

STATE GRAND JURY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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

Case No. 2021-GS-47-34 _____

**INDICTMENT FOR BREACH OF TRUST
WITH FRAUDULENT INTENT, MONEY
LAUNDERING, 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 \$10,000 OR MORE
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-13-230
CDR Code: 3424**

That RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH, in Hampton County, on or about February 27, 2020, 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 Christopher Anderson, who had come to MURDAUGH for help, MURDAUGH caused a "Settlement Proceeds" check for \$750,000 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 \$750,000 "Settlement Proceeds" check – which was supposed to be compensation to Anderson 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 Anderson, MURDAUGH instead breached Anderson's trust and converted the money to his own personal use, for expenses including but not limited to loan 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
MONEY LAUNDERING
VALUE \$100,000 OR MORE
S.C. Code Ann. § 35-11-740
CDR Code: 3939**

That RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH, in Hampton County, between on or about February 27, 2020 and on or about July 3, 2020, 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 a \$750,000 settlement disbursement check, which represented proceeds intended for the benefit of Christopher Anderson, to be made out to "Forge". He deposited the check into the Forge account under his control, and then conducted financial transactions including online banking transfers and cash withdrawals to convert the \$750,000 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 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 February 27, 2020 and on or about July 3, 2020, 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 \$750,000 settlement disbursement check representing proceeds intended for the benefit of Christopher Anderson, to be made out to "Forge". He 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 Anderson 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.

A True Bill


FOREPERSON



ALAN WILSON (scw)
ATTORNEY GENERAL