

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 18-131

WHEREAS, the Honorable DENNIS WARD, State Attorney for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Benjamin Brock Jones was given a notice to appear for charges of misdemeanor possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable DENNIS WARD has also advised the Governor that the Benjamin Brock Jones is related to an employee of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable DENNIS 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 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 DENNIS 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 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 DENNIS WARD, State Attorney for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Benjamin Brock Jones.

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.

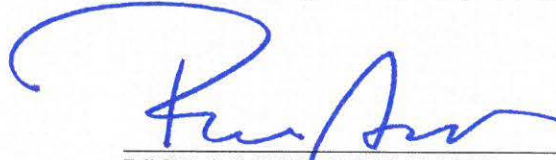
The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including May 10, 2019.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before April 10, 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 10th day of May, 2018.

  
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RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
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SECRETARY OF STATE