

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 21-176 (State Attorney Executive Assignment)

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Benjamin Olds Picariello was arrested for driving under the influence; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE has also advised the Governor that at the time of the incident Benjamin Olds Picariello was an employee of the state attorney's office; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, 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 HAROLD F. PRYOR, State Attorney for the Seventeenth 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 HAROLD F. PRYOR discharge the duties of the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE 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 HAROLD F. PRYOR, State Attorney for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Benjamin Olds Picariello.

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

Section 3. All residents of the Eleventh 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 August 4, 2022.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before July 4, 2022, if additional time is required.



ATTEST:

*Laurel M. Bee*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

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 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.

*Ron Desantis*  
RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

2021 AUG -4 AM 10:10  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FL

FILED