

# What Murdaugh's Testimony Can Teach Us

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Few things capture the public's imagination and make headline news daily as does a jury trial, especially one for murder. The O.J. Simpson murder trial was perhaps the last century's most famous example.

The latest example of such a case is the murder trial of disgraced South Carolina lawyer Alex Murdaugh. Filled with Southern gothic details of a gruesome double homicide with bodies found outside a hunting dog kennel, theft of millions of dollars, and at the center of it all a powerful family with influence in local law enforcement and the judicial system. The case is the subject of daily, national news coverage in leading papers such as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, as well as being a prominent feature on nightly network newscasts and cable news. For those who still can't get enough, there are also multiple podcasts devoted to the case.

It's also a case about which everyone has an opinion. But rather than offer an opinion about the merits of the case or predict an outcome (which seems likely to come this week), I wanted to offer some observations, from a trial advocacy perspective, of the conduct of the trial by the lawyers for the prosecution and the lawyers for Mr. Murdaugh.

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