

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER

C 2023-087

COMPLAINT FORM

COMPLAINANT:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

TITLE: N/A

RESPONDENT:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

TITLE:

BECKY B. HILL
101 HAMPTON ST, WALTERBORO, SC 29488
CLERK OF COURT - COLLETON COUNTY

Set forth in detail specific facts upon which you based your complaint against above-named respondent (only detailed, clear factual allegations will be considered. If additional space is needed, attach supplemental sheets).

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENTS.

If there is a finding of probable cause, the following documents become public record: the complaint, the response (if any) by respondent, and the notice of hearing. If a hearing is to be held, the final order and all exhibits become public record. If no hearing is held following a finding of probable cause, the final disposition of the matter becomes public record.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF Beaufort

Personally appeared before me [redacted] who, first being duly sworn, says that he/she has read and knows the contents of the above complaint and that the allegations contained therein, are true and correct to the best of his/her own knowledge, except for those matters therein based upon information and belief, and as to those he/she believes them to be true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

28 day of June, 2023

[Signature]

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission expires 05/31/2033



SEC-7 (Revised 3/2022)

REPLY TO: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 (803)253-4192

ELECTRONIC COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

C102form

To: South Carolina Ethics Commission

From: [REDACTED]

Reference: Colleton County Clerk of Court, Becky Bloom Hill

Date: June 26, 2023

This is the written statement of [REDACTED] regarding the unethical behavior of the Colleton County Clerk of Court, Becky Hill. Hill is the elected Clerk of Court and was in office at the time of the Murdaugh trial. Since the beginning of the trial, Hill has utilized her authority, the Colleton County Courthouse and taxpayer's money outside the scope of routine court business. Through interviews with various media sources, Hill admits she planned to write a book as soon as she discovered Murdaugh would be adjudicated in Colleton County. Hill also used her position to make contacts prior to trial that could assist her in this endeavor. These admissions can be discovered in local news sources and social media posts.

During the Murdaugh trial, Hill used her political position and authority to obtain confidential information and digital images of the defendant and others during the trial. At the conclusion of the trial, Hill was interviewed by members of Netflix and was responsible for releasing unredacted body camera footage. On the second anniversary of the Murdaugh murders, June 9, 2023, Hill appeared in a news article on walterborolive.com. In this article she acknowledged the release of her book "Behind the Doors of Justice". In this article Hill claims the book will detail "interactions with Murdaugh, attorney tensions, witnesses, and jurors." I submit that releasing this information to the public could have an adverse effect in upholding the conviction of Murdaugh in the event of an appeal.

It is well known; Hill allows guided tours of the Colleton County Courthouse during normal business hours for "donations". This information has been made on Facebook posts. In some of the posts, several citizens are seen posing for pictures in the holding cell Murdaugh occupied during the trial. Hill tells attendees the donations are to replace the front windows of the courthouse. It is also known a male tourist wrote a check to Colleton County in the amount of \$100.00 as a donation for a tour. Hill later ordered a staff member to alter the check by striking through Colleton County and adding her name to the check. Hill then deposited the check into her personal bank account. The denotations are unaccounted for as there are no receipts being issued and it is unknown what financial institution and account the donations are being held in.

On June 2, 2023, Hill permitted Hampton County Author, Michael Dewitt to promote, sell and sign copies of his newly released book, "Wicked Hampton County" inside the main courtroom of the Colleton County Courthouse, during business hours. Dewitt posted this information on Facebook, and it was also published on blufftontoday.com. In the post Dewitt indicates, "I will be selling and signing copies of Wicked Hampton County and talking about the S.C. Lowcountry's rich but often wicked history this Friday, June 2, during tours of the of the Colleton County Courthouse, from 9 a.m. to noon, and from 2-4 p.m. and again on June 16. Wicked Hampton County is already a bestseller among true crime new releases on Amazon, but this will be a great way to hear some of these wicked stories firsthand and meet the author, along with C.C Clerk of Court Becky Bloom Hill and her staff". This post by Dewitt is demonstrative as it admits routine court business being interrupted on multiple days, for several hours to permit Hill and her staff to interact with visitors while abandoning their duties and allowing the courthouse to be utilized for commerce. During these tours, Hill is also verbally promoting her book.

Hill has also permitted her staff members to leave work before the close of business to allow members of Netflix to set up equipment in the courthouse for the purpose of filming footage for an upcoming Netflix series.

As of June 14, 2023, there was a post in the Facebook group "Murdaugh Murders- Case Discussion". In the post there is a digital image of Alex Murdaugh resting on a bed with a book inside a holding cell. This post was uploaded by Melissa Gordon, photographer of Behind the Walls of Justice. Gordon stated this image was taken from the security camera monitor during the deliberations and minutes before Murdaugh's conviction. This shows Becky Hill permitted Gordon unimpeded access to the Colleton County Courthouse and facilitated her in taking digital images that no other citizen was permitted to have. Gordon was also allowed into the courthouse every day of the trial, even though it was admitted there was limited amount of seating for spectators and that entrance was permitted on a first come first serve basis. In the post there was a link to additional images. When the reader clicks on the link it takes the reader to the "Behind the Doors of Justice" website where Hill's book can be purchased. As the days passed and Hill continued to participate in interviews with multiple sources, she admitted to formulating a plan to write her book when she heard the trial would be held in Colleton County. She also admitted to meeting Melissa Gordon at the beginning of the trial and discovered she was a photographer. Gordon was soon hired to be the photographer of Hill's book. This information can be found by listening to the podcast Impact of Influence, episode 130: A Behind The Scenes Look at The Murdaugh Trial.

During the Murdaugh trial, Clerk of Court Becky Hill has unethically and potentially unlawfully used her political office to obtain and release confidential information. She has used her office and misallocated funds to promote her book and the book written by Michael Dewitt. Hill has neglected the office of Clerk of Court to take several trips to promote her book and to meet with Netflix to secure her position in the upcoming series. Hill's actions have displayed she is unfit to hold the office of Clerk of Court.

See Attached Documents.

Respectfully,

[Redacted Signature]

fort, South Carolina 29907

[Redacted Address]