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WRONGFULLY CONVICTED STATE COLLEGE MAN URGES COURT TO "END NIGHTMARE' FOLLOWING LONG-CONCEALED PROOF HE'S INNOCENT

WITH RULING PENDING IN CASE OF SUBU VEDAM, NEWLY FILED PETITION DETAILS HOW FORMER CENTRE COUNTY D.A. CONCEALED EVIDENCE AND UNDERMINED FAIR TRIAL

Expert testimony provided during a two-day hearing in Centre County Court earlier this year clearly shows that a State College man wrongfully convicted of a 1980 murder was deprived a fair trial. His subsequent life sentence in prison was unwarranted and should be reversed, according to a newly filed petition on behalf of Subramanyam "Subu" Vedam, the victim of the injustice.

The petition comes as Centre County Court of Common Pleas Judge Jonathan D. Grine plans to rule on the validity of Vedam's conviction following disclosures last year that the prosecutor concealed key evidence that exonerated him of the crime.

That deception by former Centre County District Attorney Ray Gricar set off a pernicious chain of events that lead to Vedam's wrongful conviction and subsequent sentence to life without parole in SCI Huntingdon, where he remains confined 42 years later.

"The questions surrounding who actually killed Kinser may never be answered," attorneys for Vedam note in their petition to the court. "Nevertheless, it is clear from the suppressed evidence and the full record that Vedam was not the one responsible. What is also clear is that the trial he received, with critical evidence withheld from his trial lawyers, was not fair in any sense of the word."

The petition marshals testimony from a two-day hearing that Grine conducted on the matter in February to demonstrate that the prosecution's case against Vedam unravels in light of the evidence that Gricar withheld from the defense and the jury.

Gricar, who had argued that Kinser was killed by a .25-caliber handgun purportedly linked to Vedam, knowingly concealed an FBI analysis that debunked that narrative and instead indicated that the fatal wound was more consistent with a .22-caliber bullet. Details about that misconduct surfaced in 2023, prompting Grine to revisit the case. Last October, Grine agreed

that Gricar's actions could be tantamount to abetting perjury and may have violated Vedam's constitutional due process rights.

"The Court determines that there are genuine issues of material fact regarding whether the Commonwealth presented perjured testimony in this regard," Grine stated in his decision that authorized a new evidentiary hearing in the case. During that hearing, Dr. Ann H. Ross, a forensic expert who has consulted extensively with law enforcement agencies across the country – including the Pennsylvania State Police – testified that the concealed FBI report excluded a .25-caliber bullet fired from a handgun as the cause of Kinser's death. She noted other irreconcilable discrepancies in the Commonwealth's case against Vedam, as well.

Summarizing the testimony from the February hearing, the petition notes that none of the witnesses that prosecutors called could cite scientific studies or published research to support their efforts to quibble with Ross' testimony.

Centre County D.A. Bernie Cantorna has 30 days to submit a response to Vedam's petition. Grine is expected to rule sometime afterward.

In other cases around the country with parallels to Vedam's, prosecutors have elected not to defend convictions compromised by evidence that their predecessors acted unscrupulously. Vedam's petition expresses hope that Cantorna will uphold the same principle.

"It is Petitioner's earnest hope that the prosecution here will reconsider its opposition to relief as there can be no serious question that Mr. Vedam's right to a fair trial was violated," attorneys for Vedam state. "If the prosecution persists in its opposition, it is this Court's solemn duty to do justice and to vacate Petitioner's conviction and to end the nightmare that has spanned his entire adult life."