Callie Rhoads
The Public Corruption Analyst

Mindy: [00:00:00] Welcome to Analyst Talk with Jason Elder. It's like coffee with an analyst, or it could be whiskey with an analyst reading a spreadsheet, linking crime events, identifying a series, and getting the latest scoop on association news and training. So please don't beat that analyst and join us as we define the law enforcement analysis profession.

One episode at a time.

Jason: Thank you for joining me. I hope many aspects of your life are progressing. My name is Jason Elder, and today our guest has 15 years of law enforcement analysis experience. She spent most of her time with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement analyzing fraud. She holds a bachelor's degree in criminology from Florida State University.

Here to talk about, among other things, analyzing. Public corruption. Please welcome Callie Rhodes. Callie, how we doing? I'm

Callie: good. Thanks for having me.

Jason: I am looking forward to this. We've been talking about this for a while. For the listeners, Callie is my neighbor, and so we actually live, our houses are [00:01:00] probably just a a hundred yards apart or so, and we have an interesting story of how we met, so we'll get to that at the end.

But you had quite a career as an analyst with FDLE.

Callie: Yeah, I did and I loved it very much. But stuff had to change.

Jason: Yeah. And we'll get into all that. 'cause I'm really looking forward to your story, your journey and your contributions to the profession. So how did you discover the law enforcement analysis profession?

Callie: Well actually when I started at Florida State University, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. And I was really big into health and science and obviously growing up in Tallahassee, Florida, I also really liked climb listening to stuff

that had happened. With Bundy and all the different things that had happened around here with University of Florida and then whatnot.

And so when I started at FSU, I was a dietetics major and quickly learned I did not like the classes that much and was kind of lost and didn't know what I wanted to do. And I took [00:02:00] a controversy class called the History of Serial Killers. Controversial because it was a history slash criminology class.

And so it, I think they only had it for two semesters before the the school shut it down. But anyway, when I was in that class, I was like, oh my God, I love it. I, loved everything about it. And I was like, okay, I definitely need to be, doing something with criminology. So I got outta dietetics, went to criminology, still loved the science aspect.

Found out about doing forensics nursing. So I graduated from FSU with my criminology degree, and then I turned around and went to nursing school. Mm-hmm. So while I was in nursing school, I met with a coroner down in Broward County. And a forensics nurse, by the way, is somebody who works with the coroner.

And when the coroner is extremely busy you. The one that gets called out and goes to the dead body and you perform what all you need to do, the, the measurements, the temperature and whatnot. So but when I talked to this corner down in Broward County, he was like, oh my God, you'll be [00:03:00] unstoppable, but you realize you have to move to a really big city.

I'm not a big city girl. Yeah, like he was like, you got into somewhere where there's enough crime. And I was like, oh, well that makes sense. So I, while I was in nursing school, worked in pediatrics for a little bit, did realize I did not like working with people who are alive when they're sick and hurt.

It's extremely sad and hard and, yeah. So when I was finished with everything, I wasn't sure what to do. So I applied and started in the DNA database at Florida Department of Law Enforcement. And I worked in the DNA database doing. Forensic style stuff for about a year.

And realized if I ever wanted to advance in that area, I was gonna have to go back to school again for either chemistry or biology. And while I was there, I am extremely outgoing and would talk to people all the time and the break room or down in the cafeteria. And I happened to meet a supervisor who was in public corruption and they were like, you have to come over and interview for this analyst position.

So I [00:04:00] did and I got the job. And that's how. I got there. It's a weird way and it took me a long time to get there, but but then I, I was there for the next 15 years.

Jason: Yeah. , You're jumping on a lot of different professions before landing on the one that you did. Just quickly back on the.

FSU course on Serial Killers. Was it that it was controversial because people felt that , the course was glamorizing serial killers?

Callie: No, it's because it was, it. It was really a history class, but criminology majors were allowed to take it. Mm-hmm. And so I guess it was something to do with your credits, but in all honesty, I took two classes that really stood out to me at Florida State and that was one of 'em.

And it was, oh my god, the most amazing class. Just the fact that you could go and look in the newspaper, which I don't know if people read newspapers anymore, but you could go and look in the [00:05:00] newspaper every single day and you can find somebody that is classified as a serial killer. Like you could actually find someone who fits the profile of a serial killer.

And it was really scary. I was like, wow, this is crazy that all of this is happening. Not just here in Florida, but like all, all over. But it was really easy to see. Wow. I mean, we need more people in the criminology field to help.

Jason: Yeah. And you mentioned, you mentioned Ted Bundy. I'm sure that's doesn't sit well with some folks giving that Florida State.

Students were, some of his victims?

Callie: Oh yeah, for sure. I actually joined a sorority and my mom was, she was hilarious. She was like, please, whatever you do, do not join Ca Omega. And I was like, are you kidding me? But I, and I did not, I was not a Cayo, I was a Kappa Delta, but I wound up living with a bunch of Chios and I loved them so much, and I was in the house all the time.

And I can tell you, it is not haunted or anything like that at all.

Jason: Yeah. All right. So I'm curious to know the, someone said, Hey, [00:06:00] oh, you gotta come over here to this corruption analyst position. What did they see in you that they thought, oh, she would be a good fit for this analyst position?

Callie: Well, I think when most analysts I've met that are good analysts, we all kind of have similar personalities in the sense that we're all pretty organized. We're type A, I'm very into a routine and I would see this same supervisor and I almost the same time every day. I had my routine and I'm, and I'm also outgoing when I need to be.

And I'm reserved when I need to be. And I think that they could, they saw that in me. And honestly that's kind of what makes a good analyst is somebody who's able to stay organized talk when they need to be quiet, when they need to. And I don't know. I mean, that's, that's all I can figure,

Jason: . so. Take us back to the first couple weeks. You, you get the position, you're coming into the office for the first time. This obviously isn't something that you foresaw yourself doing [00:07:00] as we talked about your journey just to get here.

So just talk about your, your walking into the office for the first couple weeks, what you were experiencing and what you felt.

Callie: So there's a bunch of different personalities. Or, or at least there was for me in public corruption at FDLE, there was a bunch of different personalities. So for me it was kind of getting to know everybody and seeing who I sit with the best inspector?

Mm-hmm. You, you definitely, in my office there was multiple inspectors and you don't get to pick and choose who you work with, however the inspector kind of does. And so you would kind of see who you fit with and, and a lot of these inspectors are retired. Police officers and, and sheriff's department and from wherever all the different walks of life.

So, and, and from all over, most of them from Florida, but just from all over parts of Florida. And so they're all very different. Some were narcotics, some were homicide different things. And so that was the biggest thing for the first couple weeks was for me to kind of [00:08:00] see where I fit in and, and who I really clicked with.

And I'll tell you the thing about public corruption that if somebody wanted to do public corruption, and I figured this out really fast the first couple weeks, is you don't have to be fantastic at math, but you need to understand. How math works, like you need. Mm-hmm. I mean, it's a lot, it's a lot of financial crime.

Jason: Mm-hmm. Yeah. So I haven't had too many analysts that had analyzed corruption. We'll, we will talk about Kelly Kimsey, 'cause that's also our neighbor and I had her on the show and so she, went through her, part, quickly go through and, and talk about how the cases got put on your desk.

Callie: Yeah. So, and I'm sure Kelly talked about it quite a bit. So in our office, most of the cases we received were through they were either governor appointed.

So the governor reached out. The governor's office reached out to our office and said, Hey, we've gotten some complaints against so and so. We need to open an [00:09:00] investigation. Or we would sometimes get letters or complaints through mail, phone calls and then we would take them to our commissioner and we would decide, okay, is this worth us working into?

And so that's kind of how our office would. Get an investigation. Most of them, like I said, were governor appointed. And we, the cool thing about executive investigations where public corruption was housed is that we work for the whole state of Florida. So a lot of people who know anything about Florida Department of Law enforcement know that there's rocks, meaning that there's Tallahassee and Miami and Orlando.

And so those rocks only work within those areas. So Miami only looks in the Miami area. Tallahassee only looks in Tallahassee area, but executive investigations is part of headquarters. And so we got to investigate the whole state of Florida. So what would happen is we would get something from the governor and then we would then have a meeting and our supervisor would go, okay, hey, Rose Davis [00:10:00] at Fortune, you're gonna work with Callie and you guys are gonna work this next case.

And the one of the first cases I worked was with Rose Davis and actually Mark Perez. And and it was the Broward County Sheriff. And that was a really big one.

Jason: Yeah. And I wanna get to that 'cause we, we have several analyst badge stories to, tell today. But I'm, curious, as you're getting started here, the process is well established as you're walking in.

Right? Yeah. Like they're teaching you like, okay, here's all the standard operating procedure of how we do things, you're there to learn and to to be the process. It's not like you're trying to build the rocket ship as it's moving.

Callie: Yeah, no, so Kelly was a senior analyst and so she definitely taught me and helped me figure out like, Hey, you're gonna write so many reports we're gonna, when we do subpoenas, this is how we do it, and so forth.

But I will say every analyst who comes into public corruption, and there's only [00:11:00] been a few of us will at least while I was there, has their own way of doing things and we're all a little bit different, which is fantastic. And so, yeah. So we are not recreating. The wheel or having to do something like that.

But we all did contribute something that made us all a little bit unique to the investigation.

Jason: . What would you say is the difference between the, the role of the analyst and the role of the inspector? Because I think as we go through these cases, what's being asked of you, you get into a lot of investigator type tasks.

Callie: Yeah. So I will say that we would get a lot of these guys, mainly mainly men. There was definitely some women, Rose Davis, Michelle Pittman . But a lot of these inspectors would come in and they would be coming from police departments and sheriff's department and so forth, and they weren't used to.

The type of analyst that we are. And so what I mean by that is we did a lot more from what they have said. I only worked as an analyst for this one area, [00:12:00] so, but from what everything we were always told is that we did more than the average analyst. So we didn't do just the normal I don't know, the reports and whatnot.

And the, the I'm trying to think of the, with all the pictures. What's that called? The,

Jason: yeah, when you have to tech. Yeah. So I think typically most analysts, it's, it's all data driven. You're behind a desk, you're, you're dealing with the computer and you're doing flow charts, or you're doing link charts and maps reports and, and digging into the data.

Callie: Well, no. Yeah. So, yeah. Sorry. And the word I was looking for was the lineups. I was having a brain fart on that, but yeah. In our office we actually we traveled with them.

We went with them in interviews and we went with them and on the search warrants, and we went with them. Sometimes when they arrested people, I mean, we were there for everything. And I, I, from everything I've heard, that's.

Not normal, but that's what we did. So so, and I was there multiple times when the [00:13:00] person was arrested and sometimes we would go with them.

I don't even know if I'm allowed to say this, but on, like, on lookouts and whatnot, and so, mm-hmm. Yeah. I mean, it was, it was different in our office.

Jason: Yeah. Well, I mean, I don't know what they can do to you now. Yeah. You're probably okay to say that, so,

Callie: yeah.

Jason: But I, I do feel that it is unique, and I mean, in terms of the analysts and the guests that I've had on there, I mean, a lot of people will say we really encourage our analysts to get out from behind the desk, go out in the real world, see how the real world works.

But here it seems like it's well established that hey, you're, you're, you're spending most of your time out and about, so it's not, you don't have to tell us that. Oh my God, we're already doing it.

Callie: Yeah. And some of the cases that I'll touch on, like when, so the first case that we're gonna talk about probably the Ken Jenne case.

I mean, I lived in Fort Lauderdale area, the Miami area. Gosh. I mean, we were [00:14:00] there every week for at least a year. I mean, it was crazy meeting with the prosecutor and sitting in on interviews and I mean, we were there a whole heck of a lot, a lot, a lot.

Jason: All right, well let's get into it then. So this brings us to your analyst, bad stories, and for those that may be new to the show, the, the analyst badge stories, the defining case or project that an analyst works.

And we got four pretty big ones today that we're, we're gonna get through and we're gonna spend most of our time today talking about these cases. So you, mentioned Ken Jenne, sheriff of Broward County, and I'll just let you take it over, had it get on your desk and we'll go all the way to the end.

Callie: Yeah. So, Ken, Jenne, he started off as a prosecutor for the Broward County State Attorney's Office. And then did some stuff in between that. And then , he was a senator for a while, for Florida and the Florida Senate. And then he started in the private sector as an attorney.

And during his time our governor appointed [00:15:00] him to be the Charles appointed him to be the sheriff of Broward County. The reason why this is a big deal is because the Broward County Sheriff's Office at this time when he was appointed, had the biggest budget of any sheriff's office in all of the state of Florida.

Like, I mean, he had, he had so much money that and he did a lot of wonderful things for the Broward County Sheriff's Office. Well so we got the governor's office came to our office and said, Hey, we heard that he is doing something funny with money and. Maybe stealing some money. And they, we were just getting all kinds of complaints against 'em.

And so he assigned the case to mark Rez, Rose Davis and myself and Ed Fortune also. Ed Fortune was part of it also. And I wanna say Ed Fortune was on it first, and then Mark Perez came in. But anyway, yeah, and so it was, the funny thing about it is Ken Jenne was very arrogant when we first started the investigation.

I think he felt like, okay, I'm not doing anything wrong and these guys don't know [00:16:00] what they're doing. So we wound up interviewing, I don't even know so many different people. And meeting with, like I said, the prosecutors multiple times. And what ideally wound up getting him caught is he had a secretary and he had an assistant that worked for him.

And they were, I mean, even they were making decent money and whatnot, and they were very loyal to him, but they were also normal citizens. And so in our interviews with them, we finally got one of 'em to crack. Mm-hmm. And that crack is what kind of led to the downfall. They had lied to us and lied to us about where some of the money was coming from.

Like where, how are we getting certain checks, like where stuff like that. And and one. One, I can't remember. I think it was his secretary. We were sitting in the interview, it was me, Rose Davis and Ed Fortune. And there was one check that was like, just kind of standing out there. 'cause you subpoena all these bank records and you have 'em all.

But some of 'em the subpoenas are only so good. Like, you get these records and sometimes [00:17:00] there's holes in 'em. So there was this one deposit that was super questionable and I can't remember now what I wrote, but I wrote down a question and I passed it over to Rose Davis and Rose asked this question to his secretary, and her answer was so good that Ed Fortune actually fell out of his chair.

And it was, and it was the question, it was like the million dollar question. And her answer is what literally gave us the lead to where we needed to start digging. And then after that. It was awesome. It just, everything started falling into place. And, and you don't remember the, you

Jason: don't remember the question or the answer?

Callie: No, I remember because this was gosh oh six something, yeah. Yeah. But I remember basically asking something about this one specific check My question I think honest to God was who wrote this check or where did check number, blah, blah, blah, come from, or something like that.

But it literally was me writing down the question, passing it to Rose Davis. Rose Davis asked it. [00:18:00] She spit out the answer and then Ed Fortune fell out of his chair.

It was awesome. It was so awesome. And then that was it. That blew up the case. The one question, and it was awesome because it was my question.

And so This is why I think it's so important to get to know your. Your inspectors, , analysts and inspectors don't think the same. Mm-hmm. So I'm, not sworn. So I don't think the same way that, , they think and they, usually are not like a type A personality like most analysts are.

Mm-hmm. And so we think very differently. Mm-hmm. So even though the question was such a simple question and the three of us had been interviewing these people for months now. It just, it clicked in my brain to go, oh, wait a minute. Did we ever ask this? And, but that was the, that question was the one that like finally just got everything moving in the right direction.

And then shortly after that we were able to we went to grand jury and charged Ken Jenne with what did we charge him with? We charged him with something kind of crazy. It was, I wanna say money laundering charges and tax evasion. And [00:19:00] what really got him is he got charged with one count of mail fraud.

And that mail fraud wound up being the federal crime. And so because of that, we got him on to go to federal prison instead of just, state level. So that was pretty cool.

Jason: I'm having trouble understanding what they were doing. So I, I. Were they essentially money laundering to get money?

Yeah. Back to themselves. Is that how it was working? Yeah. Or what, what was their scheme?

Callie: Yeah, so they were doing money laundering, so he was doing a couple different things and my, when it comes to this case, my brain's a little fuzzy. I mean, this was like the biggest case I'd ever worked in my entire life, still to this day.

Mm-hmm. Because he was such a big he was such a big figure. I mean, not literally, I mean, he's actually a fairly short guy, but LCD was such a big figure for the sheriff's department and whatnot. But yeah, so he was, and here's a good example of one of the things he was doing. So he would literally have his secretary cash in her sick leave and her annual leave.

'cause a lot of, a lot of agencies will allow you to do that at the end of the year. Mm-hmm. She would cash [00:20:00] that, that in turn around and write him a check for all her, leave for all the money she had gotten for it. Give him those checks and then he would give her a pay raise or a bonus, the bonus money he would get from different donors who would give him money.

And it was really, it was really weird to see all of this. And there was a, there was a big wig that he was really tight friends with and that was the guy, and I can't remember his name now, but that was the guy who had written this one specific check. And once we knew that, and it was like a hundred thousand dollars check or something crazy.

But that one check, and this guy is, like I said, he was the one. That we realized that's what he was doing. They were, it is just, he was using his secretary and his assistant to cash in a lot of checks, and then they were turning around and writing him checks.

Jason: Hmm.

Callie: Really weird. It was, was really weird.

Jason: That does seem really weird. That doesn't seem like that would, the juice would be worth the squeeze on that, but I'm, [00:21:00] I'm assuming we're dealing with hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Callie: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. There was a lot more money involved. Like, I mean, it was, it was a lot of money and the reason why I brought up how arrogant he was in the beginning is because.

I think for him as a private attorney, he was making really good money. Mm-hmm. And then when he was appointed the sheriff of the Broward County, I mean, it's not like he was making pennies, but the difference in what he was making from a private attorney to when he was appointed sheriff was huge.

He was not making nearly the same amount of money. And I think for him, like he loved the power aspect of being the sheriff, but, but he wanted to keep that same lifestyle and he wasn't able to obtain that lifestyle. Not, not with the money he was making. Mm-hmm. So he had to figure out a way to get more money.

And that's when he started leaning on his secretary and his assistant. And I mean, it was just, it was crazy. It was really, really crazy. And if, if he could have just been okay with eating mac and cheese at at night, every now and then, like he would've been fine.

But he just could not. He could not. And then when he was [00:22:00] convicted, I actually sat there, I was in the courtroom when they convicted him and they told him his sentence and whatnot. But my heart actually kind of felt bad for him because from when we first started investigating him, he was like this very arrogant.

Like, oh, you can't touch me guy. Mm-hmm. And then at the end we had kids and a wife, and my heart actually kind of felt bad for him. And you could see it was almost like he realized, okay, I was wrong. I'm an idiot. What was I thinking? You know? And. I don't ever usually feel bad for, for the bad guy.

But I did, I kind of feel bad for him at that moment, only because I think he realized, yeah, that was really stupid.

Jason: . So one of the big themes that we're gonna be talking about today is these are very public cases that we're talking about here. And so , as you're going through this investigation, obviously a ton of information behind the curtain, behind the scenes, and then you have what the media is saying, what the general public is saying.

So as the, as you were still in the, the [00:23:00] middle of the investigation, was he still well supported at this time? Did he have a lot of good public sentiment there that people were, . Defending him or had did this did he have the reputation where like, oh, he no one trusted him.

No one liked him.

Callie: , It was both like he mm-hmm. Former senators, Senator Butterworth, I think, wrote us a letter asking us to be lenient on him. And so yeah, no, I mean, he, he had a lot of support. Mm-hmm. But then, but then on the other side like a lot of the people who worked underneath him, like his undersheriff and whatnot, I, I wanna say I remember all of them being like, yeah, no, he's, he's arrogant.

He's kind of a jerk. And, and once again, I think it was that whole power thing. He had so much power. It went to his head. And and I think that that's where the public didn't love him as much, but the former people he worked with in the private sector, the senators , when he actually had a moral compass, those people really still cared about him and, [00:24:00] wanted him.

To not go to prison.

Jason: , It's interesting and you just people don't know everything that goes on behind the scenes. , I just looked it up real quick. It looks like he, he served one year in, one day in federal prison.

Yep. And yeah.

Callie: Yeah. And it was like, and I'm telling you like tax evasion and tax evasion is what got 'em, but that it was this one single check that went outside of the state of Florida. That was mail laundering that got 'em. Oh, okay. That one, that one check. And that's how we got 'em for federal.

Jason: Yeah. Yeah. So it, but

Callie: it's so cool. Yeah. 'cause this one was the biggest, like, this was just such a huge case. I mean, it was insane. It was, it was all over the news. I remember sitting in a news interview and it was a big deal. It was a really big deal. You mentioned Ken Jenne today, and people up here are like, I don't know who that is.

And even people down there, I mean, they have to be closer to my age to remember who he is.

Jason: From the beginning, was it pretty obvious that something shady was going on?

Callie: No, it [00:25:00] was very obvious that he overspent what he was bringing in. Mm-hmm. So and we always this, I mean, you hear it in TV shows and in movies, but it is a fact.

It is 100% you follow the money. And in public corruption, that's what we did. And so he had multiple bank accounts, and so that's what we had to do. We had to subpoena his bank accounts and we all to, we also had to subpoena his secretaries and we had to subpoena his assistant, and we had to subpoena his wife.

And you could, you literally could see, and once again, I'm, I'm saying multiple accounts, like he didn't just have one account. Mm-hmm. And that was what, so what I would do is I would literally. It was so tedious, but I would enter all of this into a spreadsheet, so it took me forever. Because this is before they would give it to you electronically.

Yeah. So I would enter all of this into a spreadsheet and then I would combine the spreadsheets and then that's kind of where you would start seeing some, a little bit of a pattern. But what we saw first was the fact that he was overspending what he was making. And if you [00:26:00] are overspending what you're making, but you're still living, living like this really.

Lavish lifestyle. Where's the money coming from? Yeah, you're getting money from somewhere. And so that's what we could see. And when I say like, he lived lavishly, like they never ate at home. I mean, he ate out breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Like it was a joke. 'cause I, I literally was like, how can you afford to do this?

I mean, breakfast, lunch, dinner, I mean, it was crazy trips they drove nice cars and I don't know. So. Yeah.

Jason: , Was it this case, we talked about it briefly in the prep call yesterday. Was this the case where you won an award for?

Callie: Yeah, so, it was me and Mark and Rose Davis when at the end of all of this, we won law Enforcement of the year, which was hilarious.

'cause I'm not swarm, but I like was like, this is the coolest thing ever. But I mean, it was a, it was a very hard case and, and I'm not kidding, like grand jury's kind of scary and mm-hmm. And then meeting with the prosecutors as much as we did, and being in traveling as much as we did, I think like they [00:27:00] just were so, so appreciative.

And when, and when I say that this sheriff was such a bigwig, I mean, he was, he was huge for Florida and so taking him down was just something. I mean, it was, it was like Watergate, like taking him down was insane. Especially for

Broward County. So yeah, it was, it was pretty cool to win that, especially since I'm not sworn.

Jason: Yeah. Wow. No, that is, that is impressive. So let's move on to the second case then. Mark Foley, the former US representative of Florida.

Callie: Okay. So, yeah. So Mark Foley was a member of the United States of House of Representatives for the state of Florida. Once again, we got the governor's office reached out to our office and said, Hey, you guys need to investigate him. The allegations against him was that he was sending suggestive emails and instant messages to a lot of the I think they, they're called pages that work mm-hmm.

Up in dc , and it was boys so because of that obviously in Florida you got, you [00:28:00] can't mess around with anybody under the age of 18. And the fact that he was much, much older, it was frowned upon a great deal. So yeah, so we got a complaint that we needed to investigate him. And so we did, and it was me and Travis Lawson and Mike o Connell.

And what was interesting about this case is that we had the page, and I don't wanna mention his name even though he's well over 18 now, but we ha we had the page. He was willing to work with us. He gave us anything and everything that we needed. He gave us his phone records, he gave us his IM messages so we could read the messages going back and forth between him and, and Mr.

Foley. Mm-hmm. And so that was great, but when we went to try to get information on Foli or from Foley, nobody would give us anything. So, the Capitol said no, that his Blackberry, which was the type of phone, they don't make those anymore, I don't think. And his laptop were government properties, so they wouldn't let us look at that.

They wouldn't let us look at [00:29:00] Mark Foley's calendar. They wouldn't. Oh, wow. I mean, so yeah. So we literally couldn't get to anything that was from Mark Foley. So we only had, and he, and obviously he refused to be interviewed by us, so we only had one side. We were only able to look at what the page provided us and some of the pages that he had reached out to.

And then. With that, what we found is some of the messages that he had sent that were, I would consider inappropriate as a parent. Mm-hmm. A lot of those were, a lot of those were when they both were up in Washington, DC at the time and in Washington DC statutory rape is 16 and under. Mm-hmm. And the kid was 16.

Mm-hmm. So, so if he had sent those messages and we could prove that they were done while he was down here in Florida, we could have possibly had something. But because all of that was done up in DC and the, and the rules are different. We weren't able to touch him and we didn't have a lot of evidence because they wouldn't, they [00:30:00] wouldn't give it to us.

Mm-hmm. And it's funny, I don't think that they wanted Mark Foley anymore to be in the house because he kind of had a stain on this guy doesn't look good. I mean, he's a gay man and he's hitting on male pages like it, I am sure that they were like, well, we need to get him out. But they didn't want to make the house of reps look bad either.

So it was like, we'll get rid of him, but don't stain the house of reps on your way out. So they just would not give us. Anything.

Jason: So how did it all end? Did he did, there was never any charges or anything and he just went away?

Callie: No. Yeah. So what's crazy is, so we had to, and, and the reason why I wanted to bring this case up, because one, I wanted to show that like, even though we felt like there was something there, I mean, what are you gonna do if nobody will give you or work with you?

I mean, they, they just wouldn't work with us. But I also, I had to write a report, a brief, every single day to the governor's office every single day, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, to give them an update, even if there was not an update. So I would spend with my supervisor, we would sit down and [00:31:00] for probably an hour every day, write a brief to the governor's office because this was such a big deal because this guy, .

He's such a big wig, letting him know, Hey, this is where we're at. We, we've subpoenaed this, but we're not, nobody's providing this whatever. So I thought that that was kind of a interesting thing. The governor wanted me to update him every single day. I, that this was the only case I ever had where I had to go over and give them a brief every single day.

At the end he wound up not running. Again, I wanna say his partner got really sick. I want, and I'm not trying to be cliche, but I think he got aids. And he might've passed away. His partner was very nice, didn't want to really talk to us, but he, he did talk to us briefly, but , the nicest guy.

I think Foley , that was it. Like after this, he stepped down without making a big deal if I remember correctly,

Jason: , I find it interesting that you, on the Florida side, they, investigated this , do you know if the DC investigated this or the feds investigated this?

Callie: Well, so that's the interesting thing. [00:32:00] They weren't, they weren't working with us. So we've worked with FBIA lot and they've always been really great. But this is one of the ones where like, we weren't getting, we weren't getting anything. And I don't think DC investigated him. I think it was, it was just a Florida thing if I remember correctly.

And it was. Yeah, it was just a Florida thing and like I said, they were not giving us anything. Nothing. Not even a calendar.

Jason: Yeah. That is a little bit odd. I, I would think 'cause you would think that they would be willing , it looks like they were trying to protect them for whatever reason.

Callie: Well, and I think, and that's what I, that's why I said I think the reason why they were trying to protect them is because they were trying to protect the integrity of the House of Representatives. Mm-hmm. I don't think necessarily they wanted to protect him. I think that they wanted him gone. I mean, you know.

But it was, it was the whole fact like, we don't want the House of Representatives to look bad because we have this mm-hmm. Grown man who's hitting on these young pages. So yeah. And yeah, I mean, and who knows if it would've been a, if [00:33:00] it would've been a girl page, would it been as bad? Maybe not.

I mean this was a few years ago and people are still not comfortable with a lot of gay people. Give it 15 years ago, whatever, I mean, they were even more uncomfortable, which is so stupid. I don't get it, but whatever.

Jason: Yeah. Yeah. It seemed like this wasn't really a full investigation, so you don't really have.

It sounds like you can correct me if I'm wrong, that you really don't have a grasp on the full impact, like how many pages and how, deep this, went,

Callie: right? No, that's, that is a hundred percent correct, but it was a, but it was extremely time consuming because I was having to write these briefs and I was having to work so hard on it every single day, but I had such little stuff to go on.

It was very frustrating because it's almost like you, you'd know that there's something wrong. And there's something that should be changed and something bad is happening, but if nobody's willing to help [00:34:00] you at some point you wind up giving up. So, and it's not that we gave up the governor's office finally, though, was just like, okay, we're gonna move on.

So, yeah.

Jason: And that's very not satisfied for sure. Right. You just went, that's, that's two extremes that you just went over. You're like, there's one where it went from beginning end to full, obviously very satisfying ending to this other one where it's like, oh, we did all this work and have nothing to show for it.

Callie: Yeah, exactly. Yeah. All right. It was really, it was, it was super disappointing. But I think the biggest thing that I took away from that is that like, because he was such an important. Figure for for the PO for politics, basically. I mean, this mm-hmm. We're talking about like, I mean, he was, he wasn't just a state house of rep, like, you know but be, but because he was such a big guy and such an important person, it was crazy how fast our investigation kind of got shut down, if that makes sense.

Jason: Mm. Yeah. Hmm. All right, well, let's move on to the Jim Greer case.

Callie: Yeah. So he, Jim [00:35:00] Greer, this is another one. It was, it was really interesting. And this one was very, once again, time consuming. And yeah, he was the chairman for the, the Republican Party here for the state of Florida. And he supposedly.

Had set up different, he was gonna take over the campaigning for the Republican party here in Florida. Mm-hmm. And normally you hire people who have like extensive experience campaigning and, and have gone to college for different things and are very good at doing the campaign work.

But I think for Jim Greer, I think he saw a way to make some extra money. And so he was like, oh, I'm gonna take over the campaign. So he and his protege is the best I could say 'cause he's, it's not like he was an assistant or anything, but this other guy who I, like, he was the nicest guy ever, but he made a mistake.

Del Mar, he made a mistake. But anyway, they created a shell company, which Greer has a book out there, so I'm sure in his book he said this was not a [00:36:00] shell company, but it was, it was a shell company. And he created the Shell company and they were funneling money from. People who are contributing to the Republican party, hoping that it would help them with their campaigns and win and whatnot.

And he was taking that money and they were going on trips to the Bombas and buying, like, taking private jets and like doing some really crazy stuff. And we subpoenaed a gazillion bank accounts and interviewed a bunch of people and, and we caught 'em. So that one was pretty interesting.

Jason: So it seems like with that, when you're interviewing them and you're, you just quickly went over the pattern of behavior.

What was their defense or what did they say? Were like, well, why are you going to The Bahamas? Or why are you doing all this stuff? Is this, what does this have to do with the party and the donations?

Callie: Okay, so, . Greer. And now this, I'm [00:37:00] just saying what Greer has said. So I'm not at all speaking for Chris.

But Greer was, he was basically Chris right hand man. They were really close. And so when he was going to Bahamas, they were meeting, they were like meeting certain people. Other other people were coming that were contributing money. Mm-hmm. First wanted to do it, like this was the kind of stuff that he would say.

Mm-hmm. But what was interesting is that like the rumors were that they would go over, take a private jet, go over to like The Bahamas. They would have a bunch of women, whatever you take of that. They would all hang out for like a weekend or whatever, and then they would fly back.

Now were there some big wigs that might've also gone, like let's, I mean, I don't know, like somebody who has a lot of money, a private investor. Sure. Mm-hmm. But it was you don't hear that that often. And so, and we tried interviewing Chris Private detail that is also part of Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and they obviously cannot say anything.[00:38:00]

Mm-hmm. They couldn't really speak about what happened. But we had like flight records, so we knew who was on the plane. We had, when they landed, when they got back, who piloted the plane, spoke with some of the pilots stuff

like that. So we had a good idea of who was going and what was happening over there.

Jason: Hmm. So, but yeah, I guess in terms of the, the data and the timelines and trying to tell the story, like, was it easy to tell this story or it was there was still a lot of gaps even as you were going into the, trial.

Callie: No, this one was easy. And the reason why, because Greer was really sloppy.

He did not try to cover up anything. Denny tried to cover up stuff and did a really good job because it went through so many different people before, before I got back to him. And I'm not saying Greer's not smart, because he is smart, because he was, he he got away with this for quite a while. Yeah. But he, was very sloppy.

And I mean, it, it was like, you gotta be kidding me. I mean, it was very easy to follow the money [00:39:00] and it, it helped us a lot that when we interviewed Delmar, the nicest guy, you could tell, like, he was like, man, I just really looked up to this guy and I was doing what he told me to do. And he wound up being on our side and testifying for us.

And I felt so bad for this, this guy, 'cause he was young and I was like, man, this is really gonna mess up his political career. Mm-hmm. But, but he was, he wound up being fantastic witness for us. And between him and the fact that Greer was so sloppy. This case was really easy to follow. The bankrupt were really easy seeing what was in the accounts, what was supposed to be in the accounts and wasn't in the account easy.

And I, this is one of the ones where we talked about how as an analyst, I was more involved in some analysts. I was with them when we arrested Greer. Mm-hmm. And so that's one of the things that I, another reason why this case stands out so much is because I was in the back of the car. 'cause we're gonna do a search warrant of his house the day that we're gonna arrest [00:40:00] him.

And we got there and, really awkward. They, I was in the car waiting 'cause they were gonna arrest him, and then I was gonna go in because I'm not sworn. Mm-hmm. So I could search. And we're looking, we're looking for documentation, we're looking for cash, we're looking for stuff like that. Like a mm-hmm.

Like you would, if you're following the money. And I'm in the car and there's a knock on the window and it's Travis Lawson and an investigator, and he's got Jim Greer in handcuffs. And Jim Greer's face is bleeding. Not because they had beat him, but because he had cut himself shaving when they knocked on the door.

Mm-hmm. And HECO helicopters were flying over the house. And I was like, what is this? This is something like out of a movie, scene. So I get outta the car and Jim Ger was so nice. He was like, Hey, how are you? I was like, I'm good. How are you? I mean, obviously not good, but I felt that I didn't, I didn't know what to say.

He was in his pajamas. I felt so bad. I was like, oh my God. And then they were like, you have to wear FDE jacket. And they rushed me in the house and the wife and the kids were there, which was so [00:41:00] uncomfortable. Oh yeah. She said a couple words. Yeah. She said some stuff to me that wasn't nice at all.

And yeah. And then we were there for a couple hours investigating and they wound up I think Bob Phis he's another investigator. I think he wound up saying, going to her and being like, Hey, are you, are you like saying stuff to her because she's the only one without a gun? Come on. Mm-hmm. I mean, it was pretty bad.

It was really bad, but it was, but that was like something out of a movie scene. Like it was insane. I was like, what is happening? But there was, there was helicopters flying overhead. The most bizarre thing ever.

Jason: Yeah. I was in on a the day that the rest happened on a big case that I was working on, and that that is a very surreal experience , certainly you're not used to doing, being part of that arrest day and all that, all the events.

But it is, it is very eyeopening. And it Oh yeah, it definitely for those that, again, when you talked about analysts can get out from behind the desk, see how the real world works, don't just work in the [00:42:00] data world. It, it's definitely, there is a, there is a lot that, that an analyst can learn and bring to the table.

Callie: Oh yeah. Yeah. And I mean, and one of the things that I kind of have going for me and I'm not tooting my own horn, but like I know when to kind of be quiet and be kind and, and some analysts just can't, they just, it's, it's, they get so charged up. But I mean the fact that like this woman was saying some not

nice words to me and I just kind of let it roll off my back and didn't really say anything.

'cause I, I got it. Like, I was like, yeah, feel bad. I'm in your home, you're trying to feed your kid and we just arrested your husband, but but still at the end of the day I'm like, you're still the bad guy. So but yeah, no, that was an interesting, interesting day for sure.

Jason: Yeah. And what did, what did he end up getting?

I had it here.

Callie: Yeah. No, he wound up going, he wound up going to prison. He wound up, so he, for 18 months left. Yeah. And then he wound up plea pleading guilty and for, what was it? Theft and money. Money laundering. Mm-hmm. And then he wound up paying the re he wound up paying the Republican [00:43:00] party back 65,000 in restitution and that was it.

And he took way more than 65,000. So he. In all honesty, he kind of got, he got a good deal as, as far as I'm concerned. I mean, he was pretty crooked. And now he's doing really well. Like, I mean, he's, he's a millionaire and is doing fantastic. And like I said, he's, he's I, well, and I always say, I'm like, there's a difference in book smart and common sense and whatever.

He's got street smart. He's, he's very street smart.

Jason: Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Well, he learned, he probably learned to cover his tracks now. Yeah.

Callie: Yeah. I mean, but he's, I'm telling you, he makes a lot more money than we do, Jason, a lot more money, so,

Jason: oh, oh, man. , I'm trying to put myself in your shoes at this moment.

Again, we're, you're a civilian analyst. You're, dealing with data, you're assisting with these big high profile cases, and it's obviously you're working on something where the Republican [00:44:00] party has an interest on what you're doing. And not only, yeah, I'm guessing not only on just the. State level, but the national level as well.

Callie: Yeah. And I think for this one, what made this one a little bit different is that, I wanna say towards the end, the Florida Republican Party, they were

ready to cut ties with him. Mm-hmm. Like they were, they were working with us. They were like, yeah, just, just get rid of 'em. Do what you need to do. Whereas Foley was a little bit different.

Jason: Yeah. Well, I mean, probably, I mean, if the evidence is there, I'm just like, wow, we can't get around this evidence. It's pretty, yeah. It's, that's probably what it was. It's like, Hey, we can only, cover up so much.

Callie: Yeah,, it was interesting and like I said, I think what's crazy to me is all three of them that we just spoke about, all three are doing extremely well after getting in trouble.

Jimmy, Jenny does a lot of private consultations and consulting and whatever, and I think he does really well. [00:45:00] I know Jim Greer's doing really well, and I don't think Foley's hurting, like, I think he's, I think he's doing just fine because he didn't get in trouble and he was able to save all of his like pension money and all that, whereas Jenny lost all his retirement.

Yeah.

Jason: Well, hey, you're not you're saying there's there's life after corruption.

Callie: There is life after corruption and it's pretty crazy. I think if you are only a little corrupt, then you're okay. It's the ones that are really corrupt.

Jason: Oh man. So, all right, well that does kinda help us to the, the fourth and final case.

And this is certainly just getting at a different level here. I mean, to, to this point we're talking about corruption and we're not talking about violence, we're talking about money and lives being impacted financially. So, but this last, case is, obviously way more serious, a way bigger impact on, people's lives.

So this is the dozer school for the boys. Case that obviously just me saying that for some [00:46:00] people is going to create a very visceral reaction. But I guess again, let's just start from the beginning and tell the story.

Callie: Yeah. So I don't. Talk about this case all the time because people are very, they're just, a lot of people get really upset about this case.

But so our office, once again, the governor came to us and said, Hey, we've got some stuff that's come in and we need you to look at this school, this dozer

school for boys. At the time, it wasn't Dozer School for Boys, it was called something else, but it, it's, it was, it's in Marianna, Florida. And it's now housing violent ju juveniles.

And it's, we're just using one small building. But this, it's this whole campus. It opened up like early 1900 and supposedly there was a bunch of beatings and sexual things happening that should not have been happening between staff and students. And you're gonna, we need you to look at it.

So this one was really weird. Because it was more his, it was all historical. We weren't looking at [00:47:00] anything current. And we're talking about like a hundred year olds historical. And it wasn't public corruption. I mean, this was, something completely different.

There was no, I wasn't getting, I'm, I wasn't gonna subpoena any bank records. Anything like that. Instead, I was gonna spend a lot of time in the library and I spent a lot, a lot of time in the state library and then also in the Marianna records room in Jackson County. And yeah, this one was a case that went on.

I wanna say it started, maybe we started looking into it in 2008, and I was still, I was still looking into this case off and on when it, whenever the director would come and ask us to do something else till the day I left. Like, I mean, this is one that is like, I, I feel like it's never ever gonna go away.

Jason: When you started working on this in 2008. As you mentioned, you're kinda working in the past is stuff had already happened and you're trying to work in the past. So like how old were some of these events that you were trying to investigate?

Callie: So [00:48:00] really old. So, so it started with so we had to go back and start looking the first, so basically this is a school for boys and this is where Delinquent boys were sent.

Mm-hmm. And they opened, they opened in 1900. So. We had to go back and look all the way to 1900, but we really had to go back and look to when the first deaths occurred at the school. And that was in 1911, and there was a fire. And what you have to remember is, and this is where people kind of get mad when I start, like.

Spitting facts. 'cause once again, these are, they're facts. I'm like, I, whether you like 'em or not, it is what it is. This is a rural county and people died. They died

even in, in non-rural areas, but this was a very rural area. So people would die from the flu. People would get picked, I a donkey, a mule.

Some kids drown. They were sent there and some parents would send their kids who were mentally mentally ill or whatever. And were not criminals. But then a lot of the kids that were sent there were [00:49:00] actual criminals, especially after the years went by and they redesigned the school and made it harder to send the kids there.

Like, so they weren't just taking the kids that maybe a family had too many kids and they just couldn't feed one or whatever. Mm-hmm. And so a lot of the kids that were sent there were, were legit criminals. Mm-hmm. But so what we had to do is we had to find the cemetery. Which we had a plat, a map that was dated from way back when.

So I mean, the cemetery was never hidden. And that's, that's one of the things everyone's always been like, oh, nobody knew about the cemetery was hidden. Nope, nope. It was always there. It was, it was marked. We found an old map. It had been marked forever. A lot of the staff knew about it. Staff used to actually keep it cleaned up, so it wasn't anything that was like all of a sudden found. Mm-hmm. But there was, 32 crosses in this grave site. 'Cause it wasn't really a cemetery. I mean, we're gonna call it a cemetery, but it really was not a cemetery if you, if you see pictures of it. But there was 32 crosses and so it was our job to [00:50:00] find.

Who had passed away and who we thought was buried in these 32 graves. Hmm. It's a lot. And we found the old crosses that had been replaced with the new crosses going through the woods, me and a couple of the inspectors actually found old crosses, so we had to collect those. I mean, it was, it was really crazy.

And the paperwork for school that's been open over a hundred years, there's a lot. There's a lot of it. And a lot of it was held in buildings that had asbestos and were falling down and we're able to go in those buildings and find, and get some information. And then some of it had been gotten rid of like burned because.

State law, you don't have to keep all the records. Mm-hmm. After so many years you're allowed to burn and get rid of some of the records. But that was a big controversy. Everybody's like, oh, they're trying to hide something. And I'm like, no, no. It's, it's absolutely, it's a state law. Like you, after so many years, I mean, what are you gonna do with all these paper records?

You mm-hmm. You have to get rid of 'em, so. Mm-hmm. But this one was a big deal because there was a lot of people [00:51:00] that started coming outta the woodwork, wanting money saying that they had been beaten and that they had been sexually molested . And so what wound up being what we thought would be a fairly simple, figuring out who was in these 32 graves wound up being even more complicated, because then we were having to, we've gather these people now saying, Hey, I want some money.

I I wanna be compensated for what happened to me. So then we're having to go down their, their history and have to figure out what, when were they there? Were they there at all when they were there? Are they, were they. Beaten by this one guy that they said was that beat them. Was he there at the same time?

So it, like, it was, it was a lot. It was, it was a whole heck of a lot. Yeah. And let's,

Jason: yeah, let's let's, let's keep those separate for the time being. So the, the 32, and you're, as you're trying to, and figure out the, records and, and documentation for the 32 graves, what did you find when, going down

that path

Callie: okay. [00:52:00] So once again, we're a fact finding agency, so

Jason: mm-hmm.

Callie: We, so whether, no matter how we feel about this case and, and certain things mm-hmm. Like that, that's, we don't put that in this case.

And so that's huge. So yeah, so when we started looking up the different deaths you had the fire, that was in 1911, then you had like a flu. , Pandemic that happened shortly after that. And through the years, like I said, kids, passed away and it's a rural county, it's gonna happen.

So we were able to find, and thank God, I mean these, libraries and kids today, if you don't go and use the library, are just crazy. These libraries still have a lot of old articles from like 1911 and going through and then you could find old, record books where because this was a state school, they would have to, they would have to type up and create these books at the end of the year, and they would, they would have to give them to the state and then the state would publish 'em.

So mm-hmm. We would go back and find these old [00:53:00] books, and then these old books, they would talk about like, oh yeah, we lost a white boy on such and such date, he was kicked by a mule, blah, blah, blah. And it would move on. So you might not know the name, but you were like, oh, okay, well here's a, here's another kid that died.

And, and so I started keeping a spreadsheet. And in my spreadsheet I have literally confirmed deaths, not un unknown burial, confirmed deaths buried in the cemetery, and then confirmed deaths, unknown burial, because it's very expensive to move a body. And so a lot of families would say, no, just bury my child there.

Mm-hmm. So not only do I have. A bunch of old news clippings, which once again, thank God, but we also were blessed enough to find a ton of actual death certificates. And I have death certificates dating back from 1908 which is great. The vital Statistics office out of Jacksonville, Florida.

They were fantastic in helping us and guiding us on how to get some of these items. Granted, we had to subpoena all of it. I mean, you can't just go and ask for somebody's loan certificate. But we were [00:54:00] able to prove. And pretty much what we feel, name, and once again, we're trying to be factual name the 32 that are in the grapes.

And so for us, there was no question when we finished, well, what we thought was finished this investigation, we felt like we accomplished what was asked for us to do, which was identify the cemetery, identify that it was, or to note that it, they never tried to hide it. Mm-hmm. And then also identify what we think, which bodies are in the graves.

So we did all that. Out of all the deaths, there's only one. And there was one, and I had this spreadsheet pulled up. I don't know if I still do. It was a kid who he had run away from campus and, his family actually found him and he had been shot and he was in his bed and he lived in the town right outside of Marianna.

And out of all the deaths, that was the only one that we were like, Hmm, that's a, that's a little shady. Like, I mean mm-hmm. They found his body, I mean, they had his body, but it, [00:55:00] the fact that he was shot and he was in his bed, but he was in the bed with the sheet pulled up. Like he, I mean, he didn't commit suicide, so that was the only one that we're like, that's really interesting.

And granted you,

Jason: so you don't think, if you. You don't think it was suicide?

Callie: No.

Jason: Uhuh? No.

Callie: We don't know. Like what could it have been? Like one of the siblings saw him accidentally shot him because he snuck up in the middle of the night. 'cause he'd run away. Or I mean, who know could, I'm telling you, these rural counties, the way that they worked back then was really weird.

And I would go back and find these state statutes and see that's another thing. These state statutes. You were allowed to spank, you were allowed to do all this stuff. And, and I would like put all that out there. 'cause I was like, Hey, I just want you to know some of the things that we think are so atrocious today was allowed back then.

And there's state statutes saying, Hey, you can do this. Even though we would not do it today, it was allowed back then. And so that's the other thing we. A lot of people have to remove themselves from present day and think like what it was like in [00:56:00] 1950.

Jason: Yeah. Corporate punishment going on, at the, school.

So as you mentioned, like what you were asked to do, the task at hand, you, you're asked to about these 32 graves and to go through and be able to tell the story of the, and review the documentation around the 32, you were able to accomplish that. And besides one, there , didn't seem to be any wrongdoing going on.

No.

Callie: I mean, and, and like, I'm, I just pulled up my spreadsheet that I have mm-hmm. Just from my old records and yeah, like. I have died by drowning. I have accident accidentally ran over by a mule. We found that in one of the school newspapers, 'cause they used to publish their own newspaper died after illness of pneumonia at 12:30 AM and that was in the yellow jacket, school, newspaper influenza epidemic.

Died after illness was lung trouble. And then I would get the death certificate, and then the death certificate would say [00:57:00] pulmonary tuberculosis. We did our job and what stinks is that people weren't satisfied with it.

Like a lot of especially the guys who were trying to like, wanted some compensation from the state. A lot of people were unhappy with that, and it really stinks because today , this story in this case has spun off into like a gazillion books and movies and TV shows and what makes me mad and I like, I can't watch any of it because none of it's factual.

Like, , nobody, published like the real stuff. Like there's, there was somebody who came and supposedly found identified a whole bunch of bodies that we didn't know about. And I'm like, that's not true. And I mean, it's, so this is one of those cases that I still get so mad about, only because nobody ever really came to us, came and asked and interviewed any, any of the analysts, interviewed any of the inspectors.

And so the facts that are like published right now that are out there for all the public to read, a lot of those are not facts. And [00:58:00] so that this case bothers me probably more than any of the cases I ever worked because the truth isn't even out there.

Jason: So in terms of now kind of the other side of the coin, in terms of those that are spent time.

At the school and now are telling their story. Was that investigated by you or your office? Yeah.

Callie: So there was there was a group and I, I even hate mentioning their name and giving 'em any publicity, but there was a group called the White House Boys, and there was. Four original guys, and we interviewed all four of 'em. And they were all, they were all very nice, very pleasant. But they, and it's funny.

Okay, hold on, let me say, let me stay on my one track and then I'll, and then I'll jump off. But they were all pleasant. We interviewed all four of 'em. They basically said that they were beat in this White House that was on the campus. 100% true. It was definitely where you went when you got your spankings for [00:59:00] 100% True.

And they said that they were beat uncontrollably and they should be compensated, after this investigation had gone for a little while, for a few months or whatnot. Then it came out, oh, well, hold on. We forgot to mention we were also sexually abused, so it wound up just being like nonstop.

The thing about the White House, the White House at one point stored ice cream, which is insane to me. But yes, it was a place where the kids, when they were getting punished, they would go and get spanked. Mm-hmm. Once again, most of the kids sent the school in the, from the 1940s on, were sent because they were bad kids or juveniles, they weren't, or like mm-hmm.

What we would consider stealing cars and stuff like that. Mm-hmm. And before, before that, yeah, a lot of kids were sent that should not have been there. Mm-hmm. But, but the thing is, yeah, you have to punish the kids somehow. And today, I mean, I would take my kid, put 'em in a chair and sit 'em in the middle of the living room and be like, no one's, you are not allowed to get up for like an hour, but back then mm-hmm.

Mm-hmm. Corporal, you were allowed to do corporal punishment, but we went with a [01:00:00] forensics with forensics and tested all the walls. There's no blood. I mean, granted, do we believe these people for sure. Mm-hmm. But it, but as far as like people being murdered in the White House, who knows? We weren't alive then.

There's no, we, we don't have anything to prove it. We did test the walls. There's no blood, but it could have happened. I mean, I don't know. But that, yeah, so that was a whole nother spin. And that is where stuff got really, really messy. And that's where things got really crazy. But I will say some of these kids that were sent probably were not that bad.

They were probably sent for something really stupid. Like, I stole a, a candy bar from whatever the, the little convenience store was back then. But then there was kids that were, that were really bad. And we have we heard stories about some of the kids raping some of the women staff on campus.

I mean, so you gotta remember like there really were some bad kids that were sent there.

Jason: were you able to conclude that there was true physical and sexual abuse going on?

Callie: We were [01:01:00] never able to prove the sexual abuse. But as far as the physical, yes. They kept, the school kept really great records. So remember I told you, yes, some of the records had been burned, but then there was a lot of these really old records that had been, that had been shoved in like attics and stuff, and a lot of these buildings that were falling down and had asbestos.

So the staff doesn't wanna go in there to get those records, right. So of course us we're like, oh yeah, we're not scared of asbestos or anything crazy. So we, searched all these buildings and got as many boxes and, and documents that we could get. The school was fantastic about keeping records sometimes of like kids who got spankings and they would put in there like, Hey, John Doe, he was, he did this and he's going to the White House.

Oh, it didn't say White House, but it would say, he's gonna get spanked this many, he's gonna get this many licks, da da da da. So yeah, no, we know that these kids were definitely getting spanked in corporal punishment or whatever. We've never said that that didn't happen. To the [01:02:00] extent, who knows? I mean, I'm sure there's a lot of sick people out there, so I'm sure there was definitely some staff that was overdoing it.

But as far as the sexual stuff, there's no record of it. Nobody's alive anymore, or at least when we were interviewing, there was very few people that. Were alive that far back. I mean, we did interview as much staff as we could that had been around forever. There was one guy that worked there for a very, very brief amount of time.

He was a, he was actually a preacher and he worked at one of the, because they had two different, they had two different sides of the campus, so one for minorities and one for white people. I mean, this is segregation back then. Mm-hmm. And this, this one preacher, they, there were some questions about him and they got rid of him immediately and we were able to speak with that.

They didn't call him a principal, but he was in charge of the school. Mm-hmm. We, we were actually, were the last interview with him before he passed away, but he got rid of that guy almost immediately. Yeah. So, who knows? I mean, maybe he did something, but, but the problem is for us as analysts, we're fact [01:03:00] finders.

Mm-hmm. So I, if I don't, I could think and guess whatever I want, but if I don't have a fact in front of me, then I, I'm gonna move on. Yeah. And that bothers a lot of people.

Jason: , You weren't able to prove that there was this institutional pattern of corruption, right.

That I think people were assuming was there.

Callie: Yeah, we were not, but if you read the books that are out there and you watch the movies, I mean, this place was like terrible. But I mean, it really wasn't, it wasn't as bad as, as it's portrayed. Was it a bad place? For sure. But a lot of these kids were really bad too.

Jason: Yeah. Why? Why do you think this got so many variations? So, so much movies and books spawn from. The events that happened at the school

Callie: I mean, I don't know. I could say a lot of stuff, but I gotta be careful how I, what I say.

Yeah. People get really sympathetic and we had a bunch of older guys coming forward and it was really [01:04:00] good in front of the camera. Like a lot of 'em would cry. We had two of the original White House boys. One was a very, very. Well known author and was really good at writing. Then we had another one that was also an author.

There was one of the original White House boys. He had a lot of money to help get this going in the beginning. And he actually, what I was gonna say about him earlier and I think is interesting is before this investigation started, he actually gave a scholarship every year to one of the kids at Dozier School for boys and would go and present it every year.

So he was really involved in the school. So I don't, it was weird how he was really involved, given a scholarship to the kid that had made the most improvement or whatever, and then all of a sudden. He's like, oh no, the school's really bad and we're gonna sue him to the state. So I don't know.

I think that especially the one guy that was the really good author, I think, like they just really did a great job of constantly talking to people, constantly asking for interviews, [01:05:00] reaching out. They reached out to Pam Bondy. They like, I mean, it was, I mean, I had to present this to the governor's office.

I had to do a whole PowerPoint and I mean, we had to make all these books booklets to give out to the whole governor's office. And I mean, it was a big deal. But that's all I can figure is that people kind of get sympathetic and then they start going a little crazy over it. I mean, we see it today.

We see it all the time.

Jason: Yeah. Well, I mean, it's, it's interesting with this, the way you described this case. It's interesting how much documentation. There is at the same time,

there is a lot of gaps and obviously when you have that dark side of the moon, you have those gaps. People will fill in what, whatever they can imagine or there might fill in the gaps themselves.

And I think that the idea that you had, you talked about going back in the fifties and this [01:06:00] school and there's just so much. Questionable stuff going on and not a lot of answers.

Callie: Yeah. And the statute of limitations too doesn't help. Yeah. So like these, these guys that were coming out and saying, Hey, I was beat or I was sexually abused.

Statute of limitations. A lot of times their time was up. And so then, so then that would be another bad thing. Oh, the state's trying to like, not compensate them. And it was like, this, this is, this isn't me. This is like, what's, this is what's in our state law. So and, and once again, the school was so bad in the beginning when it first opened, there was a lot of really crazy stuff that happened, but that's also very normal.

And as time progressed, the school also got better, but they were still a very rural county. So whatever we were doing in Leon County, which is considered rural compared to Broward. But whatever we were doing here, there's, they were still like 10 and 15 years behind us. Mm-hmm. So, like, that's what people have to understand.

I mean, this is still a [01:07:00] very, very rural county when you go today. Mm-hmm. And so it, they just were always behind. So even though the school did do their, maybe do their best to, to eventually get out of some of the things that they were doing that was wrong, it took them longer than I would like Leon County.

Yeah. Does that make sense? So, trying to explain that. Mm-hmm. Okay. Okay. . This case bothers me so bad because like I said we just reported the facts and the facts weren't enough for some people. So the stuff that's reported, like I'll read an article and I'm like, are you kidding me?

So and so discovered this many graves. I'm like, when was this? Because I was there. I was there when they were, when they were there. So I get really upset. And then there was an author I used to read his books and I loved his books. And then he dedicated his book to these people and I was like, are you kidding me?

So I don't read that author anymore. 'cause it just made me so upset. I was like, I was like, well, you're done. You're not getting my money anymore.

Jason: Yeah. So,

Callie: yeah.

Jason: , What's came out of this case? 'cause the school closed, right? And yeah. And then I'm, [01:08:00] did some of the folks, did the state have to pay out?

Did the, did the state apologize? Was there reform?

Callie: Yeah, so yeah, so the school closed and when it, at the time that it closed, it had already, most of the, most of the campus was already closed at that point. So, and this is like, if you go on this campus, it truly is like something out of a scary movie because the buildings have been kind of abandoned and mother Nature has taken over and whatnot.

So they closed the the school, the, the last little bit that was there. And that was for the, for juvenile delinquents that. Pretty bad. And then it went back and forth and what are they gonna do with the land? 'cause it's beautiful land. I mean, it's gorgeous land. Mm-hmm. And so they talked about they're gonna give it to the county, make it into a park, like do all these different things, which I'm like, why are you gonna make it into the park if you said all these terrible things happen?

Like, I wouldn't want to take my kid there. Mm-hmm. The last, the last that I read. And you know what, I don't, I don't keep up on it as much because I am so like, disgusted with like what, what all's out in the news. Mm-hmm. But the last I read was that with the last storm that came through and really [01:09:00] messed up Mariana this just recently happened that it really messed up the sheriff's department there.

And so I think from what I read, the sheriff's department. Now they now have the buildings. They, they are allowed to use the campus and the buildings that are good, like not the asbestos, like falling down buildings. So that was the last I read, and that's been very recent. And yes some of, a lot of these guys who claimed all these different things, 100% were paid out.

Mm-hmm. Not a large sum, but a sum. And then some of the students who were found buried some of the family would be like, oh, we didn't want our son to be

buried there. But then we would find stuff that said, please bury my son there from like, the family who's no longer here to say that they were, they okayed it, but that's okay.

Mm-hmm. The state paid for the state, paid for those bodies to be dug up from the cemetery and then moved and buried. To [01:10:00] wherever they want. Mm-hmm. Yeah. So a lot of money has been spent on this investigation, a whole heck of a lot of money.

Jason: Yeah. And again, once again, it, we got four here and it seems like, oh, you got two where there's a complete story, a complete investigation from beginning to end, and you have two in there that are just, man, it just didn't doesn't have the ending that Yeah.

You wish you had.

Callie: Yeah. And that's why I wanted to talk about 'em, because all four of these were pretty, like high profile cases. Mm-hmm. It's crazy to look at how much how one was pretty like, straightforward, ran the way that investigation should run, the way that we all wanna run an investigation from, the beginning to the end.

The second one had , nobody was helping us. I mean, no, I mean, it was like roadblock after roadblock after roadblock. And then the third one, that one ended fine, but it was weird how it ended. And it was sloppy, but we got it done. And then this one. Should be ended. But it's not because it [01:11:00] never will be because people just, they didn't like the facts.

It's not, the facts aren't fun. So yeah, they're not pretty they're not, I don't know. It's not, it's not sexy, it's not exciting. So this one is just like one that's just gonna keep on keeping on and it's, it's, it sucks a lot.

Jason: Yeah. So, so with all of these being high profile, was there ever a situation where you felt like either people were investigating you or surveilling you ?

Callie: Yes. So we get a lot of death threats and the one of the reasons why I wound up leaving FDLE, but is that. My name, my husband's name, and my oldest daughter's name showed up on a death threat list. Mm-hmm. It had my address, it had my address, it had my personal phone number, and it had my daughter's name.

Like I was, she was not even, I mean, she might've been 14 or 15. I mean, I, I don't remember now, but I was like, are you kidding me? And so, yeah, I was on a lot of lists as [01:12:00] somebody that should be taken out, which is really ridiculous. Mm-hmm. There was people I did not get along with that definitely do not love me and would be okay if they never saw me again.

So,

Jason: , That's tough. 'cause that, I mean, obviously that's a whole other level. When we, talked about a lot on this. Podcasts, the, different contributions of analyst and the data that you're working on and, and the contributions to the investigations. It's interesting and it's can be fun and games, right?

And then you get to certain situations where, oh, it's not fun anymore. It's, this is a, certainly you get to this area where it's like, oh, my, my family's being impacted. I'm in fear for my family.

Callie: Yeah, exactly. Yeah. And then they started sending, and I know this happens a lot, so I mean, I'm not complaining, I'm just saying this is some of the stuff that bothered me.

Mm-hmm. They started sending us to putting me at a non-sworn analyst on hurricane duty. And so they [01:13:00] would send us to where the hurricane's gonna hit before the hurricane hits so we can be there when the hurricane hits so we can help. And I'm like, well, how do we know that we're still gonna be there when the hurricane hits?

Is the hurricane gonna take us like, mm-hmm. And that kind of bothered me. I was like I'm leaving for a week to go. To an area that's about to be hit by a hurricane and I'm leaving my family and I'm not I'm not sworn, I don't get paid this special pay. And so yeah, it was, it's crazy the stuff that was happening when I left.

Jason: Yeah. So let's, talk about the decision to leave. , You go from, this job to the private sector? So I wanna talk a little bit about that transition.

Callie: Yeah, so it was really hard for me because I really loved my job. I liked my job a whole heck of a lot.

I loved public corruption and I liked when we would get interesting cases in that were different. So it would change it up every now and then, like the Dozier case and we had like a couple murder cases come in, stuff like that. So, so it

was, it was nice. As far as, education wise, I mean, they were really great about sending us to different trainings [01:14:00] and I appreciated that because that's one of the biggest things is you gotta be up and up on, on all the more recent trainings

mm-hmm. So I loved all that, but I wasn't getting paid enough. Like, I mean, I hate to say that, but. I just was not getting paid enough. And so I was kind of like I'm working and I'm traveling. I'm driving to Broward County because there we were not flying anymore. So I was driving to like Miami and Broward County nonstop.

I'm a myself in a safe car.

Jason: For those that don't know, like what? I'm laughing because Tallahassee to Miami is what, like an eight hour drive?

Callie: Yeah, yeah, yeah. And I would work until like one or two, and then I would drive to Miami, check in some seedy area like me, and I'm little if people don't know what I look like, but I'm a, I'm not a big person, so I'm like a easy target.

I would check in at like midnight and then the next morning do like a meeting at 9:00 AM and then drive back. [01:15:00] And I was just like, okay. Between, between the co, the travel. The like the going to the hurricane the areas that are gonna get hit by the hurricane. And then my daughter showing up on the death threat list, I was just like, okay, I'm not getting paid enough for this, so I need to figure something out.

I need to better myself and better my family. So, yeah. So I left and it was hard. It was very hard and I still love that job, but I wouldn't go back 'cause they can't pay me enough.

Jason: Yeah, yeah, yeah. So you, you go to the private sector with is it Pondera Solutions?

Callie: Yeah, I went to Pondera Solutions and mm-hmm.

It was very, very different. Mm-hmm. Because it was something, it was something that I wasn't that interested in, but it was more pay and so I'm glad I did it. And it is private. I mean, they, if they ask you to do something at two o'clock in the morning, you definitely gotta do it. But it was more Medicaid

fraud and looking at doctors who were over prescribing opioids and the, all the issues going on with the opioids.

And then, yeah, it was just, it was [01:16:00] very different.

Jason: Different in terms of obviously it was Medicare fraud that you mentioned, but I guess in terms of the office environment, was it more cutthroat? How did it differ , from the state office that you just came from?

Callie: So I was used to working with inspectors, and inspectors are usually they were cops first, so. Mm-hmm. I mean, cops, you kind of know what you're getting with cops. I mean, not trying to stereotype cops. Mm-hmm. But they are who they are. And this was different. I, I did not work with anybody who was sworn mm-hmm.

Or had, I think there was one gentleman who had been a cop, and that's it. And so, yeah, it was very, I don't even know. It was just that, it was just a very different atmosphere.

Jason: Yeah. Yeah.

Callie: All right.

Jason: Well, you, you leave there and now you're a realtor. And Yeah. So I, I always like to talk about what people do after they leave law enforcement analysis.

And so you're doing quite well as a [01:17:00] realtor. Congratulations. But I'm, I'm just curious some of the things that you learned during your analyst career, how have they helped you in your realtor gig?

Callie: Well, I think to be a realtor, one of the most important things is to be extremely organized.

I mean, there's a lot going on and you have to be organized not just for yourself, but for your clients. And so. When you're an analyst, that's, I mean, you have to be organized. If you're not organized, you're not gonna make a good analyst. And if you're not somewhat type A, and you don't have to be a hundred percent type A, but you gotta have something a little bit of that type A personality so that you make sure that things are done on time and whatnot.

And I think that that's one of the biggest things with realtors is keeping up with, because there's so many timelines, there's so many things that you have to meet on time. And so many things have to be. I mean, they're really strict about, like, t's being crossed i's being dotted. I mean, it's a lot. And so and it's funny, so I'm a spreadsheet person, I'm a spreadsheet junkie.

[01:18:00] I use Excel and I still use Excel to keep up with all my clients and what's happening. And I've shared, I created this spreadsheet and I've shared it with so many agents and I'm like, use this as a tool to help you. But some of them are so disorganized, they're like, I still haven't use that spreadsheet.

And I'm like, well, if you use the spreadsheet, you wouldn't be missing deadlines. But so that has helped me, I think that's helped me the most is, is the fact that with being an analyst, you learn how important it is. To be organized and you wind up with like, I don't know, I think one case that had 17 bank accounts.

And so you gotta keep up with all that. And, and so that helps you be an organized realtor and being an organized realtor is the only way to be a good realtor.

Jason: Nice. All right. Very good. All right, well let's finish up with personal interest then. And as I mentioned in the, in the beginning of this we were neighbors and we met [01:19:00] in quite an unusual way.

I, I think it was 2018 and we had Hurricane Michael come through Tallahassee, one of the worst in a long time. But we met because the, your, your property's to the back of mine and some of my trees, fell and crushed your fences and, and, and you were way more unfortunate than I was. I just had a couple of trees down on the property.

But your property sustained way more damage than mine.

Callie: Yes. We long, we had a tree come in. Our house and we lost part of our, most of our garage . We lost both cars even though they were not parked together, so, wow. How lucky were we?

And we lost, I think, 11 trees. It was insane. It, and we were, we live in a cul-de-sac, and our cul-de-sac was completely blocked. You could not get out. And it was funny. This is the first hurricane that I can remember that was during the day. So we got to watch all of it happen. Which is really scary.

We should have left. But who knew? I [01:20:00] mean and the best thing that happened to us from that hurricane is we met you and your wife and other neighbors we had never met because Yeah. After the storm was gone, people just showed up with chainsaws and they're like, we're gonna cut you guys out. So it was fantastic.

And so yeah, we wound up making great friends from it, but it really, it sucked a lot.

Jason: Yeah. It's not gonna lie. No, and that's, and even so, I don't like when people are blocked off. Right. I, I feel that people should have a pathway to get out in various aspects of your life. And so anytime I see a tree fall and it just, it's clear across the road blocking the road, I, I try to go down there and get a path through so people, people can get in and out.

And that was definitely, well, we didn't have a

Callie: car. Yeah. We didn't have a car to go anywhere. But Yeah. I mean, it, it would've been nice.

Jason: People have to understand that Tallahassee touts the number of [01:21:00] trees that it has. It's the tree is city, I guess is a word that I've heard.

And so yeah, there's, trees everywhere and there's power lines above ground. And there's, I mean, oh yeah, we were without power for, for almost a week. And even worse that we didn't have cell phone coverage for like two days. So that was really, yeah. Unnerving. It was like, oh, I couldn't even. Contact family and friends to let them know that we were okay.

It was that was really the most unnerving about that storm is not having cell coverage.

Callie: Yeah. It was pretty bad. And my daughter was upset because she couldn't get her driver's license. And I was like, okay. I was like, that's the last thing I'm worried about right

Jason: now. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Well that's but that's teenagers.

Yeah. They're, they got,

Callie: you

Jason: know, everybody has their priorities. But yeah, I mean, I do, I still think back clearing everything out and, and it was, it was nice to see, as you mentioned, that the community came together in the neighborhood and , you can go and not know your [01:22:00] neighbors.

And for when that event everybody came out and I remember Ja, Jason, your neighbor. He walks to the neighborhood all the time at his bare feet and he is out there like sawing wood in his bare feet.

Callie: Yeah. Oh yeah. No, it was, it's crazy. I mean, but you know what? We had never met him, so we're like, oh, thank you so much.

Please watch out for your toes. So, yeah, but it, but yeah, it was it was a bad thing, but out of it came something good.

Jason: Yeah. Oh, oh, very good. All right. Callie, it, this has been fun. I am glad we finally took the time to do this congratulations to you on all you were able to accomplish. The stories were great today , really appreciate your perspective and contributions to the profession.

Callie: Well, sorry, I was all over the place. I, I should have refreshed my mind on some of this stuff before I got on here.

Jason: Oh, no, it's all good. All right, so our last segment of the show is Words to the World, and this is where you can promote any idea [01:23:00] that you wish. What are your words to the world?

Callie: So right now, everything is a little scary, and I just, I know it's gonna sound crazy when I say this, 'cause this is probably very cliche, but.

I just want people to be nice. Just, just remember, like when you're in Publix and the, the old lady in front of you is blocking the path and you can't get to the rice because she's reading all the packets of the rice. Maybe she needs some help. Maybe like, maybe just ask, Hey, can I help you? Don't get aggravated.

Just if you need to go around her, go around her, leave the, leave the aisle, go to the next aisle. Just be nice in this world right now. That's what we need.

Jason: Very good. Well, I leave every guest with you giving me just enough to talk bad about you later.

Callie: Yep.

Jason: But I do appreciate you being on the show, Callie.

Thank you so much. And you be safe.

Callie: All right. Thank you.

Mindy: Thank you for making it to the end of another episode of Analyst Talk with Jason Elder.

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