

July 2, 2007

Honorable Charlie Crist
Governor of the State of Florida
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001
Attention: Susan Smith, Executive Assistant

Via Facsimile Transmission
850-488-9810

RE: Request for Executive Assignment

Dear Governor Crist:

Recently, there have been allegations made that two Broward County judges have inappropriately solicited or accepted gifts or loans from a local attorney who actively represented clients in their courts. These allegations were first made public in a news story broadcast aired on a local television station on June 19, 2007 and in a local news article published on June 28, 2007. The June 19 broadcast alleges that County Court Judge Robert S. Zack solicited and received a \$2,500 loan from attorney Chris Roberts. The June 28 article alleges that Circuit Court Judge Larry Seidlin also solicited and received gifts from attorney Chris Roberts. The June 28 article alleges that Judge Seidlin's family members have received property and monetary benefits from an 81-year-old wealthy neighbor, Barbara Kasler. We have received a complaint from attorney John B. Thompson of Coral Gables, Florida requesting our office to investigate and prosecute, if appropriate, the allegations contained in the article concerning Judge Seidlin.

I have emailed to you for your review a transcript copy of the broadcast and a copy of the published article. We believe that investigations are warranted to determine whether or not the judges' conduct in the circumstances alleged above violated any criminal statutes.

We are requesting that an Executive Assignment be made to conduct the investigations. Judge Zack is presently assigned to the Criminal County Court Division and he presides over criminal cases prosecuted by this office. Judge Zack's daughter was a prosecutor with our office for fourteen years and just recently resigned on June 8, 2007. Judge Seidlin is retiring in the very near future. However, Judge Seidlin will still be eligible to preside over cases we prosecute as a Senior Judge and he is a former Assistant State Attorney with our office.

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In order to avoid the appearance of conflict and impropriety, we would respectfully request that another State Attorney be appointed to handle any decisions in these matters.

Thank you for your consideration of this mater.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES B. MORTON, JR.
Chief Assistant State Attorney

CBM, Jr.: vbp
Enclosure

cc: Michael J. Satz
State Attorney