

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 16-131

WHEREAS, the Honorable PHIL ARCHER, State Attorney for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that allegations have been made against Joseph Moretto for aggravated assault with a weapon; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable PHIL ARCHER has also advised the Governor that one of the victims is an employee of the state attorney's office and the other two victims are related to the employee; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable PHIL ARCHER, 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 BRUCE H. COLTON, State Attorney for the Nineteenth 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 BRUCE H. COLTON discharge the duties of the Honorable PHIL ARCHER, 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 BRUCE H. COLTON, State Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable PHIL ARCHER, State Attorney for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Joseph Moretto.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Eighteenth 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.

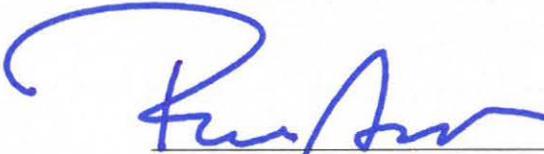
The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including May 25, 2017.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before April 25, 2017, 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 25th day of May, 2016.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**FILED**  
2016 MAY 25 AM 10:02  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA