

[How the law, the press and his victims finally caught up with Jeffrey Epstein | Miami Herald](#)

Investigating Epstein

How the law, the press and his victims finally caught up with Jeffrey Epstein

DEC. 19, 2019

When the Miami Herald launched its three-part investigation Perversion of Justice in November 2018, it awakened the world to a decades-long injustice suffered by dozens and perhaps hundreds of young girls, many of whom had never spoken about their abuse at the hands of Jeffrey Epstein.

The story exploded on the national consciousness, with public outcry from victims' rights advocates and calls from members of Congress for an investigation into how Epstein, a politically connected financier, had escaped federal prosecution more than a decade ago.

It seemed that the Herald had succeeded in uncovering the full scope of an incredible injustice.

The work was only just beginning.

By January 2019, the story began to fade from the national spotlight as the Mueller investigation gained steam and the media coped with the daily whiplash of breaking news from the Trump administration.

But Miami Herald journalists continued to dig into the Epstein case, filing more than 80 stories, editorials, columns and videos. Their persistence included filing a federal motion to unseal thousands of court documents, interviewing new victims and acquaintances, including those in Epstein's infamous "black book," and examining the source of his wealth and how he was able to court politicians and skirt laws in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where he owns two private islands.

In the aftermath of their investigation, the Herald and its journalists were attacked by the former deputy federal prosecutor in Miami who handled the case, and by Epstein's lawyers, most notably Alan Dershowitz, who labeled the series "fake news," and tried unsuccessfully to ban the media from part of a court proceeding on unsealing records.

As a result of the Herald's reporting, the top federal prosecutor for the Southern District of New York revived the case and Epstein was arrested in July. U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman, in announcing Epstein's indictment, noted that prosecutors were aided in their investigation by "some excellent investigative reporting."

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Nov. 28, 2018

[A deal cooked up in secret](#)

In Part One of Perversion of Justice, investigative reporter Julie K. Brown and visual journalist Emily Michot described how a secret meeting at a West Palm Beach Marriott between Miami U.S. Attorney Alexander Acosta and Epstein's powerful, politically connected lawyer Jay Lefkowitz gave rise to an extraordinary "non-prosecution agreement," one in which Acosta agreed to dispose of an already drafted sex trafficking indictment if Epstein would plead to minor state charges and pay off the women he abused. Interlaced throughout the story were the voices of Epstein's victims, who felt they had been betrayed by the very prosecutors who had pledged to protect them and who had kept their machinations secret.

[FIERCE INTERROGATIONS FOR TROUBLED YOUNG GIRLS](#)

In Part Two, former Palm Beach Police Chief Michael Reiter revealed how he and his detectives were sabotaged by prosecutors as they tried to bring charges against Epstein: how their search warrants went unsigned, and private investigators hired by Epstein tailed them, digging through their garbage to find scraps of information to discredit them. Epstein's young victims were also threatened and followed; they were grilled by his lawyers and disbelieved by prosecutors, who at times treated them like prostitutes, instead of victims.

[SERVING SOFT TIME IN A LAVISH OFFICE](#)

Part Three: Epstein managed to manipulate the criminal justice system even after his guilty plea in state court to minor charges. In a deal blessed by the Palm Beach County sheriff, Epstein was allowed to leave the jail for 12 hours a day, six days a week — and was allegedly able to have conjugal visits with young women. The registered sex offender was rarely monitored, and allowed to disappear by

claiming he was visiting Home Depot or out shopping for a new office. Epstein's work release visitor logs, maintained by deputies on his private payroll, have vanished.

Dec. 4, 2018

An apology — but not to the victims

A week after Perversion of Justice was published, Jeffrey Epstein settled a lawsuit that had dragged on for years. Epstein had sued Bradley Edwards, attorney for some of the women who accused the multimillionaire of trafficking them sexually.

Edwards had once worked for a sprawling Florida law firm run by Scott Rothstein, who later was convicted of engineering a massive Ponzi scheme. Epstein claimed that Edwards' advocacy for the accusers was really a vehicle to help perpetuate Rothstein's Ponzi scheme. (Rothstein said Edwards knew nothing about the Ponzi scheme.)

As the case was ready to go to trial, Epstein, through his lawyers, withdrew his claim and apologized — to Edwards, not to Epstein's many accusers, who would never receive a similar apology.

Dec. 19, 2018



The woman behind the man behind the abuse

Epstein's former girlfriend, British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell, worked at the helm of his sex operation, helping to recruit victims, training them and in some cases abusing them, several lawsuits allege.

The daughter of a media baron, Maxwell connected the Brooklyn-born Epstein to prominent world leaders, including British royalty. On this date, Maxwell and Epstein settled a lawsuit, filed by an alleged victim, Sarah Ransome, who said she was instructed by them to have sex with one of Epstein's lawyers, Alan Dershowitz. (It was not alleged that the sex occurred.) The famed Harvard law professor, a longtime friend and occasional houseguest of Epstein, denied he ever met Ransome and said the accusation was invented by Ransome's lawyer, David Boies.

Feb. 6, 2019



One Republican lawmaker breaks ranks

If Perversion of Justice triggered a visceral reaction from Democrats more than Republicans, it might be in part because Alexander Acosta, the former prosecutor who shelved the sex trafficking indictment, had become President Donald Trump's labor secretary.

In a Cabinet filled with controversial figures, Acosta had maintained a low profile. He was Trump's only Hispanic Cabinet member and came from Florida, the largest swing state.

Then, a bipartisan breakthrough: Sen. Ben Sasse, a Nebraska Republican, publicly called on the Justice Department to investigate the propriety of the plea agreement. On Feb. 6, the department opened an Office of Professional Responsibility probe.

Feb. 21, 2019

A deal that violated the law

While many considered the Epstein plea agreement suspect, U.S. District Judge Kenneth A. Marra was the first to rule that it broke the law. The law in question is the Crime Victims' Rights Act, which mandates that victims be kept apprised of plea deals, court hearings and sentencings. The judge instructed the Justice Department and attorneys for Epstein's victims to try to agree on a path forward. Epstein's victims demanded that the deal be voided and Epstein sent to prison.

March 1, 2019



The new AG is thrust into the Epstein spotlight

As political pressure coalesced, 14 members of the House of Representatives, all Democrats, called for a do-over on the federal criminal investigation.

“We urge the DOJ to reopen the non-prosecution agreement to allow for a thorough investigation of these heinous crimes,” the lawmakers wrote to newly installed Attorney General William Barr.

March 5, 2019



The Southern District recuses; Atlanta steps in

Days before a court-imposed deadline to respond in the Crime Victims’ Rights Act lawsuit, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida stepped aside — because of allegations that the office, while under the direction of Acosta years earlier, had mishandled the original case. The matter was assigned to the U.S. attorney in Atlanta, Byung J. “BJay” Pak.

March 6, 2019

The Miami Herald goes to court

Virginia Roberts Giuffre was working at Mar-a-Lago as an attendant when she was recruited by Maxwell to work for Epstein. The work quickly turned into serving as a “sex slave” for both of them, she has long alleged. Giuffre claimed she and other girls were pimped out to other men as part of Epstein’s sex trafficking operation.

Maxwell publicly denounced Giuffre as a liar, and in 2016, Giuffre sued her in New York for defamation. The judge agreed to seal nearly everything in the court file.

The Miami Herald petitioned the court to unseal all the records. After losing at the trial level, the Herald appealed.

March 11, 2019

Breaking the seal: a tentative victory

The federal appeals court in New York City signaled its willingness to make public the confidential Epstein/Maxwell documents.

The three-judge panel gave interested parties until March 19 to state why any of the records should remain sealed. It would take months, however, for that to happen.

March 14, 2019

A case that foreshadowed Epstein

Nine months before cutting a covert plea deal with Jeffrey Epstein, Miami U.S. Attorney Alexander Acosta was notified that the lead prosecutor in Epstein’s case, Marie Villafaña, had concealed information in a different underage sex crimes case.

In that instance, the assistant U.S. attorney was rebuked in writing by a federal judge for her “intentional and/or serious lapse of judgment” when she failed to explicitly inform him that the defendant, a Texas man who traveled to Florida to have sex with a 14-year-old girl, had a prior history of predatory acts toward minors.

When Acosta learned of the breach, he assigned another prosecutor in his office to petition the judge to soften the stinging language. (Judge William Zloch refused.)

Villafaña was still able to handle the Epstein prosecution.

March 20, 2019

'John and Jane Doe' want to stay nameless

Two mystery parties, John and Jane Doe, wanted the Epstein/Maxwell records to remain secret. They filed separate legal briefs in the New York court case attempting to prevent the release of any records that might connect them to Epstein. Epstein's ever-widening scandal threatened to engulf other rich and influential people.

April 16, 2019



A new accuser, 23 years later

A previously unknown accuser stepped forward. In an affidavit filed in New York, Maria Farmer, now 49, said she was lured into Epstein's orbit when she was 26. She alleged that she and her then-15-year-old sister were abused by him and Maxwell in 1996.

Then an art student in New York, Farmer said she reported the assault at the time to the FBI and New York police. FBI documents back her up, but Farmer said agents took no action.

May 10, 2019

Lukewarm reception for the U.S. attorney's plan

As the deadline arrived for offering potential solutions to the Crime Victims' Rights Act impasse, U.S. Attorney Pak of Georgia asked a judge for a 60-day pause. He said he wanted to consult with

Epstein's victims and see how they would like to proceed. Some victims viewed this as a delay tactic, not a legitimate effort to get at the truth.

June 25, 2019

No unwinding the non-prosecution deal

In a blow to Epstein's victims, Judge Marra ruled that the non-prosecution agreement could not be undone. U.S. Attorney Pak said — and the judge concurred — that the law passed by Congress did not specify a remedy or punitive measures for violations of the Act.

July 2, 2019



Virginia Roberts Giuffre has been resolute in battling Jeffrey Epstein, Ghislaine Maxwell and Epstein lawyer Alan Dershowitz in court.

Three months later, records still sealed

More than three months after an appeals court signaled a willingness to open records in the civil case against Ghislaine Maxwell, nothing had happened, and there was no indication when the records would be made public. Maxwell continued to wage a legal fight to keep the case file secret.

July 3, 2019

2,000 pages to be released

Amid urging by the Herald and its parent company, McClatchy, a three-judge federal appeals court panel finally ordered the release of 2,000 pages of the Maxwell/Giuffre civil suit. The timing and details on how they would be released were to be determined later.

July 5, 2019



David Boies, in the twilight of a widely acclaimed legal career, has feuded with — and sued — Alan Dershowitz over the Epstein case.

Dershowitz v. Boies

Famed lawyers Alan Dershowitz and David Boies have engaged in a long, bitter, un lawyerly feud connected to the Epstein case.

Dershowitz, Epstein's friend and sometimes houseguest as well as his lawyer, insisted he had no idea that Epstein was sexually abusing girls. Boies, representing some of Epstein's victims, who are now adults, said Dershowitz not only knew what Epstein was doing, but participated in it. Dershowitz accused Boies and others working with Boies of being willing to "lie, cheat and steal," including slandering Dershowitz's name, as part of a broader effort to extort money from another powerful Epstein associate, retail giant Les Wexner, who owns Victoria's Secret. Wexner was close to Epstein at one time and helped stake him to his fortune.

A secretly recorded phone call between Boies and Dershowitz, in which Boies seemed to concede that client Virginia Giuffre was wrong in accusing Dershowitz of sexual misconduct, raised the temperature even more. Dershowitz recorded the call. Boies claimed the audio was misleading and maybe doctored.

Dershowitz filed multiple complaints with the Florida and New York Bar Associations against Boies and his attorneys, without success.

July 6, 2019



Agents raided the home of Jeffrey Epstein in Manhattan, prying open the imposing front door, on the same day he was arrested at a New Jersey airport.

All these years later, Epstein is arrested

A decade after the non-prosecution agreement that allowed him to escape federal charges, Epstein was arrested as he disembarked from his private jet at Teterboro Airport in New Jersey.

Epstein had just returned to the United States from Paris, where he maintained one of his many homes. Later, federal agents were seen breaching the door of his seven-story Manhattan mansion to serve a warrant and seize evidence in the sex trafficking case, filed by the U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York.

July 7, 2019

Nervous times for friends and enablers

After Jeffrey Epstein's arrest, attention turned to the people in his circle of friends and associates. They ranged from Ghislaine Maxwell to modeling agent Jean-Luc Brunel to Prince Andrew to various world leaders, scientists, artists and philanthropists who befriended Epstein. Not to mention Bill Clinton and Donald Trump.

Those who continued to associate with Epstein even after he had pleaded guilty to prostitution charges in Palm Beach County, served his short jail stint and landed on the sex offender registry in multiple states might now reasonably be asked why. Those who helped organize his household — and schedule his appointments with young girls — figured to face more pointed questions.

July 8, 2019

From the penthouse to the jailhouse

Jeffrey Edward Epstein appeared in a packed New York federal courtroom in a blue prison jumpsuit and orange sneakers, his white hair disheveled, his face weary and unshaven.

He was worlds away from the luxurious protection of his island enclave in the Caribbean, his vast mansion on the Upper East Side, his Palm Beach estate, his ranch in New Mexico or his penthouse in Paris.

"Not guilty, your honor," he uttered when the magistrate asked how he intended to plead.

July 8, 2019



Alexander Acosta: No longer flying below the radar

For more than two years, Alex Acosta had been President Trump's low-key labor secretary, plucked from Florida, a state crucial to Trump's reelection. He had become known for tweeting out upbeat employment numbers and not much else. After Epstein's arrest on essentially the same charges that Acosta chose not to prosecute him on a decade earlier, the former U.S. attorney now faced blistering scrutiny.

"In failing to vigorously prosecute a serial child predator such as Jeffrey Epstein, Secretary Acosta abrogated his duty as a prosecutor and the chief federal law enforcement officer in South Florida," said Democratic U.S. Rep. Donna Shalala, one of many critics. Nonetheless, Trump indicated the labor secretary's job was safe and Acosta affirmed he wasn't going anywhere voluntarily.

July 9, 2019

Trump on Epstein: 'Not a fan'

There was a time when future President Donald Trump spoke glowingly of Jeffrey Epstein, calling him a "terrific guy" who "likes beautiful women as much as I do," adding, "and many of them are on the younger side."

At some point, he changed his assessment. Trump, famous for distancing himself from aides and others in trouble, said he and the newly arrested Epstein had a falling out years earlier, and noted, "I was not a fan of his, that I can tell you."

Of Acosta, the president said he "feels badly" for him.

July 10, 2019

Acosta says he did nothing wrong

At an extraordinary news conference, standing before a sea of American flags and in front of a throng of journalists, Acosta defiantly declared he acted properly more than a decade earlier when he shelved Jeffrey Epstein's original 53-page indictment.

Despite having a list of nearly three dozen underage accusers, Acosta said going to trial would have been a "roll of the dice." He stated that Epstein's guilty plea in state court to minor prostitution

charges ensured that he would serve time and would have to register as a sex offender, thereby protecting the public.

July 11, 2019

Epstein wants to await his fate at home

With Epstein locked up, prosecutors urged victims who had not come forward to do so. Meanwhile, Epstein's legal team asked a federal judge to let its client wait out the pretrial period at his Manhattan mansion, and offered to post tens of millions in bail money.

July 12, 2019

Acosta is out of a job

Two days after vigorously defending his actions in the Epstein case, Alexander Acosta abruptly resigned.

"I do not think it is right and fair for this administration's labor department to have Epstein as the focus rather than the incredible economy that we have today," Acosta said at the White House, with the president standing behind his right shoulder. "So I called the president this morning. I told him I thought the right thing to do was to step aside."

July 13, 2019

Was Acosta pointing fingers at these people?

At the hourlong news conference while he was still hanging on to his job, Alexander Acosta defended his handling of the Epstein case and cast blame in various directions, including at State Attorney Barry Krischer, who had been poised to charge Epstein with a misdemeanor, and at Sheriff Ric Bradshaw of Palm Beach County, who afforded the offender liberal work release privileges.

Although he didn't specify others by name, here are two likely candidates:

Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Reinhart left Acosta's employ during the Epstein deliberations and immediately joined forces with the defense side in the Epstein matter. (In an affidavit, he said he had not been privy to any information from prosecutors, although his former colleagues later contradicted him.) Another assistant U.S. attorney — Matthew Menchel, head of the office's criminal

division — had an unspecified business or personal relationship with Epstein, according to a court filing by a lawyer for Epstein’s accusers. Menchel was included on some emails between prosecutors handling the Epstein matter. Reached by the Herald, Menchel declined to comment.

July 13, 2019

Flashbacks and latent trauma: Life after Epstein

“My life would’ve been very different if I never met Jeffrey Epstein,” said Courtney Wild, one of the wealthy financier’s accusers. “A lot of times, being around older men brings flashbacks. It’s just trauma that I didn’t even [know] I had until I worked through a lot of things.”

She was not alone in her lingering resentment.

July 14, 2019

Epstein scandal crosses borders and oceans

The arrest of Epstein reverberated a world away, in Israel, where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his Likud party called for a criminal probe into former Prime Minister Ehud Barak’s personal and business ties with the accused sex trafficker.

Barak, 77, served as prime minister from 1999 to 2001.

He was a close friend and business partner of Epstein for years, but now some of those relationships faced scrutiny at an inopportune time, in the midst of election season.

July 16, 2019



Early Epstein: 'Poor, smart and desperate to be rich'

Before he managed money for the rich and powerful, before he became an alleged serial sex abuser of children, before he became the nation's most high-profile federal inmate, Jeffrey Epstein taught the children of New York's elite.

How he transitioned from a schoolteacher at the Dalton School, a private K-12 academy, to a wheeler-dealer at the Wall Street investment bank Bear Stearns to working for himself as the investment counselor to some of the nation's wealthiest people is an unlikely story. It started when one student's father, a high-level Bear Stearns exec, was so "wowed" by the bushy-haired instructor that he invited Epstein to join his company.

July 18, 2019

Tracking Epstein's wealth: A game of hide-and-seek

To widespread skepticism, Jeffrey Epstein's legal team provided an accounting of his finances to the court, hoping to persuade the judge to set him free on bail. Meantime, documents obtained by McClatchy and the Miami Herald provided a more detailed — but still fuzzy — look at Epstein's wealth. Those documents underscored the challenge his accusers and the U.S. legal system might face should they seek, as expected, to seize his assets and use the proceeds to compensate his victims.

July 19, 2019



Sheriff who OK'd work release points toward subordinates

One of the enduring mysteries of the Jeffrey Epstein case is why the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office allowed a sex offender with dozens of accusers to go free for 12 hours a day. Sex offenders seldom get work release privileges. On the defensive for approving the arrangement 10 years earlier, Sheriff Ric Bradshaw announced an investigation — not of his own actions, but those of his subordinates.

July 22, 2019



When taking part in events at Harvard, like this one, Jeffrey Epstein was often accompanied by Alan Dershowitz, his friend and lawyer.

Showering Harvard — and others — with millions

Jeffrey Epstein doled out millions to charities and institutions of all sizes. In the wake of his arrest, some of those beneficiaries — Ohio State, for one — began to view the money as tainted. Others — Harvard University, for example — said, at least for the moment, they had no intention of refunding or redistributing the money he gave them.

July 24, 2019

In a grim cell, an unsettling discovery

A foreshadowing of developments to come: Epstein was found injured in his Manhattan federal jail cell. Details were sketchy, but a New York TV station reported that the 66-year-old was found in the

fetal position, with marks on his neck, after his cellmate, an alleged serial-killer cop, summoned help. The disgraced cop said he interrupted a suicide attempt. Epstein denied that, hinting he was attacked. Epstein was put on suicide watch — but as it turned out, not for long.

July 24, 2019

How do you give away \$30 million? A primer

Jeffrey Epstein was a benefactor with deep pockets. It endeared him to institutions and individuals and gave him influence in boardrooms, in science societies and at highbrow universities.

Who raked in all that money? The Miami Herald combed through 20 years of tax filings involving three of Epstein's private foundations.

July 25, 2019



Florida state Sen. Lauren Book, a survivor of childhood sexual abuse, took an interest in the Epstein case.

She pushes for a probe. Someone pushes back

Florida Democratic Sen. Lauren Book issued a call for a serious state inquiry into the decision by Palm Beach Sheriff Ric Bradshaw to allow Epstein lenient work release privileges. Not everyone liked it. Book said she began to receive ominous, anonymous threats almost immediately.

Book, a victim of child sexual abuse, carried on, feeling a kinship with the victims of Jeffrey Epstein. She reported the threats to Capitol police.

July 31, 2019

Epstein legal team pleads for time

The Justice Department's evidence against Jeffrey Epstein consists of more than a million pages of documents, defense attorneys said in open court. We need adequate time — at least 13 months — to prepare the case, they told U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman. The judge didn't agree, siding with prosecutors, who said the trial date should be scheduled sometime around June 2020, a shorter run-up.

Aug. 2, 2019

The sheriff's Plan B: a semi-independent review

The Palm Beach County sheriff who allowed Epstein to leave jail for 12 hours a day, six days a week and had proposed an investigation of his deputies, went a step further after his initial proposal fell flat. Now he proposed a review of his department's work release rules, but not his own actions in implementing them. Ric Bradshaw suggested the task be undertaken not by an independent law enforcement agency, but by a panel of prominent business people and politicians in Palm Beach County.

Among those sitting on the Criminal Justice Commission of Palm Beach County, the would-be arbiter: Sheriff Bradshaw himself.

Aug. 2, 2019



In the end, a criminal investigation of the work release

As the criticism of Sheriff Bradshaw grew louder, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis ordered the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to undertake a criminal investigation of Epstein's incarceration at Bradshaw's jail. The probe also will examine the role of former Palm Beach State Attorney Barry Krischer, who went along with Epstein's plea to minor charges and the short jail sentence that resulted.

Aug. 6, 2019



Victoria's Secret faces fallout

The fallout from Jeffrey Epstein's association with Victoria's Secret owner Les Wexner rippled through the fashion and modeling worlds as more than 100 models signed a letter demanding that the lingerie brand do more to combat the sexual abuse and harassment that has plagued the industry for decades.

Aug. 8, 2019



The prosecutor wanted to prosecute. She was overruled

Marie Villafaña, who helped negotiate the non-prosecution agreement for Jeffrey Epstein, resigned from the Justice Department. Her departure came amid a federal probe into the role she and others — including her former boss, then-U.S. Attorney Acosta — had in sidelining a 53-page indictment. Although she refused to discuss it with reporters, the Herald previously learned that Villafaña had wanted to charge Epstein with federal crimes but was overruled.

Aug. 9, 2019

'He needed three orgasms a day. It was biological'

The long-awaited unsealing of thousands of pages of records in the Maxwell/Epstein federal civil case offered fresh insights into Jeffrey Epstein's psyche.

In one newly revealed document, a woman who worked for Epstein and his partner, Ghislaine Maxwell, described the multimillionaire's constant hunger for sexual gratification.

Johanna Sjoberg, a student at Palm Beach Atlantic University when she was hired to be a household assistant, said Maxwell's primary role was to provide him with girls — the younger, the better — at least three times a day.

"He explained to me that, in his opinion, he needed to have three orgasms a day. It was biological," she said in a deposition, "like eating." The records — a partial release with more expected later — came in response to a petition by the Miami Herald.

Aug. 10, 2019

Jeffrey Epstein is discovered dead

Jeffrey Epstein was found dead in his Manhattan jail cell, leaving his accusers, who hoped to confront him in court, stunned and outraged. The discovery, following a previous apparent suicide attempt, caused widespread consternation over why he wasn't under close observation.

Eva Ford, the mother of accuser Courtney Wild, spoke for many, when she speculated: "Someone must have been paid to look the other way."

Attorney General William Barr said "serious questions" must be answered.

THEY KEPT MADOFF, EL CHAPO ALIVE. BUT NOT EPSTEIN

From John Gotti to Bernie Madoff to Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan has kept high-profile defendants alive to face justice. It couldn't do so with Jeffrey Epstein.

His death was a profound embarrassment for the Bureau of Prisons and followed efforts by the Justice Department to painstakingly build a case. It raised questions about adequate staffing and oversight in the federal prison system, including how detainees are evaluated for suicide watch.

THE SULLIED NAMES HE LEFT IN HIS WAKE

Tucked in the thousands of pages of documents released the day before Epstein's death were the names of friends, associates and employees, all indelibly linked to a scandal that may never be resolved. Some were accused by name of having sex with young women in his employ. Or of recruiting women into his sex trafficking operation. Or of knowing what was going on and ignoring it.

With Epstein now gone, it may be difficult for these individuals to clear their names — or for authorities to establish their complicity.

EDITORIAL: THE CASE MUST GO FORWARD

The American people — and the women abused by Jeffrey Epstein — still deserve an accounting of how the criminal justice system mishandled his prosecution and why he received astoundingly lenient treatment from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, the Miami Herald editorial board wrote.

Aug. 11, 2019

Epstein's money, homes, islands: Who gets what?

When they charged Epstein with sex trafficking, federal prosecutors in New York City made clear their desire to confiscate his homes and other possessions in an effort to compensate the women he sexually abused over the years. His death in a Manhattan jail cell jeopardized that plan.

Aug. 12, 2019

'Serious irregularities': AG Barr wants answers

Speaking at a police convention in New Orleans, Attorney General William Barr criticized the Bureau of Prisons, part of his own sprawling Justice Department.

Barr pledged a full investigation into the circumstances of Epstein's death. He also declared: "Let me assure you this case will continue on against anyone who was complicit with Epstein. Any co-conspirators should not rest easy."

THE LAW RIDES IN ON POWERBOATS, GOLF CARTS

On the same day that Jeffrey Epstein arrived at New Jersey's Teterboro Airport and was arrested, federal agents served a warrant and broke down the door of his Manhattan townhouse. It was one of many homes belonging to Epstein. They didn't descend on his private island in the Caribbean for another month — and only after Epstein's death. Cops arrived on powerboats and commandeered golf carts as they fanned out across Little St. James Island, searching for evidence.

Aug. 13, 2019

Lawmakers have lots of questions

In a rare glimmer of bipartisanship, leaders of the House Judiciary Committee sent a letter to Hugh Hurwitz, acting head of the Bureau of Prisons, declaring that Jeffrey Epstein's death "demonstrates severe miscarriages of or deficiencies in inmate protocol and has allowed the deceased to ultimately evade facing justice." They presented a laundry list of questions, asking that the matter be fully investigated. Before that investigation could occur, Hurwitz was summarily replaced.

BUNGLING OR CONSPIRACY? TRUMP AIDES POINT TO FORMER

Administration officials suggested that the death behind bars of Jeffrey Epstein was attributable to incompetence, not a conspiracy to kill a man who might have blackmail leverage on important people. (Simultaneously, President Trump gave oxygen to a conspiracy theory, saying he has "no idea" if Bill Clinton, a one-time friend of Epstein, had anything to do with his death.)

Speaking with the Miami Herald/McClatchy, White House officials expressed relief that Attorney General Barr moved swiftly to open an inquiry.

Aug. 14, 2019

When Colombia's ex-leader, Epstein dropped in on Fidel

Andrés Pastrana, a former president of Colombia, acknowledged via Twitter that he once traveled on Epstein's private plane to Havana to meet with Fidel Castro at Castro's invitation.

"Mr. Jeffrey Epstein left a day or two later; I stayed on the island," Pastrana said. The 2003 trip took place after Pastrana left the presidency. Pastrana said he met Epstein at an Academy of Achievements Summit, an event also attended by Bill Clinton and Bono, among other luminaries.

LEONARD PITTS: WISH WE HAD A CREDIBLE AG

Jeffrey Epstein didn't commit suicide.

He was murdered by Hillary and/or Bill Clinton. Or he was assassinated by the Russians. Or Donald Trump killed him. Or he isn't dead at all, having been spirited into the Witness Protection Program, where he presumably now shares an island mansion with Tupac Shakur and 84-year-old Elvis Presley.

Take your pick, Leonard Pitts wrote.

Aug. 15, 2019

Fabiola Santiago: A match made in hell

The day before Jeffrey Epstein flew to Havana on the plane dubbed Lolita Express, 75 dissidents, independent journalists and librarians were rounded up across the island in a series of brutal raids that became known as the Cuban Black Spring.

I doubt the multimillionaire financier with a penchant for trafficking minors for sex went to advocate for human rights.

Call it a match made in hell: the ruthless dictator and the sexual predator, Fabiola Santiago wrote.

Aug. 16, 2019

The autopsy findings are in

Cause: Hanging. Manner: Suicide.

But the detailed documents were not released.

Aug. 17, 2019

Shopping list: 800 single-serve coffees, 2 girl-size panties

A decade ago, during a brief stint in the Palm Beach County Jail, convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein made an odd purchase at the facility's store: two pairs of small women's panties, size 5.

Those were just two of the items in thousands of dollars of purchases made by the disgraced financier while in jail after pleading guilty in 2008 to soliciting a minor for sex, according to a purchase log. (His most frequently purchased item: single-serve cups of coffee, of which he bought more than 800 in 13 months.) But the panties raised questions about why a childless male inmate, accused of abusing girls as young as 14, would be permitted to buy female undergarments so small they wouldn't fit an adult woman.

Aug. 20, 2019

Did 'work release' mean sex at the office?

While in the custody of Palm Beach County, Jeffrey Epstein was allowed to leave jail for "work release" — at a downtown West Palm Beach office he created called the Florida Science Foundation.

But at the foundation's office, according to a newly filed lawsuit, Epstein and his cadre of handlers repeatedly arranged for him to have sex with at least two women, including one he met when she was 17.

Aug. 23, 2019



Philip Levine, former mayor of Miami Beach, was one of many — including Bill Clinton and Donald Trump — listed in Jeffrey Epstein’s address book.

[Hardly knew him: Meet the folks in Epstein’s ‘black book’](#)

My sister knew his girlfriend. Maybe I handed him my business card once. We met at a party a long time ago.

Those were some of the answers offered by people in Jeffrey Epstein’s “little black book” — among them a former Miami Beach mayor and recent gubernatorial candidate, Philip Levine, whose 14 phone entries are listed therein.

Aug. 27, 2019

[For victims, a bittersweet day in court](#)

Alternately tearful, outraged and triumphant, more than two dozen women appeared in a New York federal courtroom at a hearing that could serve as a catalyst for change in the way the U.S. criminal justice system treats victims of sexual assault.

The hearing was scheduled by the judge in Epstein's criminal case — who no longer had a case to preside over now that Epstein was dead.

The women, many speaking for the first time about their encounters with Jeffrey Epstein, talked about how, as teenagers or women barely out of their teens, they were preyed upon, recruited, manipulated and sexually abused by Epstein, who used his political, social and financial connections to lure them into relationships that would alter their lives.

Aug. 28, 2019

Hurricane Dorian invades Epstein's hideaway

With the U.S. Virgin Islands right in Dorian's path, one infamous place felt the hurricane's wrath: Jeffrey Epstein's Little St. James, or what some have called "Pedophile Island."

Aug. 30, 2019

Lawmakers want more from Barr

Democratic members of Congress called on Attorney General Barr to order a comprehensive investigation of his own department's handling of the Epstein case, focusing on the deal Epstein received to escape meaningful punishment a decade earlier.

Sept. 4, 2019

In still-sealed documents: 'hundreds' of names

A tentative schedule was rolled out to release thousands of pages of documents that could reveal more names of people allegedly involved in Epstein's sex trafficking operation.

The Miami Herald had sought release of the records, produced as part of a since-settled defamation suit by Virginia Giuffre against Ghislaine Maxwell. Some documents were released earlier in the summer.

At a status conference in New York, U.S. District Judge Loretta A. Preska set a timetable for review of a batch of more than 160 documents, to be organized into categories and examined in the coming weeks to determine suitability for release.

Sept. 13, 2019



A private jet belonging to Jeffrey Epstein at Palm Beach International Airport

Epstein at the end: Still flying with underage girls?

At the time of Epstein's death for alleged crimes dating back a decade or longer, it turns out the U.S. Marshals Service was actively investigating more recent reports of underage girls traveling with him to his private island — as well as unreported European jaunts, new reports showed.

Documents released under the Freedom of Information Act revealed that the Marshals Service had been preparing to seek assistance from the governments of France, Austria and Monaco. Epstein had apparently been traveling extensively without notifying proper authorities as required by his sex offender status.

Sept. 18, 2019

New accuser: I was recruited at 14

A woman filed a lawsuit in federal court against the Epstein estate, saying she was recruited in New York and sexually abused for three years, starting when she was 14.

The suit in the Southern District of New York named executors of Epstein's estate, Darren K. Indyke and Richard D. Kahn, as defendants. The estate, valued at more than \$500 million, was placed in a trust after his death.

Sept. 20, 2019

They weren't kids; how did they get drawn in?

Inside the psyche of a sex predator...

To understand how women above the age of consent could get trapped in Epstein's network requires understanding what one lawyer called "Epstein's Process" — the psychology behind a sex predator mastermind who homed in on the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of his targets.

"He would find out they have no home, no car, that they need a place to live, and he would provide a place to live," said Bradley Edwards, who represents some of Epstein's accusers. "He can get you the best doctors. Sometimes he would do that and sometimes he wouldn't do that, but the promise was real because as soon as you walk into his house and see there are legitimate cooks, chefs, and assistants, everybody catering to him — it gives this air of legitimacy. I mean everyone in this whole entire mansion can't possibly be running an illegal sex trafficking operation, right?"

The Miami Herald talked to several women to learn how they were drawn in and why they became dependent on him.

One said: "When you are in, you can't get out."

Sept. 24, 2019

Dershowitz, who invited lawsuit, now wants it dismissed

In November, after the Miami Herald published a series on the Epstein case, Alan Dershowitz verbally attacked Virginia Giuffre, who accuses him of abusing her when she was a minor. Dershowitz in turn publicly urged her to sue him for defamation so he could prove in court she was a liar.

She did just that, filing suit in April.

Dershowitz swiftly moved to have the suit dismissed.

At a court hearing, Dershowitz's lawyer said the legal scholar was entitled to brand Giuffre a liar under the "self-defense privilege."

Oct. 1, 2019

One tropical island wasn't enough

Among his many possessions, Jeffrey Epstein owned a secluded 72-acre island in the Caribbean called Little St. James, a sumptuous tropical hideaway where victims said they were directed to participate in orgies.

But for Epstein, one island wasn't enough.

Epstein set his sights on the body of land across the channel. And, when the owner didn't want to sell him the island, purportedly because of his reputation as a sex offender, Epstein used a straw buyer to consummate the deal.

Oct. 15, 2019

Focus is on victims at town hall

The Herald's Perversion of Justice investigative team joined leading sex trafficking experts as they discussed the challenges, rewards and remaining questions involved in reporting on Jeffrey Epstein, from the original series that set the stage for all that has happened this year. A live crowd was on hand and the event was live-streamed.

Oct 17, 2019

Her name is on a crime bill. She's proud of that

Courtney Wild waged a years-long legal crusade on behalf of herself and others against Jeffrey Epstein and the Justice Department, after he was spared federal prosecution on sex trafficking charges. Her role — as one of the "Jane Does" challenging Epstein's deal — was complicated by a stint in prison in a drug case, but she carried on.

Fast-forward more than a decade: Her push just led to a bipartisan bill that would, among other things, give judges the authority to void plea deals — like Epstein’s — that violate the Crime Victims’ Rights Act. The bill was named after Wild.

Oct. 30, 2019

A doctor’s second opinion: It wasn’t suicide

A private forensic pathologist hired by Mark Epstein to monitor his brother’s autopsy offered an opinion in line with what conspiracy theorists have suggested for months: that the available evidence did not support the finding that Jeffrey Epstein killed himself.

Dr. Michael Baden, one of the world’s leading forensic pathologists, viewed Jeffrey Epstein’s body and was present at the autopsy.

Nov. 09, 2019

Alan Dershowitz countersues Virginia Giuffre

In the latest in a slew of Epstein-related lawsuits, Alan Dershowitz filed a counterclaim against Virginia Giuffre, dismissing as maliciously false her assertion that she was sexually trafficked to the Harvard lawyer when she was a minor.

As he has said consistently, Dershowitz reasserted that he had never even met Giuffre.

Nov. 14, 2019

Someone doubts it was suicide: Epstein’s brother

Mark Epstein said he believes his 66-year-old brother did not commit suicide. Jeffrey Epstein’s only sibling challenged both the Department of Justice and New York City’s chief medical examiner, who concluded that Jeffrey Epstein took his own life.

Of their relationship overall, Mark Epstein said: “Jeffrey and I were not that close, we shared brother stuff, but I was not involved in what he was doing. When he first got in trouble he called me. We were very straight with each other. I wasn’t going to lecture him.”

Nov. 19, 2019

Two officers charged; senators are skeptical

Two corrections officers responsible for guarding Jeffrey Epstein on the night in August when he was found hanging in his jail cell were charged with failing to do their jobs and then covering up their dereliction.

On the same day, the head of the Bureau of Prisons, Kathleen Hawk Sawyer, was grilled by members of the Senate Judiciary Committee about why the bureau was unable to keep Epstein alive to face trial.

Both Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., the committee chairman, and Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, expressed skepticism at the hearing that the death, classified as a suicide, wasn't something more sinister.

Dec. 2, 2019

A mystery man emerges in Epstein saga

Alan Dershowitz seized upon a mystery man featured in a New York Times story to challenge allegations that he had sex with Virginia Giuffre during his time as Jeffrey Epstein's friend and sometimes houseguest.

The mystery man featured in the Times story, who used the pseudonym Patrick Kessler, dangled compromising photos and videos of various famous men, supposedly proof of Epstein's practice of collecting blackmail material. "Kessler" said David Boies and Stanley Pottinger, two attorneys for Epstein's accusers, were planning to use his material to extort large payments from those in the photos and videos and keep a healthy portion of the money. The evidence would then go away rather than be turned over to authorities for prosecution, Kessler suggested.

The Times eventually concluded "Kessler" was a fraud, but Dershowitz attorney Howard Cooper said the shadowy man — and Boies' willingness to work with him — was more proof of a vast extortion scheme by Giuffre's lawyers. Cooper brought up the alleged scheme in court in the context of dueling defamation suits between Dershowitz and Giuffre, whom Dershowitz has repeatedly labeled a liar.

Dec. 16, 2019

Assailed over Epstein, sheriff puts end to work release

Palm Beach Sheriff Ric Bradshaw, who faced blistering criticism for allowing Jeffrey Epstein to leave the jail for 12 hours a day, six days a week during the multimillionaire's incarceration in the county jail, pulled the plug on the department's work release program.

The decision to give Epstein work release privileges in 2009 was widely assailed — even by U.S. Attorney Alexander Acosta, who himself was lambasted for shelving a 53-page sex trafficking indictment against Epstein. The indictment was withdrawn provided Epstein plead guilty to minor charges in state court and serve a short jail sentence. Acosta has defended his own actions while harshly criticizing the work release arrangement that allowed Epstein to be out and about in the community while doing time for sex crimes.

Bradshaw asked a local commission to examine the work release program in the wake of the uproar over Epstein. The commission said the program served a valid purpose, but the sheriff decided to kill it anyway.

[Ref.: How the law, the press and his victims finally caught up with Jeffrey Epstein - Miami Herald.docx](#)
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