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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

**Appeals Court Reverses Sanction Against
Deputy Public Defender & Felony Manager Manohar Raju**

San Francisco—A monetary sanction of \$950 imposed on a trial lawyer in the San Francisco Public Defender's Office was reversed on Monday by the First Appellate Court of Appeal, Public Defender Jeff Adachi announced today.

The appellate court strongly rebuked Judge Anne Bouliane for finding that Felony Manager and Deputy Public Defender Manohar Raju had acted unethically during a 2014 murder trial.

Raju was co-counsel in a homicide case against two men in 2014 and was sanctioned for his failure to turn over a statement from a potential witness which was gathered during the investigational phase of the trial.

In Justice Streeter's strongly-worded appeals court decision, the court ruled that Raju was not legally obligated to turn over the witness's statement because he never called the witness to the stand. The appeals court ruling went even further to emphasize that Raju had acted in accordance with his "statutory duty of loyalty to his client."

Justice Streeter cited expert witness Peter Keane, member of the San Francisco Ethics Commission. "According to Keane, there is no rule that requires an attorney to turn over statements of a witness that their codefendant intends to call or does call."

"The trial court seems to have interpreted what Raju did as an elaborate ruse designed to disadvantage the People by hiding [the witness], but we fail to see how," the appeals court concluded.

Raju initially appealed Judge Bouliane's decision, and after four years the court issued its rebuke. Her monetary sanction was reversed on January 14.

“I am relieved that Court of Appeal found we committed no violation,” said Raju.
“Rather, they commended our ‘investigative industry’ and understood that our efforts were to skillfully, thoroughly, and vigorously defend our client.”

The decision was published and can now be cited.

“This is an important victory for defense attorneys, who should not have their client’s cases constrained to narrow discovery interpretations,” said Public Defender Jeff Adachi.
“Poor communities and people of color deserve a skilled, vigorous, and thorough defense, and Mr. Raju provided one in this case.”