

**STATE OF FLORIDA**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 20-163**

WHEREAS, the Honorable DAVID ARONBERG, State Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Alissa Thomas was arrested for criminal mischief, unlicensed carrying a concealed weapon and resisting an officer without violence; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable DAVID ARONBERG has also advised the Governor that Alissa Thomas is related to an employee of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable DAVID ARONBERG, 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 BRUCE H. COLTON, State Attorney for the Nineteenth 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 BRUCE H. COLTON discharge the duties of the Honorable DAVID ARONBERG, 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 BRUCE H. COLTON, State Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable DAVID ARONBERG, State Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Alissa Thomas.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Fifteenth 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.

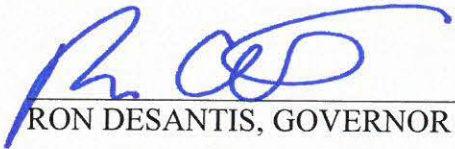
Section 4.

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

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before June 1, 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 1st day of July, 2020.

  
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RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
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SECRETARY OF STATE



**FILED**  
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA