

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 19-200

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM P. CERVONE, State Attorney for the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida, was assigned by Executive Order 09-44 to the First Judicial Circuit of Florida in the case of State of Florida v. Jimmy L. Ates, after the court granted Jimmy Ates a new trial; and

WHEREAS, on October 30, 2009, State Attorney Cervone advised that the assistant state attorney who had extensive knowledge of this case was transferring to the state attorney's office in the Fourth Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, the State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit agreed to accept the case, and, as a result, Executive Order 09-254 dissolved Executive Order 09-44; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 09-255, extended by Executive Order 11-15, assigned the State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit to handle the case in the First Judicial Circuit and expired on March 18, 2012; and

WHEREAS, on July 24, 2013, Executive Order 13-233, (extended by Executive Orders 14-225, 15-169, 16-212, 17-226 and 18-216), assigned the State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit to the First Judicial Circuit regarding the case involving Jimmy L. Ates; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 13-233 was extended by Executive Orders 14-225, 15-169, 16-212, 17-226 and 18-216; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 18-216 expired on August 26, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON, State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit, has advised that the assistant state attorney handling the case is no longer employed in the

state attorney's office and assignment in the case because of distance presents a hardship on her office;
and

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM EDDINS, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit, has advised the Governor that the original conflict continues to exist; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM EDDINS, 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 WILLIAM P. CERVONE, State Attorney for the Eighth 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 WILLIAM P. CERVONE discharge the duties of the Honorable WILLIAM EDDINS, pursuant to section 27.14, Florida Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, 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 WILLIAM P. CERVONE, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable WILLIAM EDDINS, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Jimmy Ates.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the First 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.

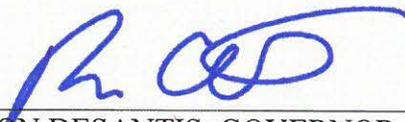
The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including September 16, 2020.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before August 16, 2020, if additional time is required.

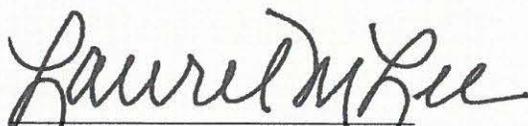


IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, this 16th day of September, 2019.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
2019 SEP 16 PM 3:14
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA