

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 25-80

(State Attorney Executive Assignment)

WHEREAS, the Honorable MONIQUE H. WORRELL, State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Brett Duncan Arquette is under investigation for criminal activity including extortion, fraud, and cyberstalking; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable MONIQUE H. WORRELL has also advised the Governor that the victim in these cases is the chief judge in the Ninth Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable MONIQUE H. WORRELL, 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 regarding the investigation and prosecution of these cases and all related matters regarding Brett Duncan Arquette; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable NICHOLAS B. COX, Statewide Prosecutor in the Office of the Attorney General, 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 NICHOLAS B. COX discharge the duties of the Honorable MONIQUE H. WORRELL, 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 NICHOLAS B. COX, Statewide Prosecutor in the Office of the Attorney General, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable MONIQUE H. WORRELL, State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida, regarding the investigation and prosecution of these cases and all related matters regarding Brett Duncan Arquette.

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

Section 3. All residents of the Ninth 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 10, 2026.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before March 10, 2026, 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 10th day of April, 2025.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

2025 APR 10 PM 4:12
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

FILED