

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 24-180

(State Attorney Executive Assignment)

WHEREAS, the Honorable PHIL ARCHER, State Attorney for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that John Michael Toppa has filed a motion for early termination of probation; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA, State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, handled the original case under Executive Order 17-56, as extended by Executive Orders 18-50 and 19-38; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable PHIL ARCHER 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 John Michael Toppa; 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 PHIL ARCHER, 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 PHIL ARCHER, State Attorney for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters regarding John Michael Toppa.

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

Section 3. All residents of the Eighteenth 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 September 3, 2025.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before August 3, 2025, 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 3rd day of September, 2024.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

2024 SEP -3 PM 1:20
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

FILED