settlement Proceeds: Natasha Thomas", in the amount of \$325,000.00, to be made out to Palmetto State Bank and disbursed from the Peters, Murdaugh, Parker, Eltzroth, and Detrick, P.A. (PMPED) Client

Trust Account. MURDAUGH then used the \$325,000.00 trust account check – which was supposed to be compensation to Thomas for her injuries – to purchase a money order payable to a family member. Instead of compensating Thomas, MURDAUGH breached Thomas’ trust and converted the money to his personal use.

All in violation of section 16-13-230 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, and such conduct also involving a crime involving computer crimes, or a conspiracy or solicitation to commit a crime involving computer crimes, and such conduct having not been authorized by law.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

**COUNT TWO  
BREACH OF TRUST WITH FRAUDULENT INTENT  
VALUE \$10,000 OR MORE  
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-13-230  
CDR Code: 3424**

That RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH, in Hampton County, on or about August 29, 2012, did willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously convert to his own use, with intention to permanently deprive the owner of possession, goods to which he had been entrusted by the owner for the care, keeping, and possession, to wit:

While relying on his prestige and reputation as a lawyer, and the trust of Natarsha Thomas, who had come to MURDAUGH for help after a vehicular collision injured her, MURDAUGH caused a check with the description “Settlement Proceeds - Natasha Thomas”, in the amount of \$25,245.08, to be made out to Palmetto State Bank and

disbursed from the Peters, Murdaugh, Parker, Eltzroth, and Detrick, P.A. (PMPED) Client Trust Account. MURDAUGH then used the \$25,245.08 trust account check – which was supposed to be compensation to Thomas for her injuries – to purchase money orders also payable to Palmetto State Bank, and to otherwise obtain cash. Instead of compensating Thomas, MURDAUGH breached Thomas' trust and converted the money to his personal use.

All in violation of section 16-13-230 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, and such conduct also involving a crime involving computer crimes, or a conspiracy or solicitation to commit a crime involving computer crimes, and such conduct having not been authorized by law.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

**COUNT THREE  
COMPUTER CRIME  
VALUE MORE THAN \$10,000  
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-16-20  
CDR Code: 3110**

That RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH, in Hampton County, between on or about December 21, 2011, and on or about September 4, 2012, did wilfully, knowingly, maliciously, and without authorization and for an unauthorized purpose, directly or indirectly access or cause to be accessed a computer, computer system, or computer network for the purpose of: devising or executing a scheme or artifice to defraud; obtaining money, property, or services by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations,

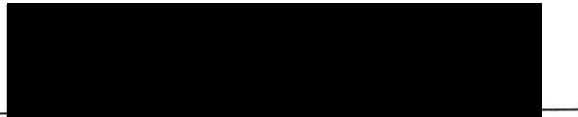
promises; and committing any crime; to wit:

To further his scheme to misappropriate a settlement proceeds that belonged to Natarsha Thomas, MURDAUGH requested transactions and thus caused the bank to access its systems in order to create money orders and other transactions. These transactions exceeded \$10,000.

All in violation of section 16-16-20 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, and such conduct also involving a crime involving computer crimes, or a conspiracy or solicitation to commit a crime involving computer crimes, and such conduct having not been authorized by law.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

A True Bill



FOREPERSON

*Alan Wilson*

ALAN WILSON (scw/jejj)  
ATTORNEY GENERAL