



Chambers of  
Thomas M. Jaworski  
County Court Judge

Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida  
Alachua County Courthouse  
Criminal Justice Center  
220 S. Main Street  
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Christina M. Blankenship  
Judicial Assistant  
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March 18, 2024

Dear Governor DeSantis,

Having served the citizens of Alachua County for 19 years as an Alachua County Court Judge, going through two contested elections and two uncontested elections, I send you this letter of resignation with mixed emotions. Effective at the end of the day, April 30, 2024, I will be resigning my position as Alachua County Judge, Group 5.

During my tenure, not only as a Judge, but as an Assistant State Attorney, Assistant Public Defender, and private practitioner, I have seen the human condition in practically all its forms. In Judicial College, we were told that county judges are the face of the judiciary. I can attest to this fact having met tens of thousands of people over my 19-year judicial tenure. I am very proud to being the longest serving judge in the Eighth Judicial Circuit, concurrently with our Chief Judge, Mark Moseley.

I have heard from many sources that the 8th Judicial Circuit has a reputation for being a beacon of professionalism and civility in the State of Florida. Truly, I earnestly believe county judges have the greatest impact on administering justice and rehabilitation when tempered with compassion. I've enclosed an unsolicited email that I recently received from Teshara Arthus, a person who appeared in front of me more than a decade ago, to illustrate the point that as a judge, some of the results from what we do, have long lasting impacts on a person's life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas M. Jaworski".

Thomas M. Jaworski,  
Alachua County Court Judge  
Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida

Enclosure: September 26, 2023, email from Teshara Arthur

## Christina Blankenship

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**From:** Teshara Arthur <info@tesharaarthur.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2023 11:43 PM  
**To:** Christina Blankenship  
**Subject:** I special thank to Honorable Thomas M. Jaworski

Dear Honorable Thomas M. Jaworski

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. My name is Teshara Arthur, and I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to you. It has been several years since our paths crossed, but the impact of your kindness and empathy during a challenging period in my life has stayed with me.

In November 2009, I found myself at a crossroads in my life. I was eight months pregnant and in my senior year at the University of Florida. Financially, I was struggling, and the weight of my circumstances bore down on me. It was during this time that I was pulled over for driving with a suspended license. What should have been a routine traffic stop quickly escalated, and I found myself facing a prosecutor who was intent on having me arrested and held without bond.

In the midst of this difficult situation, you, Your Honor, extended a compassionate hand to guide me through the legal process. Your understanding of my unique circumstances, especially the absence of family support, made a world of difference. I vividly remember your support and guidance during those trying days, ultimately leading to my adjudication being withheld. While it may have seemed like a small case in the grand scheme of things, your actions made a significant impact on my life.

Though my time in jail was brief and the offense relatively minor, the fear of facing incarceration and its potential consequences weighed heavily on me. The capias that loomed over me added an extra layer of anxiety to an already challenging situation. Your willingness to treat my case with empathy and understanding, rather than severity, was a source of immense relief during a time of uncertainty and fear.

Fast forward to today, and I am currently pursuing my Ph.D. It is my sincere belief that your kindness and empathy during that crucial juncture in my life played a pivotal role in shaping my trajectory. As a first-generation college student and a single mother, I have worked tirelessly to overcome the challenges that life has thrown my way. I am proud to say that I have not only completed my undergraduate degree but have also pursued higher education to the point of embarking on a Ph.D. journey.

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My dissertation topic focuses on reducing recidivism, a topic that holds personal significance for me. It is my way of giving back to society and making a difference, much like the difference you made in my life.

I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you, not just for the legal assistance you provided, but for demonstrating what true kindness and empathy look like. Your actions served as a shining example to me, and I strive to emulate that same spirit of compassion in my own life and work.

Once again, thank you, Your Honor, for being a beacon of hope and support during a challenging time. I hope this letter conveys the depth of my gratitude and the enduring impact of your actions. I am living proof that a small act of kindness can have far-reaching consequences.

With the utmost respect and gratitude,

Teshara Arthur