

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: 2022-GS-47-23

**INDICTMENT FOR
OBTAINING SIGNATURE OR PROPERTY
BY FALSE PRETENSES,
MONEY LAUNDERING, AND
COMPUTER CRIME**

At a session of the State Grand Jury of South Carolina, convened in Columbia, South Carolina, on August 16, 2022, the State Grand Jurors present upon their oath and charge as follows:

**COUNT ONE
OBTAINING SIGNATURE OR PROPERTY BY FALSE PRETENSES
VALUE \$10,000 OR MORE
S.C. Code Ann. §16-13-240(1)
CDR Code: 3471**

That RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH did, in Hampton County, on or about May 16, 2017, by false pretenses or representation obtain the signature of a person to a written instrument and money or other property from another person, with the intent to cheat or defraud that person of money or property, to wit:

It was common for certain partners of Peters, Murdaugh, Parker, Eltzroth, and Detrick, P.A. (PMPED) to loan money to the firm at the beginning of the year to cover operating expenses until sufficient fee revenue was generated. Typically, partners who elected to loan money for this purpose were paid back with interest in April or

May. MURDAUGH was not a partner known to make such loans, but the PMPED accounting office erroneously wrote out a repayment loan check to MURDAUGH for \$121,358.63 that should have gone to MURDAUGH's brother who did make a loan. Instead of calling attention to the mistake, MURDAUGH instead went to the accounting office and through false representations had the office cut another check for the same amount and void the original one within the internal accounting system. MURDAUGH then deposited that replacement loan repayment check into his account and converted the funds to his personal use.

All in violation of section 16-13-240 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
OBTAINING SIGNATURE OR PROPERTY BY FALSE PRETENSES
VALUE \$10,000 OR MORE
S.C. Code Ann. §16-13-240(1)
CDR Code: 3471

That RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH did, in Hampton County, on or about October 12, 2018, by false pretenses or representation obtain the signature of a person to a written instrument and money or other property from another person, with the intent to cheat or defraud that person of money or property, to wit:

It was common for certain partners of Peters, Murdaugh, Parker, Eltzroth, and Detrick, P.A. (PMPED) to loan money to the firm at the beginning of the year to cover operating expenses until sufficient fee revenue was generated. Typically, partners who elected to loan money for this purpose were paid back with interest in April or May. MURDAUGH was not a partner known to make such loans, but the PMPED accounting office erroneously wrote out a repayment loan check to MURDAUGH for \$121,358.63 that should have gone to MURDAUGH's brother who did make a loan. Instead of calling attention to the mistake, MURDAUGH instead went to the accounting office and through false representations had the office cut another check for the same amount and void the one he had received within the internal accounting system. The firm did not put a stop payment with the bank on the original check. MURDAUGH then deposited that loan repayment second check into his account and converted the funds to his personal use. On or about October 12, 2018, MURDAUGH deposited the original loan repayment check intended for his brother, and converted those funds to personal use.

All in violation of section 16-13-240 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 MORE THAN \$100,000
S.C. Code Ann. §35-11-740
CDR Code: 3939**

That RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH, in Hampton County, between on or about October 12, 2018 and on or about November 15, 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:

It was common for certain partners of Peters, Murdaugh, Parker, Eltzroth, and Detrick, P.A. (PMPED) to loan money to the firm at the beginning of the year to cover operating expenses until sufficient fee revenue was generated. Typically, partners who elected to loan money for this purpose were paid back with interest in April or May. MURDAUGH was not a partner known to make such loans, but the PMPED accounting

office erroneously wrote out a repayment loan check to MURDAUGH for \$121,358.63 that should have gone to MURDAUGH's brother who did make a loan. Instead of calling attention to the mistake, MURDAUGH instead went to the accounting office and through false representations had the office cut another check for the same amount and void the one he had received within the internal accounting system. The firm did not put a stop payment on the original check. MURDAUGH then deposited that loan repayment second check into his account and converted the funds to his personal use. On or about October 12, 2018, MURDAUGH deposited the original loan repayment check intended for his brother. MURDAUGH then engaged in financial transactions to convert the money to personal use, including making online transfers, and writing checks to associates. 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 Hampton County, between on or about May 12, 2017 and on or about November 15, 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:

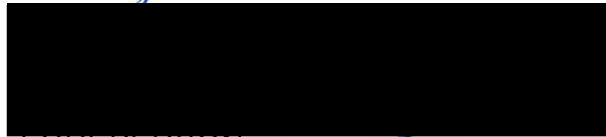
The PMPED accounting office accidentally wrote out a repayment loan check to MURDAUGH for \$121,358.63 that should have gone to MURDAUGH's brother who did make a loan. Instead of calling attention to the mistake, MURDAUGH instead went to the accounting office and through false representations had the office cut another check for the same amount and void the one he had received within the internal system. The firm did not put a stop payment on the original check. MURDAUGH then deposited that loan repayment second check into his account and converted the funds to his personal use. On or about October 12, 2018, MURDAUGH deposited the original loan repayment check intended for his brother, and converted those funds to personal use. MURDAUGH then made online transfers to convert part of this money to the personal use of himself and his family. 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)
ATTORNEY GENERAL