

**IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF FLORIDA**

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-16

IN RE: ACTING-PUBLIC DEFENDER APPOINTMENT

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution, and section 43.26, Florida Statutes, the chief judge of each judicial circuit is charged with the authority and the power to do everything necessary to promote the prompt and efficient administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, section 27.50, Florida Statutes, requires a public defender for each judicial circuit and said individual is to be elected at the general election for a term of 4 years; and

WHEREAS, section 100.041, Florida Statutes, provides that “[t]he terms of state officers other than the terms of members of the Legislature shall begin on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January after said election”; and

WHEREAS, during the 2020 General Election, the electors of the Second Judicial Circuit elected Jessica Yeary as the next public defender for the Second Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, current Public Defender Andy Thomas is scheduled to retire on December 31, 2020, leaving a vacancy in the Office of the Public Defender for the Second Judicial Circuit from that date until January 5, 2021, when Public Defender-elect Jessica Yeary assumes office; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 43.26, Florida Statutes, the chief judge has the authority to require attendance of state attorneys, public defenders, clerks, bailiffs, and all other officers of the court, and to do everything necessary to promote the prompt and efficient administrative of justice; and

WHEREAS, the designation of an Acting-Public Defender for the Second Judicial Circuit from December 31, 2020 to January 5, 2021 is necessary to promote the prompt and efficient administration of justice in the Second Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, nothing in this order supersedes the authority of the Governor to fill by appointment any vacancy in the state office of the Public Defender for the Second Judicial Circuit if he exercises that discretion, as granted by Article IV, Section 1(f) of the Florida Constitution, and Section 114.04, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the authority vested in the chief judge by Article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution, section 43.26, Florida Statutes, Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

Public Defender-elect Jessica Yeary is designated Acting-Public Defender for the Second Judicial Circuit from December 31, 2020 through January 5, 2021.

ORDERED in chambers in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida, this 15th day of December 2020.



JONATHAN SJOSTROM
Chief Judge

- Copies furnished to:
- All Circuit and County Judges, Second Judicial Circuit
- All Clerks of the Court, Second Judicial Circuit
- State Attorney, Second Judicial Circuit
- Public Defender, Second Judicial Circuit
- Office of Court Administration, Second Judicial Circuit

