

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 17-181

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM EDDINS, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Shannon Leigh Merritt has been arrested for petit theft, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, and possession of drug paraphernalia; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM EDDINS has also advised the Governor that Shannon Leigh Merritt is his wife's niece; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM EDDINS, 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 with respect to the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable GLENN HESS, State Attorney for the Fourteenth 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 GLENN HESS discharge the duties of the Honorable WILLIAM EDDINS, pursuant to section 27.14, Florida Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, 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 GLENN HESS, State Attorney for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable WILLIAM EDDINS, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Shannon Leigh Merritt.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the First 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 July 10, 2018.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before June 10, 2018, 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 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017.

A blue ink signature of Rick Scott, written in a cursive style.

RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

A blue ink signature of Ken Ritzman, written in a cursive style.

SECRETARY OF STATE

2017 JUL 10 AM 10:28  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED