

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 12-172

WHEREAS, the Honorable EARL MORELAND, State Attorney for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Willie Lee Brown III has been arrested for three counts of obtaining money from pawnshop by fraud and three counts of dealing in stolen property; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable EARL MORELAND has also advised the Governor that Willie Lee Brown III is related to an employee of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable EARL MORELAND, to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest or impropriety, has voluntarily disqualified himself and has requested the executive assignment of another State Attorney with respect to the investigation and potential prosecution of this case and all related matters; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable MARK A. OBER, State Attorney for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has agreed to accept an executive assignment in this matter; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Florida and of the ends of justice that the Honorable MARK A. OBER discharge the duties of the Honorable EARL MORELAND, pursuant to Section 27.14, Florida Statutes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, 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 MARK A. OBER, State Attorney for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable EARL MORELAND, State Attorney for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, potential prosecution and all matters related to Willie Lee Brown III.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Twelfth 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 August 6, 2013.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before July 6, 2013, 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 6th day of August, 2012.



*Ron DeSantis*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

*Ken Retzner*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED