



NATIONAL BLACK PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION  
34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND JOB FAIR  
Cleveland, Ohio  
July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

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April 13, 2017

Office of Governor Rick Scott  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

The National Black Prosecutors Association is the only professional membership organization dedicated to the advancement of Blacks as prosecutors. Founded in 1983, the Association's membership is comprised of both chief and line prosecutors nationwide. In addition to prosecutors, the association's membership includes law students, former prosecutors and law enforcement personnel.

The National Black Prosecutors Association is in opposition to your decision to remove State Attorney Aramis Ayala from the Markeith Lloyd case. The most important tool that any elected prosecutor has at their disposal is prosecutorial discretion. That discretion is not limited to simply what cases to accept or try - it extends to how such cases will move forward through the criminal justice system. The goal of a prosecutor is to seek justice; the discretion a prosecutor has to achieve justice must remain unmolested. Separation of powers must remain sacred as intended by both the state and United States Constitutions.

It is the will of the voters that Ms. Ayala be their State Attorney; it is only the voters that should remove her, absent true disqualification. It is our view that to confuse the issues of politics with an elected Prosecutor's ability to carry out their oath to seek justice and uphold the laws of their respective states is detrimental to the execution of justice. We note that the facts of the case as alleged are heinous. However, we believe, with all due respect, that you have overstepped your bounds.

This cause is not one advanced by the National Black Prosecutors Association alone. Our colleagues in the National Bar Association, led by their president, Kevin D. Judd, also stand firm in support of Ms. Ayala. The National Bar Association was founded in 1925 and is the nation's oldest and largest network of predominantly African-American attorneys and judges. Our organizations combined make up over 66,200 legal professionals across the country and the world. We all stand behind Ms. Ayala and give her our full support in this matter.



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As such we urge you to reinstate her authority over the many cases she has been divested of, and preserve prosecutorial discretion in the State of Florida.

Regards,

William Jorden  
President  
National Black Prosecutors Association

Kevin D. Judd  
President  
National Bar Association

cc: The Honorable Aramis Ayala, State Attorney, Ninth Judicial Circuit