

**STATE GRAND JURY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MARGARET J. SELF  
CLERK, SC STATE GRAND JURY**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
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v. )  
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)  
)  
RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH, )  
)  
Defendant. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Case No. **2021-GS-47-32** \_\_\_\_\_

**INDICTMENT FOR BREACH OF TRUST  
WITH FRAUDULENT INTENT AND  
COMPUTER CRIME**

At a session of the State Grand Jury of South Carolina, convened in Columbia, South Carolina, on December 9, 2021, the State Grand Jurors present upon their oath and charge as follows:

**COUNT ONE  
BREACH OF TRUST WITH FRAUDULENT INTENT  
VALUE MORE THAN \$2,000 BUT LESS THAN \$10,000  
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-13-230  
CDR Code: 3423**

That RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH, in Hampton County, on or about November 3, 2017, did wilfully, 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 Randy Drawdy, MURDAUGH had Drawdy sign a settlement disbursement form which reflected the withholding of \$8,819.30 for medical bills and \$750.00 for private investigator services. Instead of using Drawdy's settlement proceeds for those stated purposes,

MURDAUGH instead caused a check with the description "Randy Drawdy Settlement Proceeds", and in the amount of \$9,569.30, to be made out to "Forge" and disbursed from the Peters, Murdaugh, Parker, Eltzroth, and Detrick, P.A. (PMPED) Client Trust Account. Forge Consulting, LLC, is a legitimate company often used by South Carolina lawyers to facilitate structured settlements. However, MURDAUGH then deposited the \$9,569.30 trust account check – which was supposed to be for the benefit of Randy Drawdy -- into a bank account he had created under the name "Richard A Murdaugh Sole Prop DBA Forge". MURDAUGH had created this bank account for the purpose of misappropriating funds belonging to others with the illusion that the money was being paid to the legitimate company Forge Consulting, LLC. Instead of compensating Drawdy, MURDAUGH instead breached Drawdy's trust and converted the money to his own personal use, for expenses including but not limited to cash, and checks written for himself and to an associate.

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  
COMPUTER CRIME  
VALUE MORE THAN \$1,000 BUT LESS THAN \$10,000  
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-16-20  
CDR Code: 3112**

That RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH, in Hampton County, between on or about November 3, 2017 and on or about September 6, 2018, 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:

MURDAUGH created a bank account under the name "Richard A Murdaugh Sole Prop DBA Forge". He created this account for the purpose of misappropriating funds belonging to others with the illusion that the money was being paid to the legitimate settlement planning company Forge Consulting, LLC. MURDAUGH caused a \$9,569.30 settlement disbursement check representing proceeds intended for the benefit of Randy Drawdy to be made out to "Forge". He then deposited the check into the Forge account under his control, and then conducted online banking transfers to convert settlement proceeds to his own personal use, which defrauded Randy Drawdy and laundered the proceeds. These transactions exceeded \$1,000 but did not exceed \$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

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*

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ALAN WILSON (scw)  
ATTORNEY GENERAL