

STATE OF FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 12-61

WHEREAS, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Ruben Soto and Jose Hernandez, previous co-defendants, have both filed motions for post conviction relief; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE has also advised the Governor that one of the deceased victims was a sitting Circuit Court judge in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest or impropriety, has voluntarily disqualified herself 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 DENNIS W. WARD, State Attorney for the Sixteenth 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 DENNIS W. WARD discharge the duties of the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, 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 DENNIS W. WARD, State Attorney for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to motions for post conviction relief and all matters related to Ruben Soto and Jose Hernandez.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Eleventh 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 March 12, 2013.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before February 12, 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 12th day of March, 2012.

GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
2012 MAR 12 AM 3:25
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA