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State of Florida
COMMISSION ON ETHICS
P.O. Drawer 15709
Tallahassee, Florida 32317-5709

325 John Knox Road
Building E, Suite 200
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

"A Public Office is a Public Trust"

Kerrie J. Stillman
Executive Director

Steven J. Zuilkowski
Deputy Executive Director/
General Counsel

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October 5, 2023

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor, State of Florida
The Capitol, 400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: Complaint No. 17-082, In re CARLOS BERUFF

Dear Governor DeSantis:

The District Court of Appeal has affirmed the Commission on Ethics' findings in the above-reference matter and the Court's mandate has been issued. A copy of the Court's decision and the mandate are enclosed. Thus, the matter is now ripe for your consideration pursuant to the Commission's letter dated July 27, 2022, a copy of which also is enclosed. If we may be of any assistance to you, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "K. Stillman", is written over a horizontal line.

Kerrie J. Stillman
Executive Director

Enclosures

KJS/jcb

cc: Mr. Mark Herron, Attorney for Respondent
Ms. Melody A. Hadley, Assistant Attorney General and Advocate for the Commission
Mr. Glenn Compton, Complainant

DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF FLORIDA
SECOND DISTRICT

CARLOS BERUFF,

Appellant,

v.

FLORIDA COMMISSION ON ETHICS,

Appellee.

No. 2D22-2702

August 25, 2023

Appeal from the Florida Commission on Ethics.

Mark Herron and Douglas M. Smith of Messer Caparello, P.A.,
Tallahassee, for Appellant.

Ashley Moody, Attorney General, and Melody A. Hadley, Assistant
Attorney General, Tallahassee, and Steven J. Zuilkowski and Joseph C.
Burns of Florida Commission on Ethics, Tallahassee, for Appellee.

PER CURIAM.

Affirmed.

ATKINSON and SMITH, JJ., and CASE, JAMES R., ASSOCIATE SENIOR
JUDGE, Concur.

Opinion subject to revision prior to official publication.

M A N D A T E

from

DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA SECOND DISTRICT

THIS CAUSE HAVING BEEN BROUGHT TO THIS COURT BY APPEAL, AND
AFTER DUE CONSIDERATION THE COURT HAVING ISSUED ITS OPINION;

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED THAT SUCH FURTHER PROCEEDINGS
BE HAD IN SAID CAUSE, IF REQUIRED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPINION OF
THIS COURT ATTACHED HERETO AND INCORPORATED AS PART OF THIS ORDER,
AND WITH THE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND LAWS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

WITNESS THE HONORABLE DANIEL H. SLEET CHIEF JUDGE OF THE
DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, SECOND DISTRICT, AND
THE SEAL OF THE SAID COURT AT TAMPA, FLORIDA ON THIS DAY.

DATE: September 15, 2023

SECOND DCA CASE NO. 22-2702

COUNTY OF ORIGIN: Sarasota

LOWER TRIBUNAL CASE NO. 21-2890EC

CASE STYLE: CARLOS BERUFF

v. FLORIDA COMMISSION ON
ETHICS



Mary Elizabeth Kuenzel
Mary Elizabeth Kuenzel
Clerk

cc: (without attached opinion)
DOUGLAS M. SMITH, ESQ.
MELODY A. HADLEY, ESQ.
STEVEN J. ZUILKOWSKI, ESQ.

JOSEPH C. BURNS, ESQ.
MARK HERRON, ESQ.
FLORIDA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

mep

John Grant
Chair
Glenton "Glen" Gilzean, Jr.
Vice Chair
Michelle Anchors
Antonio Carvajal
Don Gaetz
William "Willie" N. Meggs
Jim Waldman



Kerrie J. Stillman
Executive Director

Steven J. Zuilkowski
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General Counsel*

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July 27, 2022

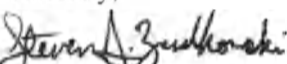
The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor, State of Florida
The Capitol, 400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Re: Complaint No. 17-082, In re Carlos Beruff

Dear Governor DeSantis:

The Florida Commission on Ethics has completed a full and final investigation of a complaint involving Carlos Beruff, a member of the governing board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Pursuant to Section 112.324(8), Florida Statutes, we are reporting our findings and recommending appropriate disciplinary action to you in this case. Enclosed are copies of our final order and of our file in this matter. As we have found pursuant to a Recommended Order of an Administrative Law Judge of the Division of Administrative Hearings that Mr. Beruff violated the Code of Ethics in the manner described by our order, we recommend that you impose a civil penalty upon him in the amount of \$1,500 (one thousand five hundred dollars) and a public censure and reprimand. If we may be of any assistance to you in your deliberations, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would appreciate your informing us of the manner in which you dispose of this matter. For information regarding collection of the civil penalty, please contact the Office of the Attorney General, Ms. Melody A. Hadley, Assistant Attorney General.

Sincerely,


for Kerrie J. Stillman
Executive Director

KJS/sjz

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Mark Herron, Attorney for Respondent
Mr. Brennan Donnelly, Attorney for Respondent
Ms. Melody A. Hadley, Commission Advocate
Ms. Marlene Katherine Stern, Office of the Attorney General
Mr. Glenn Compton, Complainant