

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Sept. 7, 2023 MEDIA CONTACT Miriam Krinsky krinskym@krinsky.la 818-416-5218

## FJP Statement on Orlando State Attorney Monique Worrell's Lawsuit Challenging Gov. DeSantis' Abuse of Power

<u>Fair and Just Prosecution</u> Executive Director Miriam Krinsky issued the following statement in response to a <u>lawsuit</u> filed in the Florida Supreme Court by State Attorney Monique Worrell challenging her removal by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis:

"We applaud State Attorney Worrell for standing up for her constituents by taking legal action against Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in his unwarranted and undemocratic power grab that removed her from duly elected office.

The office of state attorney belongs to the people, not the governor. Hundreds of thousands of voters in Orange and Osceola Counties chose SA Worrell and they have the right to be represented by her.

Gov. DeSantis has repeatedly shown a complete disregard for Floridians by removing elected local officials simply because he doesn't agree with them. For someone who claims to love freedom, the governor has repeatedly put his own political interests above the freedoms and rights of people throughout the state who hold different beliefs than him.

We cannot let this dangerous attack on our democracy stand just so that the governor can score a few political points. We hope the Supreme Court of Florida sees this abuse of power for what it is and acts swiftly to protect the voters of Florida – and the integrity of the rule of law – by reinstating Monique Worrell as the duly elected State Attorney in her jurisdiction."

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Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP's work, visit our <u>website</u> and follow us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Threads</u>, and <u>LinkedIn</u>.