FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 7, 2025

CONTACT:
Mike Truppa
(312) 286-5077 (voice/text)
mtruppa@miketruppa.com

RULING PENDING IN BID TO OVERTURN WRONGFUL CONVICTION OF STATE COLLEGE MAN, AFTER LONG-CONCEALED EVIDENCE PROVES HIS INNOCENCE

42 YEARS AFTER D.A. CONCEALED FBI REPORT THAT COULD HAVE EXONERATED HIM, SUBU VEDAM RETURNS TO COURT SEEKING FREEDOM

Extensive testimony in court last week debunked the case against Subramanyam "Subu" Vedam, a Pennsylvania man who has spent 42 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit,. A state court is expected to rule later this year on whether to nullify his wrongful conviction.

Centre County Court of Common Pleas Judge Jonathan D. Grine was prompted to revisit the case following the discovery last year that the prosecutor who pursued the wrongful conviction had concealed evidence that could have exonerated Vedam of the false murder charge in the 1980 death of Thomas Kinser. Former Centre County District Attorney Ray Gricar never disclosed the existence of an FBI report indicating that the charges against Vedam didn't reconcile with key ballistics evidence. The FBI analysis found that the victim's fatal wound corresponded more closely to a .22-caliber gun, rather than the .25-caliber weapon Gricar attempted to link to Vedam.

Vedam's attorneys argued that if Gricar honored his legal obligation to turn over the FBI report, his case against Vedam would have unraveled. Nonetheless, Gricar allowed an FBI agent to misrepresent the findings of the bureau's analysis during testimony at Vedam's trial, manipulating a wrongful conviction with conduct tantamount to abetting perjury, a violation of constitutional due process rights.

During a two-day evidentiary hearing that concluded on February 7th and drew a large crowd of observers the Centre County Courthouse, Dr. Ann Ross, one of the nation's leading forensic experts, corroborated doubts about the integrity of Vedam's conviction. Ross, a forensic anthropologist who has consulted extensively with law enforcement agencies across the country, including the Pennsylvania State Police, reported that Kinser's fatal wound was more likely to have been caused by a .22-caliber bullet shot from a rifle – not by a .25-caliber bullet.

Judge Grine ordered both parties in the case to submit their remaining briefs in the case within a total of 75 days from the date the hearing transcript is available. He will then issue his ruling on whether to revoke Vedam's conviction sometime after that.

Vedam was a longtime State College resident and a Penn State student when he was wrongfully convicted in 1983. From the beginning, the case was scarce on evidence supporting the prosecution's attempt to blame Vedam. No eyewitnesses to the crime testified, no exact date of death was proven, and no murder weapon was recovered, leaving only the theory that Vedam committed the crime with a .25 caliber gun. That theory appears to collapse in the wake of the FBI report prosecutors withheld.

Vedam was subsequently sentenced to life without parole and incarcerated at SCI Huntingdon. Despite the fallout from the injustice he has experienced, Vedam has earned distinctions for his charitable service and academic achievement during his wrongful imprisonment. At Huntingdon, he designed and led a prison literacy training program; organized and participated every year in a Prison Runathon to raise money for Big Brothers/Big Sisters; and tutored and mentored hundreds of inmates to earn educational diplomas. Despite lack of access to the internet or libraries, he also earned three university degrees of his own and became the first inmate in Huntingdon's 136-year history to earn a graduate degree.

In recent years local support for Vedam's innocence has burgeoned. A capacity crowd of more than 200 supporters filled a Centre County court room for a hearing in July, 2024 and about the same totals converged on the courthouse over the span of the two-day hearing last week. Meanwhile, yard signs advocating for Vedam's freedom have been on display outside homes and businesses throughout the area.