

STATE OF FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 18-115

WHEREAS, the Honorable DENNIS W. WARD, State Attorney for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Nicholas Ferro has filed a motion for post-conviction relief alleging ineffective assistance of counsel; and

WHEREAS, the original case was handled by another state attorney under Executive Order 09-256, and extended by Executive Orders 10-240, 11-219, 12-234, and 13-300; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable DENNIS W. WARD has also advised the Governor that the victim's family has requested that this matter continue to be handled by another state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable DENNIS W. WARD, 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 motion for post-conviction relief 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 DENNIS W. WARD, 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 DENNIS W. WARD, State Attorney for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the motion for post-conviction relief and all matters related to Nicholas Ferro.

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 April 24, 2019.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before March 24, 2019, if additional time is required.

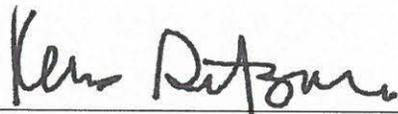


IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, this 24th day of April, 2018.



RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

2018 APR 24 AM 11:50
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED