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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NINTH CIRCUIT STATE ATTORNEY RECOGNIZES SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

ORLANDO, FL – There is an average of 123 suicides each day in the United States of America. It's the tenth leading cause of death in America — second leading for ages 25-34, and third leading for ages 15-24. In order to create awareness and strengthen the fight against suicide, the entire month of September is Suicide Prevention Month. Originally established in 1979 as a support group by family members of individuals diagnosed with mental illness. In recent years, society has become more open and receptive to discussions and conversations on suicide. However, there is still a stigma surrounding it.

During the month of September, we call on each of you to reach out to those affected by suicide, raise awareness and connect individuals with suicidal ideation to treatment services, and to be a shoulder to lean on to others who may need it. We can take strides at combating suicide by increasing access to treatment for depression and decriminalizing mental health. Our office is dedicated to working with our community partners to identify ways to combat mental health criminalization in the Ninth Judicial Circuit. This includes founding a Mental Health Division. Together, we can end the stigma.

If you or someone you know is suffering from depressive bouts or suicidal thoughts, we ask that you please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255) or call 911 immediately.

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The Office of the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit is represented by The Honorable Monique H. Worrell and serves Orange and Osceola counties in Central Florida. A culturally diverse community, the area is home to nearly 1.4 million residents and is a vacation destination for millions each year. Our office is committed to making Orlando and the surrounding area a vibrant and safe place to live, work and play.

For general media inquiries, please contact: PIO@sao9.org.

For media records request, please contact: mediarecordsrequest@sao9.org.

For specific media inquiries pertaining to State Attorney Monique Worrell, please contact Keisha Mulfort at kmulfort@sao9.org.