

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 22-29 (State Attorney Executive Assignment)

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA, State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Jennifer Eckerson was arrested for petit theft; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA has also advised the Governor that Jennifer Eckerson is related to an employee of the state attorney's office; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA, to avoid a conflict of interest or any appearance of impropriety, has voluntarily disqualified himself and has requested the executive assignment of another State Attorney with respect to the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON, State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has agreed to accept an executive assignment in this matter; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of the State of Florida and of the ends of justice that the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON discharge the duties of the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA pursuant to section 27.14, Florida Statutes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS**, Governor of Florida, in obedience to my solemn constitutional duty to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed," and pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, issue the following Executive Order, effective immediately:

Section 1. The Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON, State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties

of the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA, State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Jennifer Eckerson.

Section 2. The Assigned State Attorney or one or more Assistant State Attorneys and Investigators, who have been designated by the Assigned State Attorney, shall proceed immediately to the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, and are vested with the authority to perform the duties prescribed herein.

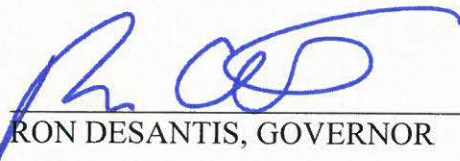
Section 3. All residents of the Seventh Judicial Circuit are requested, and all public officials are directed, to cooperate and render whatever assistance is necessary to the Assigned State Attorney, so that justice may be served.

Section 4. The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including February 10, 2023.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before January 10, 2023, if additional time is required.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 2022.

  
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RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
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SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FL  
2022 FEB 10 PM 12:00  
FILED