

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 23-37

(State Attorney Executive Assignment)

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable HAROLD F. PRYOR, State Attorney for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Thomas Ponte was arrested for aggravated battery; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable HAROLD F. PRYOR has also advised the Governor that witness in this case is related to an employee of the state attorney's office; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable HAROLD F. PRYOR, 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 regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters regarding Thomas Ponte; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable AMIRA D. FOX, State Attorney for the Twentieth 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 AMIRA D. FOX discharge the duties of the Honorable HAROLD F. PRYOR, 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 AMIRA D. FOX, State Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties

of the Honorable HAROLD F. PRYOR, State Attorney for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters regarding Thomas Ponte.

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 Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, and are vested with the authority to perform the duties prescribed herein.

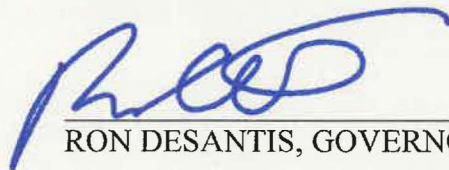
Section 3. All residents of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit are requested, and all public officials are directed, to cooperate and render whatever assistance is necessary to the Assigned State Attorney, so that justice may be served.

Section 4. The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including February 20, 2024.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before January 20, 2024, 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 20th day of February, 2023.

  
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RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
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SECRETARY OF STATE

2023 FEB 20 AM 10:07  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FL

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