

STATE OF FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 12-28

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM EDDINS, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that James Owens, the elected Public Defender for the First Judicial Circuit and a current or former employee, George “Bud” Day, are under investigation for allegations that Mr. Day may have been paid for work not performed as well as false documentation; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM EDDINS has also advised the Governor that he has a close working relationship with Public Defender James Owens; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM EDDINS, 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 GLENN HESS, State Attorney for the Fourteenth 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 GLENN HESS discharge the duties of the Honorable WILLIAM EDDINS, 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 GLENN HESS, State Attorney for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable WILLIAM EDDINS, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, potential prosecution, and all matters related to James Owens and George "Bud" Day.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the First 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.

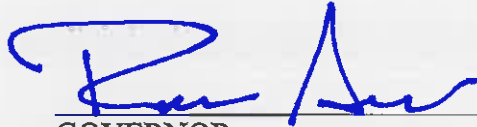
The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including January 30, 2013.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before December 30, 2012, 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 30th day of January, 2012.


GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

2012 JAN 30 AM 11:41
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED