

The Supreme Court of South Carolina

Richard Alexander Murdaugh, Petitioner,

v.

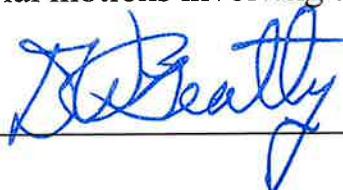
The Honorable Clifton B. Newman, in his capacity as a Circuit Court Judge, and the State of South Carolina, Respondents.

Appellate Case No. 2023-001704

ORDER

On November 1, 2023, Petitioner Richard Alexander Murdaugh filed in this Court's original jurisdiction a petition for a writ of prohibition seeking an order prohibiting the Honorable Clifton B. Newman from adjudicating Petitioner's motion for a new trial that is currently pending in the Court of General Sessions in Colleton County and from presiding over future trials of indictments against Petitioner. Petitioner also filed a motion to stay all trial court proceedings pending this Court's ruling on his petition for a writ of prohibition. On November 6, 2023, the State filed a return in opposition to the motion to stay, indicating Petitioner currently faces 101 financial and narcotics charges, thirteen of which are presently scheduled for trial beginning November 27, 2023, in Beaufort County.¹

The motion to stay is denied, and the trial scheduled to begin on November 27, 2023, shall go forward as planned. The writ of prohibition is denied as to future trials of indictments against Petitioner. As to Petitioner's pending motion for a new trial, the writ of prohibition is denied as moot, as Judge Newman has requested that a new judge be assigned to handle the post-trial motions involving the murder charges.



C.J.

¹ Case No. 2021-GS-47-30.

John Kithledge J.
John Cannon Fox J.
L. Jones Jr. J.
D. Franklin J.

Columbia, South Carolina
November 16, 2023

cc:

Richard A. Harpooltian, Esquire
Phillip Donald Barber, Esquire
James Mixon Griffin, Esquire
Margaret Nicole Fox, Esquire
Alan McCrory Wilson, Esquire
Donald J. Zelenka, Esquire
Samuel Creighton Waters, Esquire
Johnny Ellis James Jr., Esquire