

**STATE GRAND JURY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

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

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

Case No. 2021-GS-47-35 —

**INDICTMENT FOR BREACH OF TRUST  
WITH FRAUDULENT INTENT, MONEY  
LAUNDERING, COMPUTER CRIME, AND  
FORGERY**

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 \$10,000 OR MORE  
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-13-230  
CDR Code: 3424**

That RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH, in Beaufort County, on or about August 31, 2018, 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 Jordan Jinks, a longtime friend of the family who had come to MURDAUGH for help, MURDAUGH did convince Jinks that Peters, Murdaugh, Parker, Eltzroth, and Detrick, P.A. (PMPED) had to hold on to a portion of the settlement proceeds in Jinks's case by

telling him that the money had to be retained to satisfy a medical insurance lien. MURDAUGH then caused a "Settlement Proceeds" check for \$85,000 and made out to "Forge" to be disbursed from the 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 \$85,000 "Settlement Proceeds" check – which was supposed to be compensation to Jinks for his injuries -- 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 Jinks, MURDAUGH instead breached Jinks's trust and converted the money to his own personal use, for expenses including but not limited to credit card payments, cash, and checks written to associates.

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 Beaufort County, on or about October 3, 2018, 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 Jordan Jinks, a longtime friend of the family who had come to MURDAUGH for help, MURDAUGH did convince Jinks that Peters, Murdaugh, Parker, Eltzroth, and Detrick, P.A. (PMPED) had to hold on to a portion of the settlement proceeds in Jinks's case by telling him that the money had to be retained to satisfy a medical insurance lien. MURDAUGH then caused a "Settlement Proceeds" check for \$65,000 and made out to "Forge" to be disbursed from the 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 \$65,000 "Settlement Proceeds" check – which was supposed to be compensation to Jinks for his injuries -- 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 Jinks, MURDAUGH instead breached Jinks's trust and converted the money to his own personal use, for expenses

including but not limited to credit card payments, cash, and checks written to associates.

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  
MONEY LAUNDERING  
VALUE \$100,000 OR MORE  
S.C. Code Ann. § 35-11-740  
CDR Code: 3939**

That RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH, in Beaufort County, between on or about August 31, 2018 and on or about November 6, 2018, did conduct financial transactions with property that he knew was the proceeds of, or was derived directly or indirectly from the proceeds of, unlawful activity, and he conducted these transactions with the intent to promote the carrying on of unlawful activity, and while knowing that the transactions were designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the nature, location, sources, ownership, or control of the proceeds of unlawful activity, 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 an \$85,000 settlement disbursement check, and a \$65,000 settlement disbursement check, which both represented proceeds intended for the benefit of Jordan Jinks, to be made out to "Forge". He deposited the two checks into the Forge account under his control, and then conducted financial transactions including online banking transfers and cash withdrawals to convert the \$85,000 and the \$65,000 to his own personal use. These transactions exceeded \$100,000 in a twelve month period.

All in violation of section 35-11-740 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  
COMPUTER CRIME  
VALUE MORE THAN \$10,000  
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-16-20  
CDR Code: 3110**

That RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH, in Beaufort County, between on or about August 31, 2018 and on or about November 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 an \$85,000 settlement disbursement check, and a \$65,000 settlement disbursement check, both representing proceeds intended for the benefit of Jordan Jinks, to be made out to "Forge". He deposited the two checks into the Forge account under his control, and then conducted online banking transfers to convert settlement proceeds to his own personal use, which defrauded Jinks and laundered the proceeds. 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.

**COUNT FIVE  
FORGERY  
VALUE \$10,000 OR MORE  
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-13-10  
CDR Code: 3437**

That RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH, in Beaufort County, on or about some time in August of 2018, did wilfully, unlawfully, and feloniously, falsely make, forge, or counterfeit any writing or instrument of writing; and did cause or procure to be falsely made, forged, or counterfeited any writing or instrument of writing; and did wilfully act or assist in the false making, forging, or counterfeiting of any writing or instrument of writing; and did utter or publish as true any false, forged, or counterfeited writing or instrument of writing; and did willingly act or assist in any of the above, with an intention to defraud any person; to wit:

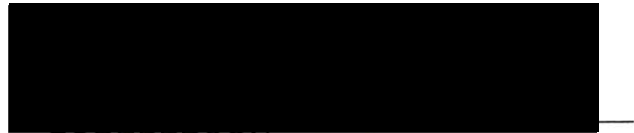
As part of his scheme to defraud Jordan Jinks out of \$85,000 of settlement proceeds in personal injury case that he was handling for Jinks, MURDAUGH caused to be forged Jordan Jinks's signature on a Peters, Murdaugh, Parker, Eltzroth, and Detrick, P.A. (PMPED) Disbursement Sheet on which Jinks supposedly acknowledged the disbursement. However, Jinks never signed the Disbursement Sheet and was unaware of and did not approve any disbursement, and MURDAUGH instead converted the settlement proceeds to his own personal use.

All in violation of section 16-13-10 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*

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ALAN WILSON (scw)  
ATTORNEY GENERAL