

**INDICTMENT**

**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

**VS.**

**Cause No.** 21-318H

**COREY NATHAN FERRAEZ**

**DEFENDANT**

**Indictment for the offense of:  
EMBEZZLEMENT §97-23-19  
(4 Counts)**

**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
COUNTY OF FORREST**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF SAID COUNTY, JANUARY TERM, 2021  
Recalled September 22, 2021**

The Grand Jurors of the State of Mississippi, taken from the body of good and lawful citizens of said county, elected, summoned, impaneled, sworn and charged to inquire in and for the body of the county aforesaid, at the term aforesaid of the Court aforesaid, in the name and by the authority of the State of Mississippi, upon their oath present that:

At all times material hereto, Holmes, McLelland, & Ferraez, PLLC, hereinafter "HMF" was a professional corporation organized and existing under the laws of Mississippi, and was engaged in the general practice of law, with its offices located at 601 East Central Avenue, Petal, Forrest County, State of Mississippi; and,

At all relevant times, the Defendant, Cory Nathan Ferraez, was associated with HMF as a member and as an attorney at law and occupied a fiduciary relationship with HMF.

**COUNT I**

**COREY NATHAN FERRAEZ**, on or about April 13, 2020, in Forrest County, Mississippi, he, while representing a legal client of HMF, Shawn Vaughn, in a personal injury civil lawsuit, and also in a Chapter 13 Petition for bankruptcy in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, Case Number 17-03414-NPO, did receive a monetary check in the amount of \$265,081.33 from the Bankruptcy Trustee, with \$260,000 of said amount being the contractual attorney fees owed HMF in their representation of Shawn Vaughn in the personal injury case, entrusted to his care by virtue of his aforesaid office, position, and employment, did then and there willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously, with his intent then and there to cheat and defraud the aforesaid HMF, deposit aforesaid check into a bank account under his control, instead of a bank account belonging to HMF, thereby embezzling and converting to his own use

said sum from the check for the attorney fees for the civil case of Shawn Vaughn, in an amount of more than \$25,000, in violation of Miss. Code Ann. §97-23-19(d) (1972, as amended);

#### **COUNT II**

**COREY NATHAN FERRAEZ**, on or about April 13, 2020, in Forrest County, Mississippi, he, while representing a legal client of HMF, Shawn Vaughn, in a personal injury civil lawsuit, and also in a Chapter 13 Petition for bankruptcy in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, Case Number 17-03414-NPO, did receive a monetary check in the amount of \$265,081.33 from the Bankruptcy Trustee, with \$5,081.33 of said amount being the contractually reimbursable expenses HMF incurred in their representation of Shawn Vaughn in the personal injury case, entrusted to his care by virtue of his aforesaid office, position, and employment, did then and there willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously, with his intent then and there to cheat and defraud the aforesaid HMF, deposit aforesaid check into a bank account under his control, instead of a bank account belonging to HMF, thereby embezzling and converting to his own use said sum from check for the reimbursable expenses for the civil case of Shawn Vaughn, in an amount of more than \$5,000 but less than \$25,000, in violation of Miss. Code Ann. §97-23-19(c) (1972, as amended);

#### **COUNT III**

**COREY NATHAN FERRAEZ**, on or about March 15, 2019, in Forrest County, Mississippi, he, while representing a legal client of HMF, Joseph Pecanty, in a personal injury civil lawsuit, and also in a Chapter 13 Petition for bankruptcy in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, Case Number 16-02076-NPO, did receive a monetary check in the amount of \$5,767.08 from the Bankruptcy Trustee, with \$5,700 of said amount being contractual attorney fees owed HMF in their representation of Joseph Pecanty in the personal injury case, entrusted to his care by virtue of his aforesaid office, position, and employment, did then and there willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously, with his intent then and there to cheat and defraud the aforesaid HMF, deposit aforesaid check into a bank account under his control, instead of a bank account belonging to HMF, thereby embezzling and converting to his own use said sum from the check for the attorney fees in the civil case of Joseph Pecanty, in an amount of more than \$5,000 but less than \$25,000, in violation of Miss. Code Ann. §97-23-19(c) (1972, as amended);

#### **COUNT IV**

**COREY NATHAN FERRAEZ**, on or about March 27, 2019, in Forrest County, Mississippi, he, while representing a legal client of HMF, Marquita Estes, in a personal injury civil lawsuit, and also in a Chapter 13 Petition for bankruptcy in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, Case Number 17-03460-EE, did receive a monetary check in the amount of \$10,000 from the Bankruptcy Trustee,

with all \$10,000.00 of said amount being the contractual attorney fees owed HMF in their representation of Marquita Estes in the personal injury case, entrusted to his care by virtue of his aforesaid office, position, and employment, did then and there willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously, with his intent then and there to cheat and defraud the aforesaid HMF, deposit aforesaid check into a bank account under his control, instead of a bank account belonging to HMF, thereby embezzling and converting to his own use said sum from the check for the attorney fees in the civil case of Joseph Pecanty, in an amount of more than \$5,000 but less than \$25,000, in violation of Miss. Code Ann. §97-23-19(c) (1972, as amended).

And all the above (Count I through IV) being against the peace and dignity of the State of Mississippi.

**Endorsed: A True Bill**

Jan D. Lacy  
FOREMAN OF THE GRAND JURY

Bryan Bulley  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

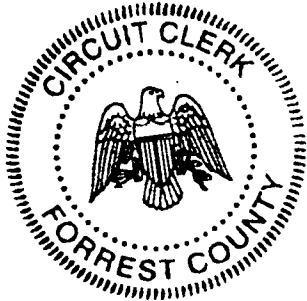
**AFFIDAVIT**

COMES NOW Jan D. Lacy, Foreman of the September 22, 2021, Forrest County Grand Jury, and makes oath that this indictment presented to this Court was concurred in by twelve (12) or more members of the Grand Jury and that at least fifteen (15) members thereof were present during all deliberations.

Jan D. Lacy  
FOREMAN OF THE GRAND JURY

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me on this, the 14 day of October, 2021.

GWEN WILKS, CIRCUIT CLERK



BY: [Signature] D.C.