

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 16-188

WHEREAS, the Honorable CATHERINE VOGEL, State Attorney for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that allegations have been made against Victoria Brennan for criminal mischief; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable CATHERINE VOGEL has also advised the Governor that she previously worked closely with Victoria Brennan as co-counsel on several cases while both were employed in the same division of the state attorney's office in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable CATHERINE VOGEL, to avoid a conflict of interest or any appearance of 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 STEPHEN B. RUSSELL, 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 STEPHEN B. RUSSELL discharge the duties of the Honorable CATHERINE VOGEL, 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 STEPHEN B. RUSSELL, 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 CATHERINE VOGEL, State Attorney for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Victoria Brennan.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Sixteenth 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 17, 2017.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before July 17, 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 17<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rick Scott', is written over a horizontal line.

RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Ritzman', is written over a horizontal line.

SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED  
2016 AUG 17 PM 4: 18  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA