

Transcript

Speaker 1

And now to a major moment. Edward Munch, the screen from 1895. Here he is. Can you give us your name? Jeffrey Epstein. I start the bidding here at \$40 million. Isn't it true that you used underage minor females to bring other underage minor females to your house for sex? 66 in the room.

Speaker 2

We know that he was a con man at heart, right? And that was not just within the world of sex trafficking, right? He wasn't just conning victims, but he was conning people in the financial world as well.

Speaker 1

71, 72.

Speaker 3

A short kind of criminal is a guy that says, maybe I could steal \$100,000. Maybe you could steal \$1 million. Jeffrey Epstein was never about that.

Speaker 4

At \$99 million, I have all the time in the world.

Speaker 3

He was always looking to steal \$100 million.

Speaker 4

\$100 million. It's art. There's, like, this sheen of, like, intrigue and mystery about it, and I'm sure he embraced that. I'm sure that he knew that gave him a credibility in certain social circles. For the historic sum at \$107 billion.

Speaker 5

What's been missing very dramatically is any effort to follow the money.

Speaker 6

This is the story of how Jeffrey Epstein conned his way into the lives of the super rich.

Speaker 4

Sold.

Speaker 6

And then used their money to fund his global sex trafficking operation.

Speaker 1

Mr. Epstein, how long have you been sexually attracted to underage minor females?

Objection, harassing, argumentative. Are you kidding?

Speaker 3

New York City is a metropolis where the inconceivable becomes possible. I went to school with Jeffrey Epstein. We went to the same junior high school. He was very gifted. Coney Island could be a little rough. That's where Jeffrey grew up. You know, inside of that safe haven of Seagate. Outsiders couldn't come in there. It was a safe haven. He lived upstairs in a two-bedroom apartment that was very small, very unprepossessing, very modest by anybody's standards. But it all started here, at this house here. He had a mother who worked in the schools, and his father was a groundskeeper for the Parks Department. But I know one of my classmates personally told me that Jeffrey had told her that he had vowed that he would be wealthy one day.

Speaker 7

I teach sociology, I teach about class inequality, and I also teach criminology.

Speaker 6

The life and crimes of Jeffrey Epstein have appalled and obsessed people across the world. New York professor Thomas Falcho has spent eight years investigating.

Speaker 7

In some of my courses, I would bring up Jeffrey Epstein on the sex offender registry, and I would be like, wow, you know, students in the sex offender registry, you have to put down all your assets and your vehicles. And they just couldn't believe, like, he had, you know, Mercedes 600 series, multiple SUVs, boats, a Gulfstream jet, a 727. They were just kind of blown away by that. I'd gone out to his property a few times on my way to teach by bicycle. And I thought that was a pretty good disguise. I'm dressed up as a cyclist. So I just kind of went and did some like field observations. I rang his doorbell, which had a video camera, and I just got like a gruff Brooklyn accent, and I was like, oh, maybe that's Epstein, but it was a security guard.

Speaker 6

What are we going to say to him if he answered the door?

Speaker 7

Hi, Mr. Epstein. I'm a sociology professor, and I'm doing some work on, I guess, what we could call your case. Is there any chance we could come down and talk? Here was a wealthy person sex trafficking. That's a violent crime. And he's doing it against children. And there's so many victims. And there's tons of evidence. How could he get away with all this? I can't explain it. So that's kind of what drew me into it.

Speaker 8

Starting, guys.

Speaker 9

Today is the first day of real reckoning for the Epstein class. The truth is finally going to come out.

Speaker 6

The U.S. government has released more than three million documents. The Epstein Files.

Speaker 8

Just a teenager when she came into contact with the ***** and his co-conspirator and girlfriend, Ghislaine Maxwell. Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor has now lost his royal titles as well as his reputation over his relationship with Jeffrey Epstein. Peter Mandelson's appointment as the UK's ambassador to the US and his association with Jeffrey Epstein continue to haunt Downing Street. Donald Trump has never denied being an acquaintance of Jeffrey Epstein. But as always said, he knew nothing about the trafficking and abuse of young women.

Speaker 2

The Epstein case, I think, is significant because it really has brought so much attention to crimes that are actually unfortunately very common, which are sexual abuse of children and young women. But because of the people involved, the power that they held, there has been an immense amount of covering up for these crimes and a lack of justice for the survivors. And I think that that's just highlighted how problematic these issues are in our country and around the world.

Speaker 8

Women were brought to the Virgin Islands, lured with promises of jobs, were raped sexually assaulted, held captive, and it had happened repeatedly for years. It was horrifying hearing what they were saying had occurred. He's dead, but in my head I'm thinking, but the people who helped him aren't.

Speaker 6

It was Epstein's wealth that allowed him to fund abuse on this scale and keep it hidden. So how did Jeffrey Epstein get so rich and powerful?

Speaker 3

Epstein, he was prodigious math talent. But he never got a degree in college. Fortune shone on him in the sense that he was able to get a job at the Dalton School, which is like the probably one of the preeminent private high schools in America. They were the creme de la creme. They were the tippy top of the 1%.

Speaker 7

This is his first dose of rich people. And so he makes these connections with parents at the Dalton School, wealthy parents. I was trying to verify what his time was like at that school. By 1976, the students don't seem to be learning the material at the pace that they're supposed to be. And so they decide to get rid of him before the end of the school year. So he's effectively sacked. I sent a public records request to find any teaching licenses for Jeffrey Epstein, and they said there's no teaching license for this individual.

Speaker 6

Were you surprised?

Speaker 7

I was like, OK, wow, this is-- it's certainly getting interesting.

Speaker 6

It wasn't the only time Epstein talked his way into a job. He used his wealthy connections from the school to move to Wall Street.

Speaker 3

Any kind of door that closed, Jeffrey always positioned himself to have another door open. And the other door that opened was he met a guy by the name of Ace Greenberg who was a big financial whiz at Bear Stearns, which was a top investment banking firm. And he ended up getting a job with Ace Greenberg.

Speaker 7

Bear Stearns apparently has a personnel department that goes over his resume and then calls up all the schools on the resume to make sure that he indeed graduated from them. It's all lies.

Speaker 6

Epstein kept his job but finally resigned in 1981 on the same day he was suspended for breaking the bank's lending rules. He then set himself up as a financial consultant and started working with a notorious fraudster.

Speaker 3

He finds this guy Stephen Hoffenberg. He's working for Hoffenberg. Things went bad. Hoffenberg ended up getting in trouble with the authorities.

Speaker 6

Hoffenberg had falsely promised thousands of investors big payouts from his debt collection business. He served 18 years for the \$460 million fraud. But by the time the scam was closed down, Epstein was safely gone.

Speaker 7

And what I'm able to trace down is that Epstein appears to have taken a quarter-million-dollar salary plus another \$2 million. The feds just go after Hoffenberg for the Ponzi scheme, even though Hoffenberg, in a grand jury deposition, he named Epstein dozens of times.

Speaker 3

The end result was is that Hoffenberg went to jail, and Jeffrey Epstein did not.

Speaker 6

Having got out early and escaped scrutiny, Epstein was now making serious money.

Speaker 7

So according to a Swiss banking document I found in the basement of a courthouse, he claimed that his net worth in 1988 was \$15.5 million. I was like, wow, that's quite striking. How did he accumulate that net worth?

Speaker 2

We know that he was a con man at heart, right? And that was not just within the world of sex trafficking, right? He wasn't just conning victims, but he was conning people in the financial world as well. Understanding him as a con man is an important part of understanding Epstein.

Speaker 5

The more somebody says this story is over, nobody's interested, dismiss it, it's over, the more I say no, it is not over.

Speaker 1

We're here to seek justice for those victims.

Speaker 9

We feel that there are more people involved than just Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell.

Speaker 1

Those accountable need to be held accountable.

Speaker 5

The House Oversight Committee is doing an investigation of Jeffrey Epstein. They've had a number of depositions of people, which is a formal question and answer period under oath, as well as interviews, a more informal discussion. It was a system of exploitation, it was a system of abuse, and it was a system of power. This case appears to be the largest sex trafficking network in the United States and perhaps in the world.

Speaker 9

I now are going to hear a video that Maria Farmer wanted to-- she wanted folks to hear about. And so we're going to go ahead and play that.

Speaker 4

Today, I apologize for my appearance. I was not well enough to attend this hearing in person and have recently been released from the hospital. For three decades, I've carried a weight that no survivor should ever have to bear. I reported what I believed were heinous crimes against children. And these individuals responsible were involved in an international pedophile reign.

Speaker 6

Maria Farmer has been battling complex medical conditions for years. So her sister Annie is helping tell her story.

Speaker 10

What would life be like, do you think, if you and Maria had never come across Epstein?

Speaker 2

I've thought about this quite a bit. What would life have been like? I see how it has played out for her in the tremendous consequences for her health. And it does make me especially sad thinking about how this impacted the trajectory of my sister's life.

Speaker 6

By 1989, Epstein had landed his biggest client, billionaire Leslie Wexner, owner of some of America's biggest retail brands.

Speaker 11

I was president of Wexner Investment Company. Leslie Wexner, he was worth couple billion dollars when I started working for him. So, I mean, he knew how to make a buck. His business was basically to get clothing to the market faster than any of the big department stores. He was very, very good at marketing. The first time I've heard anything about Jeffrey Epstein, Les tells me he's got a guy in New York who wants Les to invest some money with him. I think it was \$50 million. So Les tells me to fly to New York and meet with him, which I did. I didn't see a computer in his office. I'm not sure there was very much anything there. I left the office, his office. I found the pay phone. I called Les. I said, Stay away from him. I said, He's He doesn't know anything. I said, Les, I wouldn't walk away from the guy. I'd run like hell away from the guy. And I said, I think he's, you know, dishonest and a fraud. Then I hear Epstein's coming to tell.

Speaker 6

Epstein had got himself recommended to Leslie Wexner by powerful friends. He quickly won his new client's trust. Within two years, Wexner gave him a power of attorney, legal control of his vast private wealth.

Speaker 7

One of the things in his power of attorney is he can make payments on Wexner's behalf. He has wide latitude to do just about anything with his fortune. We can't tell where Wexner's money ends and Epstein's begins. And I think what he did was he co-mingled a lot of the accounts. What I did was I tried to link up Epstein selling stock for Wexner and Epstein acquiring things, planes, property. One of the very first things he does is he buys an aircraft. He buys a Hawker Sidley 125 and starts flying and starts leasing Wexner's East 71st Street mansion. Around 1998, he buys the island, he buys the helicopter. And then in 2002, there's a huge, there's like almost a billion of stock sales just in a very short period of time. And then that's when Epstein gets the apartments in France. The 727, which is also a Wexner corporate jet from Wexner's company, Epstein buys that. And that's basically the infrastructure of his sex trafficking venture.

Speaker 6

Do you believe Epstein stole money from Wexner?

Speaker 11

Oh, absolutely. I mean, he was a typical scam artist from New York, in my opinion.

Speaker 6

For almost two decades, Leslie Wexner's money funded Epstein's lifestyle and his criminality. He told Congress he had given a power of attorney to trusted employees

before, and said he fired Epstein in 2007 because he'd stolen hundreds of millions of dollars.

Speaker 1

So, several hundred million dollars is a large but not precise figure. To the best of your knowledge, how much exactly did Epstein steal?

Speaker 9

I don't know.

Speaker 6

I don't think I'll ever know.

Speaker 7

Did you ever witness Mr. Epstein sexually abuse young women or girls.

Speaker 12

Absolutely not.

Speaker 6

Leslie Wexner says he has voluntarily cooperated with the authorities, but he confirmed to the committee he hadn't been questioned by the FBI. Some members think he should be.

Speaker 9

Someone that's clearly the financial benefactor. to Jeffrey Epstein and has not been interviewed by the FBI or the DOJ? What the hell is going on?

Speaker 6

Why did Wexner fall for him?

Speaker 11

I don't know. Nobody knows that. Nobody. Or are they in town?

Speaker 10

In the life of a museum director, you would have a breakfast meeting with somebody that you needed to raise funds with. You'd have a lunch meeting with somebody that you needed to raise funds with or somehow ingratiate yourself. And then either a dinner meeting or go to some event or benefit where you would sit at a table meeting other wealthy people. I met Jeffrey Epstein through some People who I knew when I was spending summers on Martha's Vineyard. The people that were around him were

extraordinary. You know, to be at a dinner party with titans of industry and Nobel Prize winners. So I believe that he was, you know, somebody of substance and somebody who had managed to convince a lot of extraordinary people that he was on the up and up, that he was okay. I invited him to be on our drawing committee at the Whitney Museum.

Speaker 4

I think it was just another avenue into society, like another layer of respectability. It's art. There's like this sheen of like intrigue and mystery about it, and I'm sure he embraced that. I'm sure that he knew that gave him a credibility in certain social circles.

Speaker 13

The first time I came across Jeffrey Epstein's name was in 1995. I went to buy two sculptures that I had seen the previous day. One of the Madonna, the other one of St. John. And when I went to get them, I was horrified to find that one of the statues was missing, the Madonna. I said, I bought the St. John immediately. And I said to the dealer, I said, what happened? What happened to the Madonna? And he said to me, I sold her to a collector by the name of Jeffrey Epstein. I knew that Jeffrey Epstein made it a point to know the most important people, the most successful people, the most known people in different professions. I got to say one thing about Jeffrey Epstein as a collector. For me, Epstein didn't collect art. He collected people.

Speaker 4

Well, we were standing in front of the New York Academy of Art, famously founded by Andy Warhol in the early '80s. And the mission of the New York Academy is solely focused on portraiture. It's just probably one of the most famous schools. The Andy Warhol connection is obviously a very solid one. Soon after the founding, Epstein was a trustee or a board member, and he seemed to be closely linked to the leaders of the school. I had really only known them because they throw that big Tribeca ball every year. It's very glamorous.

Speaker 6

Maria Farmer was a student there when she met Epstein in 1995. After she graduated, he gave her a job as his art advisor. And he soon started taking an interest in her 16-year-old sister, Annie.

Speaker 2

I was actually on a scholarship at my Catholic high school, and I knew that the financial piece of it had been really stressful for my mom. I was talking to my sister about it, and then she was talking to her employer, Jeffrey Epstein, and he was quick to say, Oh, I can help her with that. I'd love to meet her. You know, this is something I wrote about in my

journal. suggested that Maria and I meet him to go to the movies together. Did the first thing that made me uncomfortable. He reached over and grabbed my hand to hold hands with me and caressed my hand and then caressed my leg as we're watching the film. And of course, very quickly had sort of that sick to my stomach feeling. And, but also my mind was racing trying to make sense of this. He suggested I come out to Zorro Ranch. In speaking with my mom about it, you know, he had explained it in one way, which is that, you know, that I would not be the only young person there, that there would be other people as well. And then I flew there, and when I arrived, I find just, Jeffrey Epstein and Kaylin Maxwell. She suggested that I really should experience a massage. And once I was on the massage table, then, you know, she pulled down the sheet and exposed my breasts and rubbed my chest. I felt scared that he could see me, but also was just trying to, like, focus on getting through it, because I just knew I wanted it to be over with. And then my last morning there, he came over to my room and opened the door and came in and said he wanted to cuddle with me. He sort of did what you would consider like spooning, right? Like coming up behind me and wrapping his arms around me and pushing his body against me. And I made the excuse of I need to use the bathroom. There was a bathroom right next to the bed. But it just at that moment became that much harder for me to pretend that this was in any way a normal kind of experience.

Speaker 5

Meanwhile, her sister Maria is in-- it's the summer. She was given what she thought was a special privilege to become an artist in residence on Les Wexner's estate in Ohio. There was a house that Epstein was using on his estate, and she was there, and on one of their visits, Epstein and Maxwell, they assaulted. Maria.

Speaker 3

Do you have any reason to not believe Maria Farmer's account of being abused by Jeffrey Epstein on your property?

Speaker 1

Objection on his property.

Speaker 3

I'll be sure I answered this correctly. I never met her, didn't know she was here, didn't know she was abused.

Speaker 6

In 1996, Maria Farmer made the first recorded complaint of sexual assault by Jeffrey Epstein. Her FBI report has now been released in the Epstein files, though key details are missing.

Speaker 5

Complainant stated that she is a professional artist and took pictures of her sisters, 12 and 16 years old, for her own personal artwork. Epstein stole the photos and negatives and is believed to have sold the pictures to potential buyers. Epstein at one time requested blank, which was presumably Maria, to take pictures of young girls at swimming pools. Epstein is now threatening Maria that if she tells anyone about the photos, he will burn her house down. This is the document that was produced in the first batch of files and resulting from the Epstein Files Transparency Act. And at the bottom, there's some writing on the lower right, 145C-0-343. And basically it means that this file went into the child ***** section, 145C, that's child *****. And zero means it went into the zero file, which means nothing was done. Maria gave a lot more information. She reported her fears for Annie. Perhaps she was sexually assaulted. And she reported that Epstein Maxwell and others may have been involved in some kind of pedophile ring with children. She saw Ghislaine Maxwell doing what she called go get girls. from schools, from the street, drive around, pick up girls, young girls, you know, underage girls, for Jeffrey. She reported all of this. So where are any of those reports?

Speaker 9

It was an incident that occurred maybe like 3, 3 1/2 weeks ago with one of my stepdaughters.

Speaker 12

A stepmother of a child called the police department and told the person answering the phone at the police department that her daughter had sexual contact with an adult male in Palm Beach. They went to Palm Beach to a gentleman's house. And we began our investigation. These are 14 and 15 and 16-year-old children. They were promised usually \$200 or \$300 for giving a massage to an adult male. In many cases, it resulted in a sexual battery. Epstein knew that we were investigating them. How do we know that? Because there were computers removed. We could see wires hanging. As far as I know, the computers have never come into the custody of law enforcement. We hadn't identified nearly 40 under age 18 victims at the point that we referred the case for prosecution. Among others, Donald Trump was one of the persons that did call me and basically thanked me for investigating Epstein once it became public. It was sometime in 2006.

Speaker 6

What did he say to you?

Speaker 12

He said that it was widely known that Epstein was doing this. Thank goodness that we were stopping him. Maxwell was helping him and that Maxwell was evil, an important part of all this.

Speaker 6

The White House says Donald Trump may or may not have made the phone call, and that he cut off his relationship with Epstein because he was a creep. In 2019, Donald Trump said he had no suspicions about Epstein's criminality. In 2008, prosecutors dropped sex trafficking charges as part of a plea deal with Epstein. He got an 18-month sentence for procuring a minor for prostitution.

Speaker 12

He ended up only serving 13 months, and part of that in work release, some of the time in his own office and his home. You know, I think that there are some people that still view this as a prostitution situation, and I think that will change in time. He should have been sentenced to life.

Speaker 6

Epstein had worked his way into the lives of the rich and powerful. Some of them stayed in touch after he'd been convicted. And he corresponded with them.

Speaker 10

I sent him an e-mail saying, Hey, you know, buck up, you know, you'll get through this, whatever. And then he went and had that strange incarceration where he was only in prison to sleep or county jail, wasn't even prison, really. I didn't even think about it twice until it popped up in the Epstein files investigations. There was one e-mail that I find the most disturbing, in which he told me that he had this fantasy about making some kind of a film about-- I can't remember. You could read it.

Speaker 6

Titled Statutory, girls and boys being where they look nothing like their true ages.

Speaker 10

Right.

Speaker 6

And so I wrote to him, I said, do you know-- What's your response?

Speaker 10

Do you want to read just your response? No. But I remember the e-mail because I thought, that's a really bizarre idea. So I said something like, oh, that's incredible. And

then I remembered that there's a great artist who had done work around America's preoccupation with adolescent sexuality.

Speaker 6

They were discussing an infamous image of the actor Brooke Shields, taken when she was a child.

Speaker 10

I never saw him with young girls. He kept that part of himself very hidden to my everlasting shame. I, you know, I showed support and friendship to this guy because he... he made me believe that he was innocent of all those charges.

Speaker 5

When he came out, Epstein basically was looking not for girls who were underage, but looked like they were underage. And he was often looking far afield in other countries. He had scouts in other countries looking for girls for him. I'm talking Eastern Europe, I'm talking Paris, I'm talking any place. That seems to be everyone's response. Yes, I went to the island. Yes, I went to the house. Yes, I went to Palm Beach. I saw some girls sometimes, maybe, they were, I don't know how old they were. I didn't know. Now everyone didn't know. That doesn't make any sense.

Speaker 2

Clearly, people knew his proclivities, his interest in young women, in girls, right? So he was not hiding that from people. And he was able to somehow charm people into making this seem okay, right? Or maybe some people were actually disgusted by that, but it was so important to them to have that association that they were willing to put up with it or, you know, look the other way.

Speaker 3

Bill Gates and Jeffrey Epstein had a bond of sorts that's unfathomable on certain levels. It's quite likely that he was able to mortgage that relationship into something else. So in other words, he could go to a third person and say, oh yeah, my friend Bill Gates, to further enhance his stature in the world.

Speaker 12

Bill Gates appeared on Capitol Hill in apologetic mode, saying he should never have met Epstein in the 1st place, but insisting he'd never witnessed any criminal conduct and never himself victimized anyone.

Speaker 7

Emails of Jeffrey Epstein's show Epstein back and forth discussing the creation of what was going to be called a donor-advised fund that Bill Gates would kick in lots of philanthropic money And Epstein was promising to also bring in other billionaires and create this mega fund. And so Epstein was going to secretly run it from behind the scenes.

Speaker 6

Bill Gates considered investing, even though Epstein was a convicted sex offender. In the end, he pulled out, so Epstein tried another tactic.

Speaker 7

Epstein approached Gates and said the name of a woman that Gates had had an affair with who was about 23 years old and she was a Russian bridge player I Think that was the threat like I I did some digging and I know some things about you and that's a pretty big thing to know about the world's one of the world's wealthiest people.

Speaker 9

I Hope my testimony is helpful to the work important work of the committee to find justice for the victims. Thank you.

Speaker 6

Bill Gates told Congress he wasn't blackmailed, but he thought Epstein was getting ready to do just that. Gates is one of dozens of public figures who say they regret their association with the convicted sex offender. Some have resigned from their roles.

Speaker 10

I called the president of the school where I had been running a graduate program, and I told him that I wanted to resign. I can apologize again and again to those women and girls who were victimized by his behavior and his activities. I'm sure that there were students who would have been furious if I had fought to stay on and whatever. But I'm not really part of that art world anymore. And it's fine. I don't miss it.

Speaker 4

I have \$99 million. I have all the time in the world. I was in the room that night. And here comes Edvard Monk, The Scream. \$100 million. Price just keeps climbing and climbing and climbing. At 107. No? Are we done? Is he out? For the historic sum at \$107 million. Hammer. Sold. Thank you, Charlie. Weeks later, it turned out that Leon Black was the buyer. Leon Black has to be one of the wealthiest men in the world. He was a big donor and influence to the Museum of Modern Art.

Speaker 6

Epstein had landed Leon Black as his latest super-rich client. The private equity billionaire hired the convicted sex offender to manage his wealth, including his vast art collection. It's since been valued at almost \$3 billion.

Speaker 4

The fact that he has JMW Turner pulses on, Piet Mondrian, Claude Monet, Edward Monk, obviously, Rembrandt. Well, that surprised me a little bit. Vincent van Gogh, Michelangelo, Degas, Philosophy Kandinsky. If I look at that list, and that's what Leon Black has, he's a trophy hunter, but he's a trophy hunter at, like, a level that's in the stratosphere. Huge. I'm looking at the values, too. I mean, it's It's astonishing.

Speaker 6

Epstein had a plan to help cut Leon Black's tax bill on his masterpieces.

Speaker 4

There's a mechanism called a 1031, right? And it was originally founded as a mechanism for people who are, like, flipping farm equipment or real estate, right? It's the idea that you don't want to incur huge capital gains. So if you, you know, buy a new tractor, maybe you sold your barn. He was advising him how to flip the art and trade it and not incur a huge capital gains tax. Say that you bought a Giacometti at \$10 million, and now you're selling it at \$25 million. They're going to tax you on that \$15 million gain. So he was helping him find ways to avoid that.

Speaker 6

Did he not mind that Epstein was a convicted pedophile?

Speaker 4

I don't think it mattered to him at all.

Speaker 6

In 2019, the authorities in the U.S. Virgin Islands began investigating Epstein's operations. They soon discovered huge payments he'd received from Leon Black for his tax advice.

Speaker 8

In order to really see how this operated, the investigation was going to follow the money financial investigation. Jeffrey Epstein. The first thing that we learned was that he had a web of companies, entities in the Virgin Islands, registered in the Virgin Islands. One of his companies, Southern Trust, which actually handled a lot of the operations. Hiring employees. coordinating travels from some of the women who were brought in. It was evident that there was a significant money flow to the Southern Trust. Much money

passed or flowed between Epstein and Leon Black. And that was evident from early on in the investigation.

Speaker 6

Between 2013 and 2017, Leon Black paid Epstein Southern Trust Company \$158 million. It accounted for 85 percent of the company's funds in that period. Leon Black denies any knowledge or involvement in Epstein's crimes. But the money he paid into Southern Trust was almost single-handedly funding Epstein's sex trafficking operation.

Speaker 4

I have to imagine that that amount of money, there's no way that it couldn't have been funding private jets. Like flying girls to the island. Courting people, buying real estate, travel, his extravagant lifestyle, how could that money have not ended up funding some of that?

Speaker 6

In a legal settlement, without admitting wrongdoing, Leon Black accepted his money had been used by Epstein to partially fund his operations.

Speaker 8

As is normally done, my team did present to Mr. Black the opportunity to settle the matter out of court, which he did choose.

Speaker 6

For how much money?

Speaker 8

It was about \$62 million with Leon Black.

Speaker 9

What's most important, obviously, is that Leon Black, about \$150 million, Leon Black moved to Jeffrey Epstein. That's an enormous amount of money, and Jeffrey Epstein would not have been able to commit the horrific crimes without the support of Mr. Black.

Speaker 6

Leon Black has refused to cooperate with the Epstein congressional hearings, and he's now suing the committee for exceeding its powers. The files show Epstein helped manage payments on Leon Black's behalf to three Eastern European women, even organizing surveillance on one former girlfriend and plotting to get her deported.

Speaker 4

At one point, when Leon Black's having trouble with this woman he says is blackmailing him that he had an affair with, he had already paid her off, and Epstein is trying to help him find ways to create immigration issues. But it certainly goes to using your power to try to intimidate people. Leon Black is still just living his life, as far as I can tell. I mean, because sometimes I will say to people, I can't believe that he's still on the board of MoMA or he's still out and about in society. Leon Black does not seem to be afraid to show his face.

Speaker 6

What do you think that comes down to?

Speaker 4

Arrogance and wealth.

Speaker 6

Leon Black denies Epstein acted as his fixer and says he regrets he gave Epstein a second chance after his conviction. He says Epstein was a despicable individual who duped and deceived repeatedly. Leon Black says Epstein's tax work was responsible for billions of dollars in savings and that an independent report concluded that the \$158 million he'd paid Epstein was for legitimate tax and estate planning advice. The authorities in the U.S. Virgin Islands then pursued one of the world's biggest banks, JPMorgan Chase. It had failed to report Epstein taking out millions of dollars in suspicious cash withdrawals.

Speaker 8

A substantial amount of Jeffrey Epstein's banking and accounts were with JPMorgan Chase. What we alleged is that JPMorgan had not complied with the banking reporting laws. When you see very large cash transactions, that is a classic red flag that requires reporting under the banking laws. They enabled Jeffrey Epstein in his sex trafficking operation by failing to report his suspicious activities. There was a settlement, and the settlement, I believe, was around for \$75 million.

Speaker 6

Can you remember when you filed the case against J.P. Morgan.

Speaker 8

Yes, it was soon. It was in December of 2022. I think it was about five days before my departure from the attorney general's office.

Speaker 6

Are those two events related?

Speaker 8

I believe that they were. But I was-- I was let go, the governor terminating me without cause. And that is, he has the right to do so. I do believe that it had everything to do with the J.P. Morgan filing. But I believe that the most important thing there, the most important impact, was really what it did to the investigation. The underlying Epstein investigation that was uncovering various people, persons, entities that ended with my departure.

Speaker 6

The governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands didn't respond to our questions about Denise George's sacking. J.P. Morgan says it regrets any association with Epstein and says it didn't help him commit his heinous acts. J.P. Morgan, Bank of America and Deutsche Bank have also made settlements to Epstein survivors, totaling almost \$440 million. All three banks denied wrongdoing and facilitating Epstein's sex trafficking by failing to properly report his suspicious transactions.

Speaker 8

I have no regrets. I have no regrets. And I knew it was bigger than I was. I knew it was bigger than the Virgin Islands, bigger than the governor, bigger than everyone. But what would have been the alternative? I was not going to turn a blind eye, one knowing what I know. Absolutely not. then I would be a part of the problem.

Speaker 13

Epstein emailed me, and it was a very strange e-mail. So he said, dear Andres, I'm moving things around from house to house. I seem to recall you want statue of Madonna. Okay with me for trade. So I sent back a response, Sure, you know, I'll trade with you for the statue. And the next day, he sent me the statue.

Speaker 6

In return for the statue, Epstein asked the artist to take his photograph.

Speaker 13

Now, he didn't come in for his portrait until about six months later. And then two months later, he was found dead in his cell.

Speaker 6

Epstein had been remanded in custody after being charged with sex trafficking of minors in July 2019.

Speaker 14

My name is William Mercy. and I spent a year at MCC federal prison. The charge was tax fraud. I would say that I sat and conversed with Jeffrey Epstein on whatever subject for at least 15 or 20 hours. I talked a lot about how running an advertising agency for prostitutes worked, which is how I made the money that I didn't declare on my income taxes, and ended up there in his company. And he was interested in the business aspect. There were times where he would sort of drift off, and I knew he was -- he was, oh, my God. I was having a good time for a second, and now I just remember the deep **** that I'm in.

Speaker 6

A medical examiner found that Epstein took his own life, but that hasn't stopped the many theories surrounding his death.

Speaker 14

I believe he killed himself because I observed him for many, many hours. I observed his decline. Only the last time I watched Jeffrey did his mood really strike me as defeated. He was sitting on the floor of his prison cell with a styrofoam container of a chicken between his legs, looking very down and out. And I said, Jeffrey, what do you do? Why are you eating chicken on the floor? Oh, it's just easier this way. And then he asked me if I needed any money. And I said, Well, you know, you're a billionaire. Why would I say no? That's a ridiculous question. He said, Well, you put some money on your books. And I think it was, in retrospect, he was saying goodbye. You know, This is it. I'm going to throw you a few bucks, and you're never going to see me again. I'm going to kill myself at the earliest convenience, which he did.

Speaker 6

Did you get the money?

Speaker 14

No.

Speaker 6

To date, only Ghislaine Maxwell has been convicted in connection with the Epstein scandal.

Speaker 13

So there are some things that continue to fascinate the public's imagination because there will never be an answer that satisfies them. And Jeffrey Epstein is that monster that will never be able to be, you know, discussed in a way other than as a bigger than life phenomena.

Speaker 7

I found that he's more of a con man. Jeffrey Epstein was running a long run confidence trick on the rich.

Speaker 6

What are you teaching your class now?

Speaker 7

That it seems like sometimes you can pursue justice against powerful people, but it's a very long road.

Speaker 6

There are Epstein-related investigations underway in nine countries, including the U.K. Seven years after his death, for the survivors, the fight for justice continues.

Speaker 2

The core of this case has always been about the protection that power can provide. and impunity for elites. And I think that a lot of the names of people that have been connected to Epstein, these are people with a lot of money and a lot of power, and that has bought them protection.