

From: "Metz, Matthew" <Metz.Matthew@pd7.org>

To: Editor VolusiaExposed <editor@volusiaexposed.com>

Cc: larizzar@sao7.org <larizzar@sao7.org>, "Hughes, Allison" <hughes.allison@pd7.org>, "Avallone, Larry" <Avallone.Larry@pd7.org>

Subject: RE: PRR - Allison Hughes / Nicole Jackson-Maldonado

Date: Mon, 30 Jan 2023 20:21:35 +0000 (01/30/2023 03:21:35 PM)

Good Afternoon,

This is Matt Metz, Public Defender for the 7th Circuit, and supervisor of both Mrs. Allison Hughes and Mr. Larry Avallone. I am responding in lieu of Allison Hughes who was sent a request for comment regarding a potential story about Ms. Nicole Jackson-Maldonado. While normally I do not comment on our cases I am writing because the request for comment contained questions that could be construed to question Mrs. Hughes integrity. First, please note that I will not comment on any conversations that occurred between any of the attorneys and their client. Those conversations are privileged and that privilege has not be waived. **Second, let me state unequivocally that there has never been any kind of quid pro quo.** I have been regularly reviewing with the details of this case through my attorneys. Moreover, I personally met with Ms. Jackson-Maldonado and had conversations on her behalf with the State Attorney's office. The outcome of her case is the result of thorough and dedicated work by multiple attorneys in our office including Ms. Hughes. Any insinuation that that she would put personal gain before the well-being of her clients is both fundamentally untrue and borderline libelous. Moreover, it furthers untrue stereotypes that the community servants at this office are striving for anything other than the best outcome for their clients.

I have personally worked on cases with Mrs. Hughes and relied on her expertise which is why I have encouraged her to apply for a judgeship. If she is chosen it will be based solely on her dedicated work for thousands of clients over almost fourteen years. I hope this answers any and all questions that you have regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Matthew Metz

Public Defender, 7th Circuit

251 N. Ridgewood,

Daytona Beach, Florida 32114

Phone: (386) 239-7730

Fax: (386) 239-7702

Matthew Metz

Public Defender, 7th Circuit

251 N. Ridgewood,

Daytona Beach, Florida 32114

Phone: (386) 239-7730

Fax: (386) 239-7702