



NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 11, 2023

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NDAA Statement on State Attorney Monique Worrell's Removal & Preserving Independence for Prosecutors

ARLINGTON, VA – The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) expresses deep concern and caution over the removal of State Attorney Monique Worrell of the 9th Judicial Circuit, serving Orange and Osceola counties in Florida. We firmly believe in the critical importance of preserving the independence and exercise of discretion of locally elected prosecutors, ensuring the integrity and impartiality of our justice system.

Our nation's democratic principles allow local communities to elect representatives, such as prosecutors, to uphold and implement justice in a manner that reflects the values and priorities of their constituents. District Attorneys and their like are elected to prosecute crime, promote public safety, and foster a sense of security in their communities. Every day, prosecutors all over America exercise discretion in resolving individual cases. This individual exercise of discretion is different from a prosecutor who wholly abandons their statutory responsibility to bring prosecutions or ignores the duly enacted laws within their applicable jurisdiction.

The distinction is vital. While there may be debates on how a prosecutor exercises his or her discretion, disagreements should be addressed by the electorate that placed their trust in that prosecutor, not through external interventions. NDAA supports the responsibility and role of the prosecutor, the importance of the community deciding if they continue to support the person they elected, and the need for politics to not influence prosecutorial discretion or decisions.

The NDAA remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting prosecutors nationwide, ensuring they maintain the autonomy and discretion needed to make decisions on a case-by-case basis to serve their communities effectively. We champion an open dialogue on matters of jurisdiction and prosecutorial discretion and extend our readiness to provide resources and expertise when genuine conflicts of interest arise.

We value our nation's rich tradition of local prosecutorial independence, a cornerstone of our justice system, and we call upon all to respect and uphold this critical tenet. In the spirit of cooperation and unity, we stand ready to assist in any manner that promotes impartiality, trust, and the rule of law.

About the National District Attorneys Association:

Formed in 1950, NDAA is the oldest and largest national organization representing state and local prosecutors in the country. With more than 5,500 members representing over two-thirds of the state and local prosecutors' offices, NDAA is recognized as the leading source of national expertise on the prosecution function and is a valuable resource for the media, academia, government, and community leaders. NDAA's mission is to provide state and local prosecutors with the knowledge, skills, and support they need to ensure that justice is done and that public safety rights are protected.

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