

MARGARET J. SELF
CLERK, SC STATE GRAND JURY
GS-47-03

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

v.

RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH,

Defendant.

Case No. **2022-GS-47-03**

INDICTMENT FOR BREACH OF TRUST WITH FRAUDULENT INTENT AND COMPUTER CRIME

RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH,)
)
 Defendant.)
)

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

While relying on his prestige and reputation as a lawyer, and the trust of Arthur Badger, who had come to MURDAUGH for help after a vehicular collision that killed his wife, MURDAUGH caused a check with the description "Arthur Badger", in the amount of \$388,687.50, 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 \$388,687.50 trust account check – which was supposed to be compensation to Badger – to purchase a money order payable to a business associate. Instead of compensating Badger, MURDAUGH breached Badger's 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 Allendale County, on or about February 11, 2013, 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 Arthur Badger, who had come to MURDAUGH for help after a vehicular collision killed his wife, MURDAUGH caused a check with the description "Arthur Badger", in the amount of \$75,000.00, 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 \$75,000.00 trust account check – which was supposed to be compensation to Badger – to purchase a money order payable to a family member. Instead of compensating Badger, MURDAUGH breached Badger's 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
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 Allendale County, on or about February 12, 2013, 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 Arthur Badger, who had come to MURDAUGH for help after a vehicular collision killed his wife, MURDAUGH caused a check with the description "Arthur Badger", in the amount of

\$151,726.05, 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 deposited the \$151,726.05 trust account check – which was supposed to be compensation to Badger– into a conservator's account for a different person from which MURDAUGH had previously been allowed to borrow money. Instead of compensating Badger, MURDAUGH breached Badger's trust and converted the money to his personal use and to pay personal debts.

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 FOUR
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 Allendale County, on or about September 13, 2013, 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 Arthur

Badger, who had come to MURDAUGH for help after a vehicular collision killed his wife, MURDAUGH caused a check with the description "Estate of Donna Badger", in the amount of \$33,789.83, 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 deposited the \$33,789.83 trust account check – which was supposed to be compensation to Badger – into a conservator's account for a different person from which MURDAUGH had previously been allowed to borrow money. Instead of compensating Badger, MURDAUGH breached Badger's trust and converted the money to his personal use and to pay personal debts.

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 FIVE
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 Allendale County, on or about October 3, 2013, 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 Arthur Badger, who had come to MURDAUGH for help after a vehicular collision killed his wife, MURDAUGH caused a check with the description "Estate of Donna Badger", in the amount of \$101,369.49, 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 \$101,369.49 trust account check – which was supposed to be compensation to Badger– to purchase money orders payable to the conservatorship of another person and a family member. Instead of compensating Badger, MURDAUGH breached Badger's 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 SIX
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 Allendale County, on or about October 28, 2013, 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 Arthur Badger, who had come to MURDAUGH for help after a vehicular collision injured him and killed his wife, MURDAUGH caused a check with the description "Estate of Donna Badger", in the amount of \$101,369.49, 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 deposited the \$101,369.49 trust account check – which was supposed to be compensation to Badger – into the conservator's account for a different person from which MURDAUGH had previously been allowed to borrow money. Instead of compensating Badger, MURDAUGH breached Badger's trust and converted the money to his personal use and to pay personal debts.

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 SEVEN
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 Allendale County, on or about October 29, 2013, 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 Arthur Badger, who had come to MURDAUGH for help after a vehicular collision killed his wife, MURDAUGH caused a check with the description "Estate of Donna Badger", in the amount of \$50,684.75, 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 \$50,684.75 trust account check – which was supposed to be compensation to Badger – to fund a wire to a company and otherwise obtain cash. Instead of compensating Badger, MURDAUGH breached Badger's 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 EIGHT
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 Allendale County, on or about December 9, 2013, 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 Arthur Badger, who had come to MURDAUGH for help after a vehicular collision killed his wife, MURDAUGH caused a check with the description "Estate of Donna Badger", in the amount of \$33,789.83, 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 \$33,789.83 trust account check – which was supposed to be compensation to Badger– to purchase a money order payable to an auto dealer, and to otherwise obtain cash. Instead of compensating Badger, MURDAUGH breached Badger's 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 NINE
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 Allendale County, on or about December 18, 2013, 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 Arthur Badger, who had come to MURDAUGH for help after a vehicular collision killed his wife, MURDAUGH caused a check with the description "Estate of Donna Badger", in the amount of \$101,369.49, 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 deposited the \$101,369.49 trust account check – which was supposed to be compensation to Badger– into a conservator's account for another person from which MURDAUGH had previously been allowed to borrow money. Instead of compensating Badger, MURDAUGH breached Badger's trust and converted the money to his personal use and to pay personal debts.

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 TEN
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 Allendale County, on or about December 19, 2013, 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 Arthur Badger, who had come to MURDAUGH for help after a vehicular collision killed his wife, MURDAUGH caused a check with the description "Estate of Donna Badger", in the amount of \$50,684.75, 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 \$50,684.75 trust account check – which was supposed to be compensation to Badger – to fund a wire and purchase money orders for a personal use, and to otherwise obtain cash. Instead of compensating Badger, MURDAUGH breached Badger's 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 ELEVEN
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 Allendale County, on or about January 21, 2014, 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 Arthur Badger, who had come to MURDAUGH for help after a vehicular collision killed his wife, MURDAUGH caused a check with the description "Estate of Donna Badger", in the amount of \$50,684.75, 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 deposited the \$50,684.75 trust account check – which was supposed to be compensation to Badger – into MURDAUGH'S personal account at Palmetto State Bank. Instead of compensating Badger, MURDAUGH breached Badger's 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 TWELVE
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 Allendale County, on or about January 21, 2014, 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 Arthur Badger, who had come to MURDAUGH for help after a vehicular collision killed his wife, MURDAUGH caused a check with the description "Estate of Donna Badger", in the amount of \$33,789.83, 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 deposited the \$33,789.83 trust account check – which was supposed to be compensation to Badger – into MURDAUGH'S personal account at Palmetto State Bank. Instead of compensating Badger, MURDAUGH breached Badger's 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 THIRTEEN
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 Allendale County, on or about May 14, 2014, 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 Arthur Badger, who had come to MURDAUGH for help after a vehicular collision killed his wife, MURDAUGH caused a check with the description "Settlement proceeds", in the amount of \$50,684.75, to be made out to Bank of America and disbursed from the Peters, Murdaugh, Parker, Eltzroth, and Detrick, P.A. (PMPED) Client Trust Account. MURDAUGH then used the \$50,684.75 trust account check – which was supposed to be compensation to Badger – to pay debts he incurred upon a Bank of America credit card. Instead of compensating Badger, MURDAUGH breached Badger's trust and converted the money to his personal use and to pay personal debts.

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 FOURTEEN
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 Allendale County, on or about June 25, 2014, 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 Arthur Badger, who had come to MURDAUGH for help after a vehicular collision killed his wife, MURDAUGH caused a check with the description "Settlement proceeds", in the amount of \$101,369.49, to be made out to Bank of America and disbursed from the Peters, Murdaugh, Parker, Eltzroth, and Detrick, P.A. (PMPED) Client Trust Account. MURDAUGH then used the \$101,369.49 trust account check – which was supposed to be compensation to Badger – to pay debts he incurred upon a Bank of America credit card. Instead of compensating Badger, MURDAUGH breached Badger's trust and

converted the money to his personal use and to pay personal debts.

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

That RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH, in Allendale County, between on or about February 11, 2013, and on or about June 25, 2014, 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 cumulative total of \$1.325 million of settlement proceeds that belonged to Arthur Badger, MURDAUGH requested transactions and thus caused the bank to access its systems in order to create money orders and perform internal loan transactions. He additionally caused computer systems

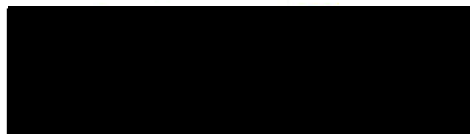
to be accessed to perform wire transfers, account transfers, credit card payments, and other transactions to further his scheme of converting this settlement money to personal use. These transactions exceeded \$10,000.

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

Alan Wilson



FOREPERSON

ALAN WILSON (scw/jejj)
ATTORNEY GENERAL