

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 20-101

WHEREAS, the Honorable MICHAEL J. SATZ, State Attorney for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Todd Watson was arrested for aggravated stalking after injunction for protection/domestic (four counts) and violation of probation; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, handled the original case for which the defendant received a probationary sentence under Executive Order 17-213 and some of the victims in that Executive Order are victims in this case; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable MICHAEL J. SATZ has also advised the Governor that the original conflict continues to exist as the victims in this case are current judges in the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit; and the defendant had 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 herself 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, 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 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.

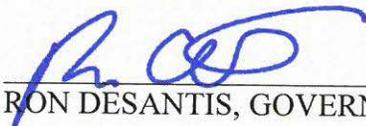
The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including April 9, 2021.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before March 9, 2021, if additional time is required.

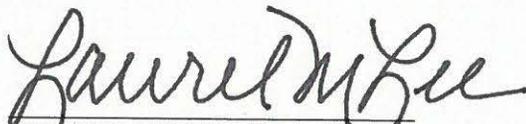


IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, this 9th day of April, 2020.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
2020 APR -9 PM 1:47
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA