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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

ECBAWM Secures Exoneration for Sherrod Craft After He Spent More Than 23 Years Imprisoned for a Crime He Never Committed

Mr. Craft's Conviction Was Based on Fabricated Evidence and Lacked Any Physical or Forensic Proof Linking Him to the Crime

(ALBANY, NY) – Emery Celli Brinckerhoff Abady Ward & Maazel LLP (ECBAWM) announced that it has secured the exoneration of Sherrod Craft, a 45-year-old father of two daughters, who was wrongfully convicted in 2003 of murder and attempted murder and sentenced to 50 years to life. The vacatur of his conviction occurred yesterday in Albany County Court following the filing of a 440.10 motion, which was consented to by the Albany County District Attorney's Office—marking the culmination of an eight-year battle by Mr. Craft's legal team at ECBAWM to clear his name.

“Sherrod Craft spent more than two decades imprisoned for a crime he never committed, based on the work of a discredited police detective with a documented history of egregious misconduct, who was also involved in other cases that led to wrongful convictions,” said **Julia P. Kuan, Partner at Emery Celli Brinckerhoff Abady Ward & Maazel LLP**. “We never lost hope that this day would come or faith in Mr. Craft's innocence. That belief kept us committed to his case and by his side throughout the years. Now, with this step toward justice, we hope he can reunite with his loved ones and begin to rebuild the life that was taken from him.”

“Sherrod Craft was robbed of more than two decades of his life—years he can never get back—because of police fabricated evidence and a case built on lies, with no physical or forensic evidence linking him to the crime,” said **Earl S. Ward, Partner at Emery Celli Brinckerhoff Abady Ward & Maazel LLP**. “While today's exoneration can never return the years he lost in prison, we hope it brings an end to this nightmare and allows him to move forward with the rest of his life.”

Yesterday's vacatur followed the discovery of compelling new evidence demonstrating Mr. Craft's innocence and exposing a troubling pattern of misconduct by the now-deceased lead detective, Kenneth Wilcox.

- **A recantation from the prosecution's key witness**, Samuel Frazier, who now admits that his trial testimony was fabricated by Detective Wilcox and the statement he initially signed implicating Mr. Craft was done while he was intoxicated and under police pressure.

- **A video-recorded recantation from Anthony Malloy**, another witness who implicated Mr. Craft under coercion and later stated that Wilcox was determined to pin the crime on “someone from uptown,” regardless of the truth.
- **A documented history of misconduct by Detective Wilcox**, including multiple prior cases where convictions were vacated due to fabricated confessions and evidence—underscoring a troubling pattern of deceit.

Case documents

Background

On June 3, 2001, Shakira Chambers was fatally shot and Javon Morton was injured in Albany, NY. Sherrod Craft was later implicated based primarily on statements from two individuals: Anthony Malloy and Samuel Frazier. Malloy, who initially denied knowledge of the incident, later claimed that Craft confessed—though this statement was uncorroborated and later recanted in a video by Malloy. Frazier, arrested on unrelated drug charges, signed a statement allegedly implicating Craft, but at trial he could not recall the supposed conversation and relied heavily on a written statement prepared by police.

There was no physical or forensic evidence tying Craft to the crime, and no eyewitnesses identified him. Nevertheless, based on the testimonies of Frazier and Detective Kenneth Wilcox—who claimed Craft admitted guilt during an unrecorded interrogation—Craft was convicted of murder and attempted murder in 2003. He was sentenced to 50 years to life in prison.

Detective Kenneth Wilcox, the lead investigator in Sherrod Craft’s case, had a well-documented history of misconduct, including fabricating confessions and evidence in multiple murder investigations. His actions led to wrongful convictions in at least three other cases:

- **Carl Dukes and Lavell Jones** were wrongfully convicted based on coerced confessions Wilcox obtained. Both men were later exonerated after another individual confessed to the crime.
- **Kevin Cherry** was charged with murder based on a confession Wilcox allegedly fabricated. His case was dismissed after new suspects emerged and were charged.
- **Anthony Ford Taylor** was accused of murder based on a false confession Wilcox created and forged. A jury acquitted Taylor, and the incident prompted public concern from city officials.

Wilcox was also involved in a large-scale mortgage fraud scheme during his tenure as a detective, further undermining his credibility. He was posthumously identified as a co-conspirator in that criminal enterprise. This pattern of deceit closely mirrors the tactics Wilcox used in Craft’s case, especially the fabrication of a false confession and manipulation of witness testimony.

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