

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 17-209

WHEREAS, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT Ruben Soto has a pending motion for postconviction relief; and

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

WHEREAS, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, 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 motion for post conviction relief and all related matters; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable DENNIS 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 interests of the State of Florida and of the ends of justice that the Honorable DENNIS 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 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 the motion for post conviction relief and all matters related to Ruben Soto.

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 July 31, 2018.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before June 31, 2018, 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 31st day of July, 2017.



RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED