

**UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

1. **Name**: State full name (include any former names used).

Leslie Joyce Abrams

2. **Position**: State the position for which you have been nominated.

United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia

3. **Address**: List current office address. If city and state of residence differs from your place of employment, please list the city and state where you currently reside.

United States Attorney's Office
Northern District of Georgia
75 Spring Street
Suite 600
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

4. **Birthplace**: State year and place of birth.

1974; Madison, Wisconsin

5. **Education**: List in reverse chronological order each college, law school, or any other institution of higher education attended and indicate for each the dates of attendance, whether a degree was received, and the date each degree was received.

1999 – 2002, Yale Law School; J.D., 2002

1997 – 1998, University of Michigan, Rackham School of Public Policy

1993 – 1997, Brown University; B.A., 1997

6. **Employment Record**: List in reverse chronological order all governmental agencies, business or professional corporations, companies, firms, or other enterprises, partnerships, institutions or organizations, non-profit or otherwise, with which you have been affiliated as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or employee since graduation from college, whether or not you received payment for your services. Include the name and address of the employer and job title or description.

2010 – Present
United States Attorney's Office
Northern District of Georgia
75 Spring Street
Suite 600
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Assistant United States Attorney, Criminal Division

2007 – 2010, 2003 – 2006
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, and Flom LLP
1440 New York Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20005
Associate

2006 – 2007
Kilpatrick Stockton LLP (now Kilpatrick Townsend and Stockton LLP)
1100 Peachtree Street
Suite 2800
Atlanta, Georgia 30309
Associate

2002 – 2003
United States District Court for the District of Maryland
Chambers of Judge Marvin J. Garbis
101 West Lombard Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
Law Clerk to Judge Marvin J. Garbis

Summer 2002, Summer 2001, Summer 2000
Powell, Goldstein, Frazer, and Murphy LLP (now Bryan Cave LLP)
One Atlantic Center
Fourteenth Floor
1201 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30309
Summer Associate

2000 – 2002
Westlaw (Thompson Reuters)
530 Fifth Avenue
Seventh Floor
New York, New York 10036
Student Representative

2000 – 2002
BarBri (formerly owned by Thompson Reuters)
9400 North Central Expressway

Suite 613
Dallas, Texas 75231
Student Representative

2000
Yale Law School
127 Wall Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06520
Internship with Professor Lea Brilmayer (August – December 2001)
Teaching Assistant for Professor Owen Fiss (May – January 2001)
Research Assistant for Professor Reva Segal (January – May 2000)

May – August 1999
TheScience.com (Defunct)
New Haven, Connecticut 06520
Intern

February – May 1999
National Black Business Council
1100 Wayne Avenue
Suite 150
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Intern

June 1998 – February 1999
Greenlining Institute
1918 University Avenue
Second Floor
Berkeley, California 94704
Consumer Protection Fellow

January – June 1998
Martha Cook House
University of Michigan
906 South University Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109
Residential Counselor

Other affiliations (uncompensated):

2012 – Present
Central United Methodist Church
501 Mitchell Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30314
Board of Trustees

2008 – 2010
YWCA of the National Capital Area
2303 Fourteenth Street, Northwest
Suite 100
Washington, District of Columbia 20009
Board of Directors (2008 – 2010)
Secretary (2009 – 2010)

2008 – 2010
Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
11 Dupont Circle, Northwest
Suite 400
Washington, District of Columbia 20036
Associate Trustee

7. **Military Service and Draft Status:** Identify any service in the U.S. Military, including dates of service, branch of service, rank or rate, serial number (if different from social security number) and type of discharge received, and whether you have registered for selective service.

I have never served in the military. I was not required to register for selective service.

8. **Honors and Awards:** List any scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships, military awards, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.

United States Attorney's Award for Performance as Community Outreach Coordinator (2013)
Young Leaders Conference, Council for Italy and the United States (2012)
Selected for LEAD Atlanta Class of 2007 (2007)
Earl Warren Legal Training Fellowship (1999)
Rackham Merit Fellowship (1997 – 1998)
Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers Fellowship (1996)
Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship (1995)

9. **Bar Associations:** List all bar associations or legal or judicial-related committees, selection panels or conferences of which you are or have been a member, and give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such groups.

American Bar Association
District of Columbia Bar
Gate City Bar Association
Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys
Georgia Bar
National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys
National Bar Association

National Black Prosecutors Association
Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
Associate Trustee (2008 – 2010)

10. **Bar and Court Admission:**

- a. List the date(s) you were admitted to the bar of any state and any lapses in membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership.

Georgia, 2003

District of Columbia, 2004

I resigned my membership in the Bar of the District of Columbia in 2012 because I no longer practice in the District of Columbia and do not anticipate practicing there in the near-future.

- b. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice, including dates of admission and any lapses in membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require special admission to practice.

Supreme Court of Georgia, 2003

United States District Court for the District of Maryland, 2003

United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 2003

United States District Court for the District of Columbia, 2004

United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, 2006

United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, 2010

My admission to the United States District Court for the District of Maryland is no longer active because I no longer practice or live in the Maryland area.

11. **Memberships:**

- a. List all professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations, other than those listed in response to Questions 9 or 10 to which you belong, or to which you have belonged, since graduation from law school. Provide dates of membership or participation, and indicate any office you held. Include clubs, working groups, advisory or editorial boards, panels, committees, conferences, or publications.

American Inns of Court, Bleckley Inn (2011 – 2013)
Barrister

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated (1996 – Present)

YWCA of the National Capital Area (2008 – 2010)
Board of Directors (2008 – 2010)
Secretary (2009 – 2010)

- b. The American Bar Association's Commentary to its Code of Judicial Conduct states that it is inappropriate for a judge to hold membership in any organization that invidiously discriminates on the basis of race, sex, or religion, or national origin. Indicate whether any of these organizations listed in response to 11a above currently discriminate or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies. If so, describe any action you have taken to change these policies and practices.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated is a national service organization that admits only women. To my knowledge, none of the other organizations discriminates on the basis of race, sex, religion, or national origin either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies.

12. Published Writings and Public Statements:

- a. List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, letters to the editor, editorial pieces, or other published material you have written or edited, including material published only on the Internet. Supply four (4) copies of all published material to the Committee.

As a member of Yale Law Women, I co-authored, "YLS Faculty and Students Speak about Gender: A Report on Faculty-Student Relations at Yale Law School," which was issued in April 2002. Copy supplied.

- b. Supply four (4) copies of any reports, memoranda or policy statements you prepared or contributed in the preparation of on behalf of any bar association, committee, conference, or organization of which you were or are a member. If you do not have a copy of a report, memorandum or policy statement, give the name and address of the organization that issued it, the date of the document, and a summary of its subject matter.

I have not prepared or contributed to the preparation of any reports, memoranda or policy statements on behalf of any bar association, committee, conference, or organization of which I was or am a member.

- c. Supply four (4) copies of any testimony, official statements or other communications relating, in whole or in part, to matters of public policy or legal interpretation, that you have issued or provided or that others presented on your behalf to public bodies or public officials.

On February 16, 2010, Special Counsel Robert S. Bennett and Deputy Special Counsel Amy Sabrin presented a "Report of Investigation Pursuant to D.C. Council Resolution 18-217" to the City Council of the District of Columbia. I was a member of the legal team that prepared the report and presentation. Copy supplied.

During my fellowship at the Greenlining Institute from 1998 to 1999, I spoke at several meetings of the California Public Utilities Commission regarding proposed rate changes and financial assistance for low-income customers. I have no notes, transcripts or recordings.

On July 9, 1998, as a Fellow at the Greenlining Institute, I read a statement on behalf of Harry C. Alford, National Black Chamber of Commerce at the Federal Reserve Board's Public Meeting regarding Nations Bank and Bank of America. Transcript excerpt supplied.

- d. Supply four (4) copies, transcripts or recordings of all speeches or talks delivered by you, including commencement speeches, remarks, lectures, panel discussions, conferences, political speeches, and question-and-answer sessions. Include the date and place where they were delivered, and readily available press reports about the speech or talk. If you do not have a copy of the speech or a transcript or recording of your remarks, give the name and address of the group before whom the speech was given, the date of the speech, and a summary of its subject matter. If you did not speak from a prepared text, furnish a copy of any outline or notes from which you spoke.

From 2011 to 2012, I served as the Community Outreach Coordinator for the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia. In this capacity, I gave a speech at the Metro Transition Center in Atlanta, Georgia on November 16, 2011. I believe that I may have given a similar speech on another occasion, but I do not recall the organization or the date of the speech. Transcript supplied.

Annually, between 2001 and 2007, I was a guest facilitator at the Emerging Leaders Workshop at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Greensboro, NC. Although I do not recall the exact dates, I gave speeches and sat on panels during these events. Generally, I spoke about the process of applying for graduate school and fellowships. I also spoke about my educational background and career path. I have no notes, transcript or recording. The event was run by The Honors Program, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, 310 Gibbs Hall, 1601 East Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27411.

Sometime in 2000 and 2001, I also served as a facilitator at the National Emerging Leaders Conference at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA. Although I do not recall the exact dates, I gave speeches and sat on panels during these events. Generally, I spoke about the process of applying for graduate school and fellowships. I also spoke about my educational background and career path. I have no notes, transcripts or recordings. The National Emerging Leaders Conference no longer exists.

- e. List all interviews you have given to newspapers, magazines or other publications, or radio or television stations, providing the dates of these interviews and four (4) copies of the clips or transcripts of these interviews where they are available to you.

Marian Burros & Sarah Abruzzese, The Obama Team's New Street, POLITICO (D.C), Jan. 14, 2009. Copy supplied.

Barbara Ruben, The Montgomery's Different Look Works on Many Levels, WASH. POST (D.C.), Sept. 3, 2005. Copy supplied.

Benny Evangelista, Group Says Probe Found Sumitomo Bias, S.F. CHRON. (Cal.) Oct. 16, 1998. Copy supplied.

Sometime between January and May of 1997, I appeared on the Maury Povich show to discuss a case that I had been working on, *Mississippi v. Kambule*. I have been unable to obtain a copy of the recording.

John Carlin, A Time to Die in Mississippi, INDEP. (Miss.), Mar. 9, 1997. Copy supplied.

Ben Gose, Interracial Dating Angers Many Black Women at Brown U., BROWN DAILY HERALD (R.I.), May 10, 1996. Copy Supplied.

13. **Judicial Office:** State (chronologically) any judicial offices you have held, including positions as an administrative law judge, whether such position was elected or appointed, and a description of the jurisdiction of each such court.

I have not held any judicial offices.

- a. Approximately how many cases have you presided over that have gone to verdict or judgment? _____

- i. Of these, approximately what percent were:

jury trials:	_____%
bench trials:	_____% [total 100%]

civil proceedings: _____ %
criminal proceedings: _____ % [total 100%]

- b. Provide citations for all opinions you have written, including concurrences and dissents.
 - c. For each of the 10 most significant cases over which you presided, provide: (1) a capsule summary of the nature the case; (2) the outcome of the case; (3) the name and contact information for counsel who had a significant role in the trial of the case; and (3) the citation of the case (if reported) or the docket number and a copy of the opinion or judgment (if not reported).
 - d. For each of the 10 most significant opinions you have written, provide: (1) citations for those decisions that were published; (2) a copy of those decisions that were not published; and (3) the names and contact information for the attorneys who played a significant role in the case.
 - e. Provide a list of all cases in which certiorari was requested or granted.
 - f. Provide a brief summary of and citations for all of your opinions where your decisions were reversed by a reviewing court or where your judgment was affirmed with significant criticism of your substantive or procedural rulings. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the opinions.
 - g. Provide a description of the number and percentage of your decisions in which you issued an unpublished opinion and the manner in which those unpublished opinions are filed and/or stored.
 - h. Provide citations for significant opinions on federal or state constitutional issues, together with the citation to appellate court rulings on such opinions. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the opinions.
 - i. Provide citations to all cases in which you sat by designation on a federal court of appeals, including a brief summary of any opinions you authored, whether majority, dissenting, or concurring, and any dissenting opinions you joined.
14. **Recusal:** If you are or have been a judge, identify the basis by which you have assessed the necessity or propriety of recusal (If your court employs an "automatic" recusal system by which you may be recused without your knowledge, please include a general description of that system.) Provide a list of any cases, motions or matters that have come before you in which a litigant or party has requested that you recuse yourself due to an asserted conflict of interest or in which you have recused yourself sua sponte. Identify each such case, and for each provide the following information:

I have never been a judge.

- a. whether your recusal was requested by a motion or other suggestion by a litigant or a party to the proceeding or by any other person or interested party; or if you recused yourself sua sponte;
- b. a brief description of the asserted conflict of interest or other ground for recusal;
- c. the procedure you followed in determining whether or not to recuse yourself;
- d. your reason for recusing or declining to recuse yourself, including any action taken to remove the real, apparent or asserted conflict of interest or to cure any other ground for recusal.

15. Public Office, Political Activities and Affiliations:

- a. List chronologically any public offices you have held, other than judicial offices, including the terms of service and whether such positions were elected or appointed. If appointed, please include the name of the individual who appointed you. Also, state chronologically any unsuccessful candidacies you have had for elective office or unsuccessful nominations for appointed office.

I have not held public office. I have had no unsuccessful candidacies for elective office or unsuccessful nominations for appointed office.

- b. List all memberships and offices held in and services rendered, whether compensated or not, to any political party or election committee. If you have ever held a position or played a role in a political campaign, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, dates of the campaign, your title and responsibilities.

In 2012 and in 2008, I volunteered for the presidential/vice-presidential campaign of President Barack Obama and Vice-President Joseph Biden. I knocked on doors and worked at telephone banks.

In 2009, I volunteered for Lisa Border's campaign for mayor of Atlanta, Georgia. I worked at a telephone bank and drove voters to the polls.

In 2006, I volunteered for my sister's—Stacey Abrams'—campaign for the Georgia House of Representatives (District 84). I knocked on doors, worked at a telephone bank, and drove voters to the polls.

In 2004, I volunteered for the presidential/vice-presidential campaign of John Kerry and John Edwards. I worked at telephone banks.

In 2000, I volunteered for the presidential/vice-presidential campaign of Al Gore and Joe Lieberman. I drove voters to the polls.

16. **Legal Career:** Answer each part separately.

- a. Describe chronologically your law practice and legal experience after graduation from law school including:

- i. whether you served as clerk to a judge, and if so, the name of the judge, the court and the dates of the period you were a clerk;

From August 2002 to August 2003, I served as a law clerk to District Judge Marvin J. Garbis of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland.

- ii. whether you practiced alone, and if so, the addresses and dates;

I have never practiced alone.

- iii. the dates, names and addresses of law firms or offices, companies or governmental agencies with which you have been affiliated, and the nature of your affiliation with each.

2003 – 2006, 2007 – 2010
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, and Flom LLP
1440 New York Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20005
Associate

2006 – 2007
Kilpatrick Stockton LLP (now Kilpatrick Townsend and Stockton LLP)
1100 Peachtree Street
Suite 2800
Atlanta, Georgia 30309
Associate

2010 – Present
United States Attorney's Office
Northern District of Georgia
75 Spring Street
Suite 600
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Assistant United States Attorney, Criminal Division

- iv. whether you served as a mediator or arbitrator in alternative dispute resolution proceedings and, if so, a description of the 10 most significant matters with which you were involved in that capacity.

I have not served as a mediator or arbitrator in alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

b. Describe:

- i. the general character of your law practice and indicate by date when its character has changed over the years.

From 2003 to 2006 and 2007 to 2010, I was an associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom, LLP in the District of Columbia. My practice during this period was primarily a corporate litigation practice that focused on government corruption investigations, internal investigations of publicly traded companies, defense of SEC enforcement actions, securities litigation, and complex civil litigation. My experience included preparing witnesses for testimony before investigative agencies and representing witnesses during such testimony, day-to-day case management of multi-million dollar litigation matters, drafting and arguing motions in federal court, and conducting internal investigations.

From 2006 to 2007, I was an associate at Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP in Atlanta, Georgia. My practice during this period was primarily a corporate litigation practice that focused on complex civil litigation. While at Kilpatrick, I represented clients in depositions, managed multi-million dollar litigation matters, prepared presentations for arbitration proceedings, and drafted pleadings and briefs.

Since October 2010, I have been an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, where I have prosecuted a wide range of cases at various stages. I have participated in approximately 80 cases since joining the office. My experience includes trying cases before juries; litigating suppression issues through briefing and hearings; resolving cases through guilty pleas; drafting sentencing memoranda and presenting evidence and argument during sentencing hearings; handling preliminary, identity, and detention hearings; presenting cases to the grand jury; responding to § 2255 motions through briefs and presenting evidence during related hearings; presenting evidence during supervised release revocation proceedings; and drafting appellate briefs and arguing before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

During my first six months, my cases included firearm offenses, drug crimes, and immigration crimes. I then joined the Economic Crimes Section where I primarily prosecuted financial crimes, including violations of the tax laws, bank and wire fraud, financial aid fraud, and circulating counterfeit currency. In 2011, while also serving as the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Northern District of Georgia at the request of the U.S. Attorney, I continued to prosecute crimes committed by the most

violent offenders in the highest crime areas of the Northern District of Georgia. In 2012, I joined the Major Crimes Section where I have continued to prosecute violent crimes and crimes against children.

- ii. your typical clients and the areas at each period of your legal career, if any, in which you have specialized.

In my corporate litigation practice at Skadden Arps from 2003 to 2006 and 2007 to 2010, my typical clients consisted of large corporations, such as LandAmerica, Radian Group, Bank of America/Merrill Lynch, and AFLAC. From 2006 to 2007, while practicing at Kilpatrick Stockton, my typical clients were also large corporations, such as Google and Equifax, as well as individuals and a family trust.

As an Assistant United States Attorney, I represent the federal government. I have had a focus on economic and violent crimes.

- c. Describe the percentage of your practice that has been in litigation and whether you appeared in court frequently, occasionally, or not at all. If the frequency of your appearances in court varied, describe such variance, providing dates.

Approximately 90% of my practice has been in litigation. Between 2003 and 2010, I appeared in court only occasionally because my corporate practice was primarily focused on government corruption investigations, internal investigations of publicly traded companies, defense of SEC enforcement actions, and securities litigation. I represented clients who gave voluntary testimony before investigative agencies including the New York Attorney General and the SEC. I also had some state and federal court appearances through my pro bono work. Since October 2010, I have appeared in federal district court frequently as an Assistant United States Attorney. I also handle my own habeas motions and appeals and have had one oral argument before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

- i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1. federal courts: | 95% |
| 2. state courts of record: | 5% |
| 3. other courts: | 0% |
| 4. administrative agencies: | 0% |

- ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. civil proceedings: | 75% |
| 2. criminal proceedings: | 25% |

- d. State the number of cases in courts of record, including cases before administrative law judges, you tried to verdict, judgment or final decision (rather than settled), indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel.

I have tried two cases to verdict. Both were federal criminal trials. In one matter, I was sole counsel and in the other I was co-counsel. I also have presented approximately 17 cases to the grand jury and handled approximately seven suppression hearings, five supervised release revocation hearings, three preliminary hearings, and one hearing on a § 2255 motion. Each of these hearings required the presentation of witnesses and evidence before a district court or magistrate judge. I have provided the percentages for the two cases I tried to verdict.

- i. What percentage of these trials were:
 - 1. jury: 100%
 - 2. non-jury: 0%
- e. Describe your practice, if any, before the Supreme Court of the United States. Supply four (4) copies of any briefs, amicus or otherwise, and, if applicable, any oral argument transcripts before the Supreme Court in connection with your practice.

I, along with three other attorneys at Skadden Arps, filed an amicus brief on behalf of the American Bar Association in *Roper v. Simmons*, No. 03-633, 2005 U.S. LEXIS 2200 (2005). Copy supplied.

17. **Litigation:** Describe the ten (10) most significant litigated matters which you personally handled, whether or not you were the attorney of record. Give the citations, if the cases were reported, and the docket number and date if unreported. Give a capsule summary of the substance of each case. Identify the party or parties whom you represented; describe in detail the nature of your participation in the litigation and the final disposition of the case. Also state as to each case:

- a. the date of representation;
- b. the name of the court and the name of the judge or judges before whom the case was litigated; and
- c. the individual name, addresses, and telephone numbers of co-counsel and of principal counsel for each of the other parties.

I have listed the cases in reverse chronological order.

- (1) *United States v. Hintz*, 1:03-CR-337 (N.D. Ga. Mar. 7, 2003)

In 2003, the defendant was convicted of bank fraud and sentenced to 57 months incarceration, followed by five years of supervised release. He then filed a direct appeal, which was denied, and a collateral attack on the conviction and sentence under § 2255. While the § 2255 motion was pending, the defendant was released

from prison. Subsequent to his release, the defendant violated the terms of his supervised release by committing new criminal conduct and failing to follow the terms of his supervision. I inherited this case from the original prosecutor and handled the initial § 2255 motion, the revocation proceeding, an appeal of the revocation, and the subsequent § 2255 motion. This case required numerous hearings, including a revocation hearing during which the government had to prove the new criminal conduct by a preponderance of the evidence. The defendant's supervised release was revoked and his § 2255 motions and direct appeals have been denied. Defendant recently appealed the denial of his latest § 2255 motion.

Dates of Representation: October 2010 – Present

Court: United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Judge Clarence Cooper

Co-counsel
William R. Toliver
United States Attorney's Office
Northern District of Georgia
75 Spring Street
Suite 600
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404-581-6187

Opposing Counsel:
Dennis C. O'Brien
Office of Dennis C. O'Brien
248 Washington Avenue
Marietta, Georgia 30060
770-424-6808

Brian Mendelsohn
Federal Defender Program Inc.
Suite 1500, Centennial Tower
101 Marietta Street, Northwest
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404-688-7530

Noni A. Mayfield
N.A.M. & Associates, LLC
4760 Hastings Terrace
Alpharetta, Georgia 30005
678-591-1117

(2) *United States v. Parker*, Crim. No. 1:12-CR-166 (N.D. Ga. April 2, 2012)

The defendant was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm. He was arrested after police chased a fleeing fugitive into the defendant's home. When the officers entered the home, they saw two firearms and evidence of illegal drug possession in plain sight. The officers secured the scene and obtained a search warrant. The defendant, a previously convicted felon, gave voluntary statements admitting that he knew the firearms were in his home and showing possession; however, he later moved to suppress the evidence and the statements. After an initial suppression hearing, the magistrate judge asked for oral argument on whether exigent circumstances permitted law enforcement to chase a fleeing fugitive into the home of a third-party when the fugitive was wanted for a minor probation violation. The defendant pled guilty after the oral argument but before the magistrate judge issued his report and recommendation. I handled the suppression hearing and briefing in this matter, as well as the oral argument, plea hearing, and sentencing hearing.

Dates of Representation: October 2012 – February 2014

Court: United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Judge Richard W. Story

Opposing Counsel:
W. Matthew Dodge
Victoria M. Calvert
Federal Defender Program Inc.
Suite 1500, Centennial Tower
101 Marietta Street, Northwest
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404-688-7530

(3) *United States v. Wade*, 1:10-CR-337 (N.D. Ga. July 7, 2011)

The defendant was indicted in a single-count indictment for being a felon in possession of ammunition. The defendant, who had an extensive criminal record and was on parole, sent threatening text and picture messages to the fiancé of a former girlfriend. In the photographs, the defendant, who was prohibited from possession a firearm, is seen holding an assault rifle and in possession of a handgun. However, when state parole officers searched his residence, they were only able to locate the ammunition. After a suppression hearing that did not result in the suppression of any evidence, the case went to trial. After a jury trial, the defendant was convicted. The defendant was sentenced to 195 months. He appealed his conviction and sentence. The Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction and sentence in an unpublished opinion (*United States v. Wade*, No. 13-12075 (11th Cir. Jan. 8, 2014)). I was sole counsel in this case from start to finish,

including presentation to the grand jury, the suppression hearing, trial, sentencing, and appeal.

Dates of Representation: July 2011 – January 2014

Court: United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Judge Willis B. Hunt

Opposing Counsel:
David D. Marshall
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 669067
Marietta, Georgia 30066
404-213-1358

(4) *United States v. Hutchinson*, Crim. No. 1:12-CR-409 (N.D. Ga. Dec. 26, 2013)

The defendant in this case was charged in a 24-count indictment with ten counts of employing, using, persuading, inducing, enticing and coercing minors to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing child pornography, five counts of coercing and enticing minors to engage in sexual activity, two counts of transferring obscene materials to minors, one count of receiving child pornography, and one count of possessing child pornography. The defendant, who was 27 but pretended to be a teenage boy, used a social media site to contact the victims, young girls ranging from 11 to 16 years old. He then coerced the girls to send him sexually explicit photographs and images of them engaging in various forms of sexual conduct. The defendant also raped three of the victims and coerced three sets of siblings to molest one another and send images of the acts. Following a suppression hearing and related motions practice, the defendant pled guilty on the eve of trial. He was sentenced to life in prison. As co-counsel in this case, I participated in the suppression briefing and hearing and the plea and sentencing hearings.

Dates of Representation: May 2012 – December 2013

Court: United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Judge Timothy C. Batten

Co-counsel:
Yonette Buchanan, Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office
Northern District of Georgia
75 Spring Street
Suite 600
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404-581-6095

Opposing Counsel:
Victoria Marie Calvert
Jeffrey Lyn Ertel
Federal Defender Program
Suite 1500
Centennial Tower
101 Marietta Street, Northwest
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404-688-7530

(5) *United States v. Wilson*, Crim. No. 1:13-CR-272 (N.D. Ga. July 1, 2013)

The defendant was charged with conspiracy to commit Hobbs Act robbery, attempted possession of marijuana, and possession of a firearm during the commission of a violent crime. The defendant traveled from Baltimore to Atlanta to participate in a robbery of a drug dealer with the intention of selling the stolen drugs in Baltimore. The robbery crew posed as police officers during the robberies. During the course of the robbery at issue in the indictment, there was a shootout on a residential street and the victim was kidnapped and pistol whipped. I was co-counsel during the jury trial and conducted 12 direct examinations, one cross-examination, and presented the closing argument. The defendant was convicted on all counts.

Dates of Representation: December 2, 2013 – December 19, 2013

Court: United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Judge Timothy C. Batten

Co-counsel:
Kim Dammers, Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office
Northern District of Georgia
75 Spring Street
Suite 600
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404-581-6187

Opposing Counsel:
Dennis C. O'Brien
Office of Dennis C. O'Brien
248 Washington Avenue
Marietta, Georgia 30060
770-424-6808

(6) *United States v. Estrada*, 530 F. App'x 852 (11th Cir. 2013)

After a jury trial during which the defendant represented himself, the defendant was

convicted of conspiracy to possess marijuana and cocaine with the intent to distribute and money laundering. The defendant appealed, arguing that the district court failed to conduct a thorough inquiry as to whether he validly waived his right to counsel before allowing the defendant to represent himself. The defendant repeatedly refused to answer the district court's questions when the court attempted to determine if he was knowingly and voluntarily waiving his right to counsel and repeatedly made incomprehensible arguments and repeated sovereign citizen rhetoric when questioned by the district court. The lead attorney at trial briefed the appeal for the Government, and, after the Court of Appeals set the case for oral argument, the matter was assigned to me. I successfully argued the case before the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, which upheld the conviction and sentence.

Dates of Representation: May 2013 – August 2013

Court: Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, Judges Berry A. Edenfield, Peter T. Fay, and Beverly B. Martin

Opposing Counsel:
Stephen R. Scarborough
The Candler Building
127 Peachtree Street, Suite 905
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404-523-2044

(7) *United States v. Hodnett*, 1:12-CR-121 (N.D. Ga. Apr. 19, 2012)

The defendant was charged in an information with financial aid fraud, conspiracy to commit mail fraud, and mail fraud. The defendant operated a scheme by which she fraudulently applied for federal student financial aid by using the personal identifying information of individuals who either were ineligible to receive federal financial aid or did not intend to use the funds for educational purposes. Approximately \$600,000 in financial aid was distributed as a result of the scheme. The defendant pled guilty to the information and was sentenced to one year and a day of imprisonment. As co-counsel in this case, I prepared the information and handled the sentencing hearing.

Dates of Representation: January 2011 – August 2012

Court: United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Judge Marvin H. Shoob

Co-counsel:
Bernita B. Malloy
United States Attorney's Office
Northern District of Georgia
75 Spring Street

Suite 600
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404-581-6187

Opposing Counsel:
Suzanne Hashimi
Federal Defender Program Inc.
Suite 1500, Centennial Tower
101 Marietta Street, Northwest
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404-688-7530

- (8) *In re LandAmerica Financial Group, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 08-35994 (Bankr. E.D. Va. Nov. 26, 2008)

LandAmerica Financial Group, Inc., declared bankruptcy in 2008. Skadden Arps represented the officers and directors of LandAmerica. The bankruptcy trustees argued that the officers and directors breached their fiduciary duties to the company by buying and holding auction rate securities. I assisted in the preparation of a motion to dismiss on the grounds that the officers and directors were protected by the business judgment rule and a statute that exculpates directors from liability to the company absent willful misconduct. Our motion to dismiss was denied, and the matter was settled after I left Skadden Arps in 2010.

Dates of Representation: November 2008 – October 2010

Court: United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Judge Kevin R. Huennekens

Co-counsel:
Amy Sabrin (Retired)
Formerly Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom, LLP

Saul Pilchen (Retired)
Formerly Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom, LLP

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Opposing Counsel:
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Jeffrey S. Sabin
Mark M. Elliott
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Bingham McCutchen LLP
399 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022-4689
212-705-7000

(9) *In re Radian Securities Litigation*, 612 F.Supp.2d 594 (E.D. Pa. 2009)

This was a consolidated class action in which the plaintiffs, who purchased Radian securities in 2007, alleged that the defendants, Radian Group, Inc. and individual officers, committed securities fraud through various public statements. The defense team filed a motion to dismiss the class action complaint because the plaintiffs' allegations of fraud did not satisfy the heightened pleading requirements of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act in that they failed to show a strong inference of scienter and because the defendants' statements constituted forward-looking statements that are nonactionable under the PSLRA's safe harbor provision. The district court agreed with the defendants and granted the motion to dismiss. I assisted in the drafting and filing of the motions to dismiss the consolidated complaint and a subsequent amended complaint, which was also dismissed. I also argued a portion of the matter before the district court.

Dates of Representation: November 2008 – April 2010

Court: United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Judge Mary A. McLaughlin

Co-counsel:
Richard Brusca (Retired)
Formerly Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom, LLP

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Washington, District of Columbia 20005
202-371-7000

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215-751-2000

Opposing Counsel:
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Deborah R Gross
Law Offices Bernard M. Gross, P.C.
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Suite 450
100 Penn Square East
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107
215-561-3600

David A. Rosenfeld
Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP
58 South Service Road, Suite 200
Melville, New York 11747
631-367-7100

- (10) *Terzenbach v. LandAmerica Financial Group, Inc.*, 3:2008cv00757, (E.D. Va. Nov. 18, 2008)

This was a shareholder lawsuit against the Special Board of Directors of LandAmerica Financial Group. The plaintiffs alleged that the Special Board of Directors breached their fiduciary duties in relation to a proposed sale of the company to a competitor. I was the senior associate representing the Special Board of Directors. As part of this representation, I responded to discovery requests and prepared board members for depositions. The plaintiffs voluntarily dismissed this case in 2009.

Dates of Representation: November 2008 – January 2009

Court: United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Judge Robert E. Payne

Lead Counsel:
Amy Sabrin (Retired)
Formerly Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom, LLP

Saul Pilchen (Retired)
Formerly Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom, LLP

Opposing Counsel:
Elizabeth Kathleen Tripodi
Finkelstein Thompson LLP
1077 30th St Northwest
Suite 150
Washington, District of Columbia 20007
202-337-8000

18. **Legal Activities:** Describe the most significant legal activities you have pursued, including significant litigation which did not progress to trial or legal matters that did not involve litigation. Describe fully the nature of your participation in these activities. List any client(s) or organization(s) for whom you performed lobbying activities and describe the lobbying activities you performed on behalf of such client(s) or organizations(s). (Note: As to any facts requested in this question, please omit any information protected by the attorney-client privilege.)

As an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of Georgia, I have prosecuted approximately 40 cases that have resulted in pleas, approximately ten § 2255 proceedings, five supervised release revocation hearings, and a number of preliminary, identity, detention and bond revocation hearings. While not trials, many of these hearings required the presentation of evidence and the examination of witnesses. I also have written numerous briefs at the trial level and to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, including responses to habeas motions and direct appeals.

In addition, in 2011 the United States Attorney asked me to serve as the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Northern District of Georgia. In this position, I helped develop the Office's youth outreach and prisoner reentry programs. In the area of youth outreach, I planned and oversaw a youth justice summit that brought area youth and local and federal law enforcement together to discuss crime and prevention, helped organize and teach a Street Law program at an area high school, and developed relationships between the United States Attorney's Office and area schools. With regard to reentry, I spearheaded a partnership with the Urban League and various state and local law enforcement entities that developed a course for recently released offenders to learn job and life skills in an effort to reduce recidivism. The New Beginnings Program has graduated approximately 50 ex-offenders whose progress is being tracked by the Urban League and Morehouse School of Medicine.

As part of my private practice, I represented companies in agency investigations. For example, I represented Radian Group, Inc., during the Securities and Exchange (SEC) investigation of the company's public disclosures regarding Credit-Based Asset Servicing and Securitization (C-BASS). I was the senior associate on this matter and was responsible for conducting the internal investigation and responding to numerous discovery requests. I also represented employees and directors who gave voluntary testimony in this matter. In addition, I prepared a presentation to the SEC. The Commission subsequently closed the investigation with no action.

Similarly, from 2004 through 2006 and in 2008, I defended LandAmerica Financial Group, Inc., in a series of investigations by various state Attorneys General and departments of insurance into the title insurance business, including from the Attorneys General of Colorado, New York, and Massachusetts and the Departments of Insurance for California, Colorado, Maryland, Arizona, Virginia, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, and Tennessee. My responsibilities included responding to these requests, as well as representing company executives who voluntarily gave testimony. I also assisted LandAmerica in responding to an inquiry by United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. No formal charges were brought as a result of any of these investigations.

I have not performed any lobbying activities or registered as a lobbyist.

19. **Teaching**: What courses have you taught? For each course, state the title, the institution at which you taught the course, the years in which you taught the course, and describe briefly the subject matter of the course and the major topics taught. If you have a syllabus of each course, provide four (4) copies to the committee.

I have not taught any courses.

20. **Deferred Income/ Future Benefits**: List the sources, amounts and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock, options, uncompleted contracts and other future benefits which you expect to derive from previous business relationships, professional services, firm memberships, former employers, clients or customers. Describe the arrangements you have made to be compensated in the future for any financial or business interest.

I do not have any deferred income arrangements, stock options, uncompleted contracts, or other future benefits I expect to derive from previous business relationships, professional services, firm memberships, former employers, clients or customers.

21. **Outside Commitments During Court Service**: Do you have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment, with or without compensation, during your service with the court? If so, explain.

No.

22. **Sources of Income**: List sources and amounts of all income received during the calendar year preceding your nomination and for the current calendar year, including all salaries, fees, dividends, interest, gifts, rents, royalties, licensing fees, honoraria, and other items exceeding \$500 or more (if you prefer to do so, copies of the financial disclosure report, required by the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, may be substituted here).

See attached Financial Disclosure Report.

23. **Statement of Net Worth:** Please complete the attached financial net worth statement in detail (add schedules as called for).

See attached Net Worth Statement.

24. **Potential Conflicts of Interest:**

- a. Identify the family members or other persons, parties, categories of litigation, and financial arrangements that are likely to present potential conflicts-of-interest when you first assume the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you would address any such conflict if it were to arise.

My sister is the Minority Leader of the Georgia House of Representatives. Given her position, it is possible that a conflict-of-interest could arise. If I am confirmed, I would follow the federal recusal statutes and the Code of Conduct for United States Judges. If necessary, I would seek advice from the Code of Conduct Committee of the Judicial Conference. I would err on the side of disqualification.

- b. Explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest, including the procedure you will follow in determining these areas of concern.

If I am confirmed, I would follow the federal recusal statutes and the Code of Conduct for United States Judges. If necessary, I would seek advice from the Code of Conduct Committee of the Judicial Conference. I would err on the side of disqualification.

25. **Pro Bono Work:** An ethical consideration under Canon 2 of the American Bar Association's Code of Professional Responsibility calls for "every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, to find some time to participate in serving the disadvantaged." Describe what you have done to fulfill these responsibilities, listing specific instances and the amount of time devoted to each.

As an Assistant United States Attorney, I am restricted in the outside practice of law. However, I have regularly participated in community outreach activities of the United States Attorney's Office. In addition to serving as the Office's Community Outreach Coordinator from 2011 to 2012, I have coached a mock trial competition, judged several mock trial competitions, and served as a judge of a middle school essay contest.

While I was in private practice, I regularly did pro bono work, providing in excess of 1,500 hours of pro bono legal services. To give one illustrative example, from July 2009 to February 2010, I was part of a team of lawyers from Skadden Arps and Hogan and Hartson LLP that conducted a pro bono investigation for the District of Columbia City Council into certain contracts and grants. As part of the investigation, I reviewed documents, interviewed witnesses, took depositions, drafted portions of the final report, and assisted in the preparation of the final presentation to the City Council. I also met

with ethics specialists and in order to help develop recommendations for a Code of Ethics for the District of Columbia City Council.

26. **Selection Process:**

- a. Please describe your experience in the entire judicial selection process, from beginning to end (including the circumstances which led to your nomination and the interviews in which you participated). Is there a selection commission in your jurisdiction to recommend candidates for nomination to the federal courts? If so, please include that process in your description, as well as whether the commission recommended your nomination. List the dates of all interviews or communications you had with the White House staff or the Justice Department regarding this nomination. Do not include any contacts with Federal Bureau of Investigation personnel concerning your nomination.

On or about December 17, 2013, I was asked by an official from the Office of Legal Policy at the Department of Justice whether I would be interested in being considered to serve as a judge for the District Court in the Middle District of Georgia. I replied that I would be, and I have been in contact with officials from the Office of Legal Policy since that date. On February 12, 2014, I interviewed with attorneys from the White House Counsel's Office and the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. On March 11, 2014, the President submitted my nomination to the Senate.

- b. Has anyone involved in the process of selecting you as a judicial nominee discussed with you any currently pending or specific case, legal issue or question in a manner that could reasonably be interpreted as seeking any express or implied assurances concerning your position on such case, issue, or question? If so, explain fully.

No.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Leslie J. Abrams, do swear
that the information provided in this statement is, to the best
of my knowledge, true and accurate.

3/11/14

(DATE)

Leslie Abrams

(NAME)

J. Etienne

(NOTARY)

**J. ETIENNE
NOTARY PUBLIC
FULTON COUNTY
MY COMM. EXPIRES JANUARY 9, 2016**