

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 17-213

WHEREAS, the Honorable MICHAEL J. SATZ, State Attorney for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Todd Watson has been arrested for five counts of stalking (follow/ harass/ cyberstalking another) and five counts of obscene communications by phone call; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable MICHAEL J. SATZ has also advised the Governor that the victims in the case are five current judges in the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit; additionally, the defendant has filed a separate federal civil lawsuit against the State Attorney and several Assistant State Attorneys of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable MICHAEL J. SATZ, 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 KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, State Attorney for the Eleventh 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 KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE discharge the duties of the Honorable MICHAEL J. SATZ, 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 KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable MICHAEL J. SATZ, State Attorney for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Todd Watson.

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

Section 3.

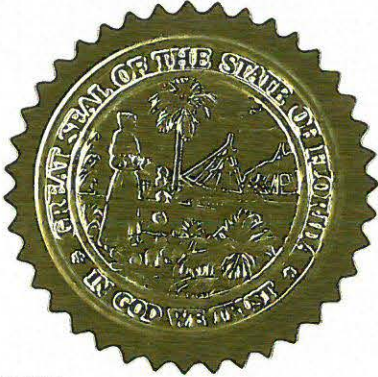
All residents of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit are requested, and all public officials are directed, to cooperate and render whatever assistance is necessary to the Assigned State Attorney, so that justice may be served.

Section 4.

The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including August 9, 2018.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before July 9, 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 9th day of August, 2017.

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

2017 AUG -9 AM 8:40
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED