

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 19-87

WHEREAS, the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON, State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that a Mandate was issued by the First District Court of Appeal reversing the judgment and sentence and remanding a new revocation of probation hearing regarding Richard P. Tucker; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA, State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, was assigned to handle charges under Executive Orders 15-118 and Executive Order 16-127 and new charges and a violation of probation under Executive Order 16-272; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON has also advised the Governor that the original conflict continues to exist as the previous state attorney and a current Circuit Court Judge were victims in the case assigned under Executive Orders 15-118 and Executive Order 16-127; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON, 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 R.J. LARIZZA, State Attorney for the Seventh 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 R.J. LARIZZA discharge the duties of the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON, 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 R.J. LARIZZA, State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON, State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Richard P. Tucker.

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

Section 3.

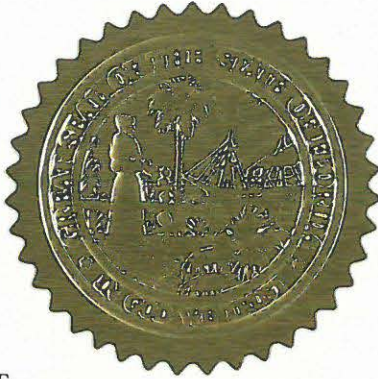
All residents of the Fourth Judicial Circuit are requested, and all public officials are directed, to cooperate and render whatever assistance is necessary to the Assigned State Attorney, so that justice may be served.

Section 4.

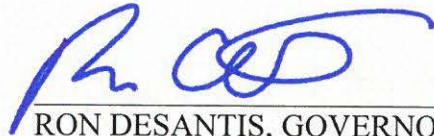
The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including March 28, 2020.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before February 28, 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 28th day of March, 2019.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
2019 MAR 28 PM 3:23
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA