

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 25-85 (State Attorney Executive Assignment)

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable LARRY BASFORD, State Attorney for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Zachary Wester has been sentenced to twelve and a half years in prison for racketeering, official misconduct (3 counts), perjury (3 counts), fabricating evidence (3 counts), possession of a controlled substance (4 counts), possession of drug paraphernalia (3 counts), and false imprisonment (2 counts); thereafter, the defendant filed a motion to correct sentencing error which was granted by the First District Court of Appeal; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable GINGER BOWDEN MADDEN, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, handled the original case under Executive Order 18-359, as extended by Executive Orders 19-275 and 20-287; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable LARRY BASFORD has also advised the Governor that the conflict of interest continues to exist and 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 regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters regarding Zachary Wester; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable GINGER BOWDEN MADDEN, State Attorney for the First 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 GINGER BOWDEN MADDEN discharge the duties of the Honorable LARRY BASFORD, 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 GINGER BOWDEN MADDEN, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable LARRY BASFORD, State Attorney for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters regarding Zachary Wester.

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

Section 3. All residents of the Fourteenth 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 22, 2026.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before March 22, 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 22nd day of April, 2025.

  
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RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
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SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FL

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FILED