

**STATE OF FLORIDA**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 19-204**

WHEREAS, the Honorable DENNIS W. WARD, State Attorney for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that a warrant was issued charging Anthony Joseph Caruso with sale of cocaine, sale of MDMA and use of two-way communication device to facilitate a felony; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable DENNIS W. WARD has also advised the Governor that Anthony Joseph Caruso is related to an employee of the 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 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 DENNIS W. WARD discharge the duties of the Honorable DENNIS W. WARD, 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 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 W. WARD, State Attorney for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Anthony Joseph Caruso.

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 September 16, 2020.

Section 5.

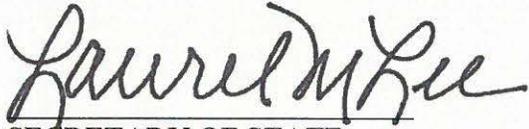
The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before August 16, 2020,  
if additional time is required.



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.

  
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RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED  
2019 SEP 16 PM 3:14  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA