



State Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2025

State Attorney Monique Worrell Defends the Integrity of Community Partnerships

ORANGE COUNTY, FL — State Attorney Monique Worrell responded to recent criticisms regarding her office’s collaboration with the Wren Collective, a team of criminal justice experts who supported the office during her first term.

The Wren Collective specializes in crisis communications, public safety messaging, and community engagement. They never influenced prosecutorial decisions in the Ninth Circuit, and those decisions remained solely within the discretion of the elected State Attorney and her team.

State Attorney Worrell emphasized that prosecutors’ offices nationwide regularly engage consultants to help translate complex work into language that builds public confidence and trust.

“The Wren Collective is an experienced team of outstanding criminal justice practitioners who specialize in crisis communications, public safety messaging, and community engagement. They *never* influenced prosecutorial decisions. Those decisions have always rested solely with me, as the elected State Attorney. Wren worked with my team from time-to-time during my first term to help ensure that our community received accurate, clear, and trustworthy information about the work being done.

Wren was also instrumental in bringing national experts to the Ninth Circuit to lead community conversations on violent crime and gun safety at a time when our circuit needed it most. The community packed out venues not just to listen, but to take what they learned back to their neighborhoods and organizations serving some of our most vulnerable populations. That is what real community engagement looks like, and Wren helped make it possible.

Wren’s expertise lies in understanding how the criminal legal system responds to crime, rehabilitation, and community safety, and in helping offices like ours translate that work in ways that build public confidence. Calling them ‘unelected’ suggests something to be feared, when in reality prosecutors’ offices across the country regularly engage consultants to strengthen how they meet the needs of their communities.

The suggestion that their past involvement influenced prosecutorial decisions is nothing more than a political attack on ‘progressive prosecutors.’ It’s important to remember that the rules cannot change based on who the State Attorney is. Engaging consultants is not

unusual for a public office, and it should not be treated as a problem here when it would not be elsewhere.

Wren assisted our office for free, and their work never touched prosecutorial decision making. By contrast, appointed and unelected State Attorney Andrew Bain hired Taryn Fenske of TMF Communications at \$6,500 per month; she served as Gov. DeSantis's communications director. He also hired the Levitt Group at \$6,000 per month, whose principal had served as Bain's senior criminal justice advisor. Unlike Wren, these consultants were brought in specifically to shape policy and to influence decisions under the unelected state attorney's administration.

Any information put forward by the unelected administration or otherwise is a misuse and diversion of public resources. While knowing these falsities do not serve the people of our circuit, they continue to launch defamatory attacks against me, fully aware that our office will have to divert critical resources to respond to accusations driven purely by political motives."

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The Honorable Monique H. Worrell represents the Office of the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit which serves Orange and Osceola counties in central Florida.

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