

**UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

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

Sara Lynn Darrow (formerly Sara Lynn Frizzell)

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

United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois

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 for the Central District of Illinois
1830 2nd Avenue, Third Floor
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

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

1970; Pontiac, Michigan

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.

1994 – 1996, Saint Louis University School of Law; J.D., 1997

1997 (spring term), Campbell University School of Law; no degree

Summer 1996 & Summer 1995, Georgetown University Law Center; no degree

1988 to 1992, Marquette University; B.A., 1992

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.

2003 – present

United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of Illinois

1830 2nd Avenue, Third Floor

Rock Island, Illinois 61201

Chief, Violent Crimes (2007 – present)

Assistant United States Attorney (2003 – present)

Special Assistant United States Attorney, Southern District of Iowa (2003 – present)

1999 – 2003

Henry County State's Attorney's Office

307 West Center Street

Cambridge, Illinois 61238

First Assistant State's Attorney (2000 – 2003)

Assistant State's Attorney (1999 – 2000)

1997 – 1998

Law Offices of Clarence Darrow

1515 Fourth Avenue, Suite 200

Rock Island, Illinois 61201

Associate/Intern

1995 – 1996

Law Offices of Timothy Hill

701 Market Street

St. Louis, Missouri 63101

Law Clerk

Summer 1995

Office of U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy

317 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Legal Intern

Summer 1995

The Irish Times

14 "F" Street NW

Washington, D.C. 20001

Waitress

Summer 1995, 1994

The Dubliner

520 North Capitol Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20001

Waitress

1993 – 1994
S.O.M.E. (So Others Might Eat)
71 “O” Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
Year-long Volunteer/Community Organizer

1992 – 1993
Pasta Tree
1503 N. Farwell Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
Waitress

1991 – 1993
Celebrity Club
2203 N. Prospect
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
Waitress

Other Affiliations

2009 – present
Rock Island Community Foundation
P.O. Box 3331
Rock Island, Illinois 61204
Board Member, unpaid

2007 – present
Snowstar Ski Resort
9500 126th Street
Andalusia, Illinois 61232
Ski Instructor, paid

2000 – 2004
Alternatives for the Older Adult
1803 7th Street
Moline, Illinois 61265
Board Member, unpaid

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 not served in the military. I did not register for selective service because I was not required to do so.

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.

Community Caring Conference Quad Cities Community Hero Law Enforcement Award (2006)

Illinois M.E.G. Directors and Task Force Commanders Association Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Enforcement Outstanding Prosecution Award (2004)

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.

Associations

American Bar Association

Henry County Bar Association

Illinois State Bar Association

Rock Island County Bar Association

Committee

14th Judicial Circuit Advisory Screening Committee (2002 – present)

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.

Illinois, 1998

There has been no lapse in membership

- 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 the United States, 2007

United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, 2004

United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois, 2000

United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa, 2003

There has been no lapse in membership.

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.

Alternatives for the Older Adult

Board Member (2000 – 2004)

Cornbelt Running Club (2008 – present)

Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (2007 – present)

Girl Scouts of America

Troop Leader and Member (2003 – 2005)

Illinois Family Violence Coordination Council (early 2000s)

Rock Island Community Foundation

Board Member (2009 – Present)

Rock Island County Bar Auxiliary (former Secretary) (1999 – present)

St. Pius X Catholic Church Father Bader Scholarship Committee (2008 – present)

- 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.

The Girl Scouts of America is an organization dedicated to creating opportunities for girls. The Rock Island County Bar Auxiliary is a historically women-only organization for spouses of members of the Rock Island County Bar Association and it has only women members today; however, my understanding is that the organization would welcome the spouse of any bar member who sought to join, regardless of sex. None of the listed organizations presently engages in invidious discrimination of any kind and I have no knowledge of any former discrimination by these organizations.

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.

Project Safe Neighborhoods Training, UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS' BULLETIN (Mar. 2010). Copy supplied.

Although I have conducted a diligent search, there may be other published material that I have been unable to remember or identify.

- 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.

None that I recall or have been able to identify.

- 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.

Apr. 21, 2008: I spoke before the Rock Island City Council about a proposed special assessment for resurfacing of streets near my neighborhood. Copy of meeting minutes supplied.

Although I have conducted a diligent search, there may be other testimony, official statements, or communications relating to matters of public policy or legal interpretation that I have been unable to remember or identify.

- 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.

Over the last several years, I have spoken on a variety of topics including criminal law and Department of Justice initiatives. I also participate in a range of non-public law enforcement meetings on behalf of the U.S. Attorney's Office, particularly in my capacity as designated coordinator of several Department of Justice programs, in which I am sometimes called upon to make comments about major initiatives in our office or cases we are handling.

I have listed below all of the speaking engagements I could identify through a search of my calendar and Internet databases. I have supplied all related material that I could obtain.

Nov. 11, 2009: Guest Lecturer at Western Illinois University, Organized Crime Law Enforcement Course. I spoke on organized crime and racketeering. PowerPoint presentation supplied.

May 9, 2008: Panelist, roundtable program at the Illinois State Police Academy for senior law enforcement officers. I spoke on identifying regional priority targets, street-gangs, juvenile issues and violent crime problems. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address of the Academy is 3700 East Lake Shore Drive, Springfield, IL 62707.

Oct. 13, 2008: Continuing Legal Education presenter, Scott County Bar Association. I gave a presentation entitled, "Updates in the Federal Sentencing Guidelines." I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address of the Association is c/o H.J. Dane, 1111 E. River Dr., Davenport, IA 52803.

2007: Presenter to a meeting of Rock Island County law enforcement officers and prosecutors. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The event took place at the Rock Island County Courthouse.

2005: Speaker at a Proclamation Ceremony for National Crime Victims Rights Week. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The event took place at Rock Island County Courthouse.

2004: Presenter, meeting of Mercer County law enforcement officers and prosecutors. I spoke about Fourth Amendment issues. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The event was held at the Mercer County Courthouse, 100 SE 3rd Street, Aledo, IL 61231.

2003: Speaker. I gave remarks on youth gun violence in the community. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The event was held at the Martin Luther King Center, 630 9th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201.

- 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.

I have searched my files and publicly-available Internet databases to identify all of the interviews I have given, and I have supplied the most complete listing available based on my searches and my recollection, but there may be others I have been unable to identify. I have supplied clips of all newspaper articles.

Dawn Neuses, *Happy Father's Day*, Times 6, QUAD-CITY TIMES, Jun. 16, 2006.

Staff, *Geneseo Mail Theft Led to Bank Fraud Charges*, STAR COURIER, Feb. 6, 2006.

Dawn Neuses, *Working Mom Sees Pros, Cons of Outside Job*, DISPATCH & ROCK ISLAND ARGUS, Mar. 26, 2004.

Matt Gergeni, *Home-Schooling Parents Curious About Compliance Checks*, DISPATCH & ROCK ISLAND ARGUS, Nov. 25, 2002.

Matt Gergeni, *Truck-Length Question Keeps Driver Behind Bars*, DISPATCH & ROCK ISLAND ARGUS, Mar. 26, 2002.

Scott Reeder, *Court Overturns Death Sentence*, DISPATCH & ROCK ISLAND ARGUS, Feb. 23, 2002.

Matt Gergeni, *Newborn Twins Taken from Mom*, DISPATCH & ROCK ISLAND ARGUS, Feb. 15, 2002.

Barb Ickes, *Twins Born with Meth in Systems*, QUAD-CITY TIMES, Feb. 15, 2002.

Lisa Hammer, *Probable Cause Found Against Drug Defendants*, STAR COURIER, Nov. 7, 2001.

Cesar G. Soriano, *Cheap Beer, Canned Food and Charity for SOME*, WASHINGTON TIMES, Apr. 13, 1994, at C14.

I recall giving television interviews on two occasions for which I have no recordings, transcripts, or other material:

Sept. 28, 2009: local media. I spoke about the demolition of a house forfeited due to drug trafficking.

2001: local media. I spoke about the launch of a campaign to collect used cellular telephones for re-purposing as emergency phones for domestic violence victims.

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 judicial office.

- 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: _____%

civil proceedings: _____%

criminal proceedings: _____%

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 not served as 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 not had any unsuccessful candidacies for public 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.

I assisted in my husband's campaigns for Circuit Judge (2010), Illinois State Representative (2004 primary), and South Rock Island Township Trustee (2001, 2005, 2009). Specifically, I have worked to promote his candidacies in the community by going door to door, passing out campaign literature, putting up yard signs, and working campaign functions. In the course of this work, I have also supported other Democratic candidates who appeared on the same literature as my husband. In addition, I have collected signatures for nominations of candidates. The specific campaigns for which I recall undertaking such limited work are: Dick Durbin for U.S. Senate, Phil Hare for U.S. Representative, Thomas Kilbride for Illinois Supreme Court, Jeff Boyd for Rock Island County Sheriff, Patrick Verschoore for Illinois State Representative 72nd District, and

various candidates who constituted the Democratic Slate for South Rock Island Township in 2001, 2005, and 2009. There may be others I do not recall.

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;

I did not serve as a clerk to a judge.

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

I was never a sole practitioner.

- 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.

1997 – 1998
Law Offices of Clarence Darrow
1515 Fourth Avenue, Suite 200
Rock Island, Illinois 61201
Associate/Intern

1999 – 2003
Henry County State's Attorney's Office
307 West Center Street
Cambridge, Illinois 61238
First Assistant State's Attorney (2000 – 2003)
Assistant State's Attorney (1999 – 2000)

2003 – present
United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of Illinois
1830 2nd Avenue, Third Floor
Rock Island, Illinois 61201
Chief, Violent Crimes (2007 – present)
Assistant United States Attorney (2003 – present)
Special Assistant United States Attorney, S.D. Iowa (2003 – present)

- 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 an arbitrator.

b. Describe:

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

In 1999, I began serving as an Assistant State's Attorney handling juvenile, misdemeanor, and felony traffic cases. In 2000, I was promoted to First Assistant and handled felony cases and serious juvenile abuse cases. I prosecuted a wide variety of state crimes including: gun, burglary, child exploitation, rape, battery, drug, arson and other offenses. I tried approximately 20 cases to verdict before a jury and more than 100 cases to verdict before a judge. In addition to prosecuting cases, I was responsible for supervising staff attorneys, assigning caseloads, and scheduling jury trials for the courts. I also represented the county in civil matters including bankruptcy, tax sales and small claims.

In 2003, I began serving as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois. I have investigated and prosecuted a wide variety of federal crimes, including drug conspiracy, gun, racketeering, child exploitation, fraud, bank robbery, and other crimes. In addition to conducting trials, I am responsible for all aspects of pre-trial litigation including presentation to the grand jury, preliminary hearings, detention hearings, suppression hearings, and sentencings.

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

Currently, I represent the United States of America. As an Assistant State's Attorney, I represented Henry County and the State of Illinois. I have also served as guardian ad litem in adoption and personal injury cases involving minors.

As a state prosecutor, I developed a specialty in child exploitation crimes, handling child pornography, sex crimes against children, and serious abuse cases. During the time I served Henry County there was an unfortunate series of child homicides due to abuse. I sought termination of the offenders' rights to their remaining children and habitual offender petitions.

As a federal prosecutor I have specialized in prosecuting violent crimes, especially those committed by street gangs. I also have the opportunity to prosecute a wide variety of cases including civilian crimes committed on the Rock Island Arsenal, fraud, money laundering, and white collar crime.

- 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.

At the United States Attorney's Office, my appearances are 100% in federal court, occur frequently, and are in all stages of cases, including monthly presentation to the grand jury, initial prosecution, appeal, and post-conviction litigation. I have prosecuted approximately 300 defendants, tried ten cases to verdict before a jury, as well as authored and argued appeals. In addition to criminal matters, I am asked to provide legal advice on civil forfeiture matters.

At the Henry County State's Attorney's Office, my appearances were 95% in state court, 2% in federal court, and 3% in arbitration. I appeared in court daily on criminal cases at all stages including filing charges, initial appearances, detention hearings, preliminary hearings, pre-trial hearings, sentencing hearings and trials. I also appeared in bankruptcy court and in arbitration on behalf of the county.

- i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1. federal courts: | 70% |
| 2. state courts of record: | 30% |
| 3. other courts: | |
| 4. administrative agencies: | |

- ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. civil proceedings: | 5% |
| 2. criminal proceedings: | 95% |

- 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.

In state court I tried approximately 20 cases to verdict before a jury and over 100 cases to verdict before a judge. I was sole counsel in all cases.

In federal court I tried ten cases to verdict before a jury. I was sole counsel in one trial, lead counsel in six trials, and co-counsel in three trials.

- i. What percentage of these trials were:

- | | |
|--------------|-----|
| 1. jury: | 25% |
| 2. non-jury: | 75% |

- 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 have not practiced before the Supreme Court of the United States.

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.

1. *United States v. DeSilva, Jr.*, 04 CR 40080, Central District of Illinois, U.S. District Judge Joe Billy McDade, *aff'd* 505 F.3d 711 (7th Cir. 2007).

Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Operation Kingpin – For over a decade, the Latin Kings used violence and intimidation to control the drug trade in the Quad Cities. The lead defendant, Johnny Joe DeSilva, Jr., was the highest-ranking Latin King (the Regional Enforcer) in an area that included the Central District of Illinois and the Southern District of Iowa. His father, and co-defendant, John Joe DeSilva, Sr., lived in Texas and served as a source of drugs to his son's operation. DeSilva, Sr. coordinated shipments of cocaine and marijuana across the Mexican border to Illinois. DeSilva, Jr. and the Latin Kings engaged in violent gang-related activity to include: attempted murder, arson and aggravated battery. The investigation and trial presented many challenges: the DeSilvas threatened to kill and kidnap a federal agent, a lead witness was murdered, and a juror was the victim of gang-related violence. I handled all stages of the multi-year investigation and the prosecution. I supervised foreign-language court-authorized wiretaps, litigated pre-trial motions, served as lead-counsel at DeSilva, Jr.'s two-week jury trial, argued sentencing hearings, and assisted in preparing the appeal. I interviewed over 60 witnesses in preparation for trial, many of whom were reluctant gang-members. I also organized and presented hundreds of trial exhibits and used automated litigation support to enhance the presentation of evidence at trial. DeSilva was sentenced to 40 years for convictions of racketeering, conspiracy to distribute drugs, use of a firearm in furtherance of racketeering, and threats to kidnap and injure.

Co-counsel at trial: David Risley
United States Attorney's Office
318 S. Sixth Street
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 492-4450

Opposing Counsel: James Clements for J.J. DeSilva, Jr.
1503 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803
(563) 323-9715

David Triemer for J.J. DeSilva, Sr.
601 Brady Street - Suite 211
Davenport, IA 52803
(563) 323-7889

Jack Dusthimer for J. Garcia-Martinez
1503 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803
(563) 323-8344

2. *United States v. Landfried*, 09 CR 40034, 09 CR 40085, 09 CR 40086, 08 CR 40008, 07 CR 40034, Central District of Illinois, U.S. District Judges Michael M. Mihm and Joe Billy McDade.

Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Operation Bluegrass – What began as a traffic stop in Illinois, wherein 200 pounds of marijuana was seized, quickly evolved into a multi-agency investigation targeting an international conspiracy involving the supply, distribution and transportation of thousands of pounds of marijuana. The defendants were leaders of this large-scale marijuana smuggling organization. Since at least 2002, the Landfried organization used private aircraft, numerous couriers and a series of safe houses along the I-80 corridor to smuggle large quantities of drugs from Mexico to Pennsylvania. I was sole counsel throughout the investigation and prosecution. To date, 19 defendants have been indicted and convicted, including the pilot for the organization.

Opposing Counsel: James Clements for N. Landfried
1503 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803
(563) 323-9715

Kevin Kelly for R. Landfried
330 South Third Street, Suite 990
Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 385-7270

George Taseff for C. Mullan
Peoria Assistant Federal Defender
401 Main Street, Suite 1500
Peoria, IL 61602
(309) 671-7891

Murray Bell for C. Walker
125 Kirkwood Boulevard
Davenport, IA 52803
(563) 326-4095

Steve Hanna for D. Collins
418 16th Street
Moline, IL 61265
(309) 797-9000

William Loeffel for R. Maruscak, Jr.
139 E Washington Street
East Peoria, IL 61611
(309) 694-3196

John Lonergan for F. Berardelli
411 Hamilton Boulevard, Suite 1708
Peoria, IL 61602
(309) 673-3939

John Steckel for J. Welling
1600 4th Avenue, 400
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 786-2000

Andrew Larson for H. McKinnon
3610 25th Avenue, Suite 2
Moline, IL 61265
(309) 757-7500

Donovan Robertson for D. Harmon and J. Seibert
100 - 17th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 795-6217

Chris Dorbandt for A. Ruppel
603 West 12th Street
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 407-9700

Aaron Dyer for C. McGurren
The Law Centre
329 18th Street
Rock Island, IL 61204
(309) 788-2800

Jack Dusthimer for D. Corrigan
1503 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803
(563) 323-8344

Ron Hanna Jr. for D. Keitel
411 Hamilton Boulevard, Suite 1908
Peoria, IL 61602
(309) 740-9121

Steve Townsend for P. Preda
564 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 281-5336

Jeffrey Flanagan for R. Bedalota
411 Hamilton Boulevard
Peoria, IL 61602
(309) 671-9701

Hector Lareau for V. Gaydos
2920 15th Avenue
Moline, IL 61265
(309) 764-0775

Joel Brown for J.E. White
416 Main Street, Suite 1300
Peoria, IL 61602
Phone: 309-740-7268

3. *United States v. Lee*, 07 CR 40048, 07 CR 40046, Central District of Illinois, U.S. District Judge Michael M. Mihm.

For over a decade, the Lee family ran a violent, drug-distribution network in a densely populated neighborhood in Rock Island. In fact, the police were called to what has become known as “Big Mama’s House,” the headquarters of the operation, more than 300 times. I prosecuted eight members of the family, including the matriarch, known as “Big Mama,” for conspiring to distribute crack cocaine. Since these violent offenders have been convicted, the neighborhood has experienced a significant reduction in violent crime. The impact this investigation had on the community is best described by the

statements of the Rock Island Police Chief during the demolition of Big Mama's house. Chief Wright said, "Today we're tearing down a nuisance house -- on behalf of appreciative neighbors and every police officer who has dealt with a notorious house on their beat -- who wished they could tear it down and give it to the neighbors. For many years, this house and individuals arrested in this investigation, were very visible signs of the destruction resulting from crack cocaine and violence."

Opposing Counsel: Michael Galvin for J.J. Lee
1800 3rd Avenue
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 793-1304

G. Trent Marquis for K. Lee
400 16th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 786-6329

Steve Hanna for V. Lee
418 16th Street
Moline, IL 61265
(309) 797-9000

John Lonergan for F. Lee
411 Hamilton Boulevard, Suite 1708
Peoria, IL 61602
(309) 673-3939

Chris Kutsunis for A. Lee
1630 5th Ave, Suite 512
Moline, IL 61265, (309) 277-8141

Andrew Larson for H. Villareal
3610 25th Avenue, Suite 2
Moline, IL 61265
(309) 757-7500

James Clements for K. Lee
1503 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803
(563) 323-9715

Lee Smith for S. Carter
416 Main Street, Sixth Floor
Peoria, IL 61602
(309) 674-1025

4. *United States v. Neal*, 06 CR 40066, Central District of Illinois, U.S. District Judges Michael M. Mihm and Joe Billy McDade.

Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Operation Plowking - William "Tank" Neal, a General in the Black P-Stones street gang, moved to the Quad Cities in the early 2000s to sell cocaine. Neal recruited several of his fellow gang members to relocate from Chicago and Wisconsin to the Quad Cities to assist in his drug-distribution business. Neal also recruited several local residents to help sell drugs. The organization was responsible for distributing multiple kilograms of crack cocaine each month and was considered, at the time, to be the largest supplier of cocaine in East Moline, Illinois. I was sole counsel throughout the investigation, which involved numerous controlled buys, extensive surveillance, phone analysis, and multiple search warrants. The "take-down" yielded kilos of cocaine, firearms, and over \$100,000 cash. All but one of the 14 defendants pleaded guilty. I was lead counsel in the weeklong trial of Jesse Adams who was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. This investigation and resulting prosecutions led to the complete dismantling of the Black P-Stone street gang in East Moline.

Co-counsel at trial: Gregg Walters
United States Attorney's Office
211 Fulton Street, Suite 400
Peoria, IL 61602
(309) 671-7050

Opposing Counsel: David Treimer for W. Neal
601 Brady Street - Suite 211
Davenport, IA 52803
(563) 323-7889

Murray Bell for M. Gibson
125 Kirkwood Boulevard
Davenport, IA 52803
(563) 326-4095

John Steckel for K. Wilson
1600 4th Avenue, 400
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 786-2000

Donovan Robertson for T. Osburn
100 - 17th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 795-6217

Mark Wertz for A. McPhearson
456 Fulton Street
Peoria, IL 61602
(309) 676-8986

Geoffrey Campbell for J. Gibson
1705 2nd Avenue
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 788-5297

Andrew Larson for D. Weathers
3610 25th Avenue, Suite 2
Moline, IL 61265
(309) 757-7500

Ron Hanna Jr. for E. Scott
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Peoria, IL 61602
(309) 740-9121

Jeffrey Flanagan for J. Weaver
411 Hamilton Boulevard
Peoria, IL 61602
(309) 671-9701

Timothy Cusack for M. Brown
PO Box 10461
Peoria, IL 61612
(309) 678-6969

Jack Dusthimer for J. Adams
1503 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803
(563) 323-8344

James Clements for J. Keegan
1503 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803
(563) 323-9715

Murray Bell for F. Stanley
125 Kirkwood Boulevard
Davenport, IA 52803
(563) 326-4095

George Taseff for J. McCarthy
Peoria Assistant Federal Defender
401 Main Street, Suite 1500
Peoria, IL 61602
(309) 671-7891

5. *United States v. Seefeldt*, 04 CR 40080, Central District of Illinois, U.S. District Judge Michael M. Mihm.

I prosecuted this defendant who fraudulently received benefits, including money and lodging, by falsely claiming to be a victim of Hurricane Katrina. He led officials at FEMA and the American Red Cross to believe that he had sustained damage to his personal property as a result of Hurricane Katrina despite the fact he had not lived in Biloxi, Mississippi since birth. Seefeldt pleaded guilty and was sentenced to prison for defrauding the government of thousands of dollars.

Opposing Counsel: George Taseff
Peoria Assistant Federal Defender
401 Main Street, Suite 1500
Peoria, IL 61602
(309) 671-7891

6. *United States v. McConaghy*, 07 CR 40025, Central District of Illinois, U.S. District Judge Michael M. Mihm.

McConaghy, using computers at work and home, downloaded child pornography from the Internet. He possessed over 3,000 images depicting identified child victims and almost 1,000 videos depicting identified child victims. I sought, and obtained, sentencing enhancements due to the very young ages of the victims, the sadistic and masochistic nature of the pornography, and the extreme number of images. McConaghy was sentenced to 73 months in prison despite having no prior criminal record.

Opposing Counsel: James Mertes
102 East Route 30
Rock Falls, IL 61071
(815) 561-4378

7. *United States v. Carrol*, 05 CR 400002, Central District of Illinois, U.S. District Judge Joe Billy McDade, *aff'd* 228 Fed.Appx. 605 (7th Cir. 2007).

Operation Rocktown – Lemuel Carrol, a Gangster Disciple, distributed over 47 kilos of crack cocaine in the Quad Cities over a six-year time period. Carrol eluded prosecution for drug charges in the past and was “Number 1” on the Rock Island Police Department’s Top Ten list for years. I led the investigation and indictment of Carrol on a purely historical drug conspiracy case. I was lead counsel in the four-day jury trial where Carrol was convicted and sentenced to over 20 years in prison. The trial was particularly

challenging due to the volume of cooperating defendants as witnesses and the degree of corroborative evidence presented.

Co-counsel at trial: Matt Cannon
United States Attorney's Office
1830 2nd Avenue, Third Floor
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 793-5884

Opposing Counsel: Murray Bell
125 Kirkwood Boulevard
Davenport, IA 52803
(563) 326-4095

8. *United States v. Darif*, 04 CR 40047, Central District of Illinois, U.S. District Judge Joe Billy McDade, *aff'd* 446 F.3d 701 (7th Cir. 2006).

Darif, a native of Morocco, paid \$3,000 to Dianna, a US citizen, to fly to Morocco, marry him, and help him obtain a US visa. Despite being complete strangers, Dianna traveled to Morocco, met Darif with a handshake, married him, and flew back home. After Darif was indicted, he wrote Dianna threatening letters from jail instructing her to tell the jury that they were in love and she was crazy, among other things. The defense strategy was one of love, specifically that this was a valid marriage between two people who fell in love over the course of three days. I was co-counsel at Darif's trial, which resulted in his convictions for marriage fraud and witness tampering. I also contributed to the drafting of the brief on appeal. At trial we were faced with several varied, complex legal issues including a claim of the marital communications and testimonial privileges, witness immunity, and contested jury instructions. The resulting appeal and decision is often cited in marriage fraud cases to define the elements of the offense.

Co-counsel: John Mehochko
United States Attorney's Office
1830 2nd Avenue, Third Floor
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 793-5884

Opposing Counsel: Raphael Scheetz
1921 51st St NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
(319) 378-7416

9. *United States v. Meegan*, 08 CR 40058, Central District of Illinois, U.S. Magistrate Judge Thomas J. Shields.

I prosecuted the defendant, the Executive Director of the Moline Housing Authority, who improperly used her position to authorize and award public housing benefits to

individuals before they would have otherwise been eligible. Her actions delayed or denied public housing and housing assistance to other legitimate applicants who were waiting their turn. Meegan pleaded guilty to falsifying HUD records.

Opposing Counsel: Donovan Robertson
100 - 17th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 795-6217

10. *United States v. Leichty*, 04 CR 40102, Central District of Illinois, U.S. District Judge Joe Billy McDade.

I prosecuted this defendant, who embezzled nearly \$800,000 from her employer, the Quad City Garage Policy Group (QCGPG), over a two and one-half year period. The QCGPG maintained and serviced the municipal bus fleets for Rock Island County and the City of Davenport. Due to her position as a Senior Financial Specialist, Leichty was able to manipulate the accounting computer software to successfully complete a highly-sophisticated embezzlement scheme. Leichty was also the main contact with the QCGPG's accounting firm, and as such, she provided false financial statements and records during audits. Because of this prosecution, the QCGPG restructured its financial department and implemented oversight protocols.

Opposing Counsel: Kevin Halligan
5505 Victoria Avenue
Davenport, IA 52807
(563) 344-4900

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.)

I conduct numerous Grand Jury investigations and present evidence before the Grand Jury each month. Sometimes the most significant matters do not end with convictions, years of time in prison, or even charges being filed. As a prosecutor I have the enormous responsibility and burden of prosecutorial discretion. There are many times I could have charged a target but determined that it was not the right thing to do, or that it was a case better suited for prosecution in state court. The same goes for deciding who is a witness and who becomes a defendant.

Since 2007, I have been the Violent Crimes Chief for the Central District of Illinois and I have simultaneously served as our office's Department of Justice Project Safe Neighborhoods Coordinator and Anti-Gang Coordinator. Since 2009, I have also served

as the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Co-Coordinator. In these capacities I provide the attorneys and support staff in the district with training regarding the foregoing violent crime initiatives. I also provide guidance to individual attorneys regarding their violent crime caseload. I am responsible for implementing DOJ initiatives throughout the 46 counties the district serves by traveling throughout the district meeting with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to promote partnerships with our office. I also serve as the FBI Gang Task Force Assistant U.S. Attorney, handling major gang investigations that target nationally known gangs, such as the Latin Kings and Gangster Disciples.

Rock Island, Illinois, is located directly across the Mississippi River from Davenport, Iowa. Accordingly, our branch of the United States Attorney's Office works extensively with our colleagues and with the magistrate judge presiding in Davenport for the Southern District of Iowa. Due to the close geographical proximity, our offices and our federal, state, and local law enforcement partners frequently work together on investigations and prosecutions. I am designated as a Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa in connection with this work.

I have performed no lobbying activities on behalf of any client or organization.

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 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.

None.

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.

For the past few years I have taught on some evenings and weekends during the winter as a ski instructor at our local ski hill. I plan to continue this employment unless it would in any way interfere with my ability to serve as judge.

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.

If confirmed, I would recuse myself from all cases in which I played any role as an Assistant United States Attorney. In addition, my father-in-law and my brother-in-law are attorneys; although they have not generally practiced in federal court, I would recuse from any case in which they were involved.

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

I will handle all matters involving actual or potential conflicts of interest through the careful and diligent application of the Code of Conduct for United States Judges as well as other relevant Canons and statutory provisions.

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.

My full-time work since 1999 has been in public service and I have always had a strong commitment to helping the disadvantaged. After college, I dedicated a year to service as a volunteer for a non-profit organization located in Washington, D.C. I served as a community organizer and coordinated several low-income housing project tenant associations by drafting by-laws, supervising meetings, and canvassing for community support. I also worked with attorneys from the Georgetown Law Center Low-Income Housing Clinic, as well as local politicians, to negotiate grants from HUD for improved security and resident programs. In part, it was due to this exposure of how legal assistance could directly benefit a community that I decided to pursue a legal career.

I also support the endeavors of Prairie State Legal Services financially and devote time and money to several programs that serve the community including the local Children's Advocacy Center, the Student Hunger Drive, the Child Abuse Council, Alternatives for the Older Adults, the Boys and Girls Club, and several others.

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.

Senator Richard J. Durbin established a bipartisan screening committee, chaired by Mr. James Potter, to evaluate applications for judicial vacancies in the Central District of Illinois. After submitting an application, on May 19, 2010, I interviewed with the screening committee in Peoria on May 26, 2010. The committee recommended my candidacy, along with others, to Senator Durbin. I interviewed with Senator Durbin at his Springfield office on May 29, 2010. In late June 2010, Senator Durbin forwarded my name, along with others, to the White House for consideration for nomination by the President.

Since July 2, 2010, I have been in contact with officials from the Department of Justice Office of Legal Policy regarding the pre-nomination process. On August 24, 2010, I interviewed in Washington, D.C., with attorneys from the White House Counsel's Office and the Department of Justice. The President submitted my nomination to the Senate on November 17, 2010.


- 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.

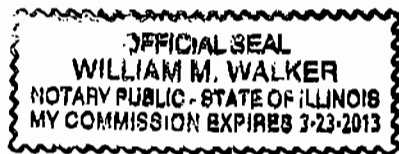
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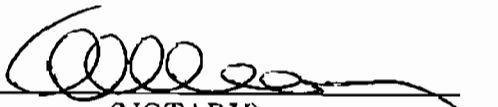
AFFIDAVIT

I, Sara Lynn Darrow, do swear that the information provided in this statement is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.

11-15-10
(DATE)


(NAME)




(NOTARY)

Sara L. Darrow



January 5, 2011

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have reviewed the Senate Questionnaire I previously filed in connection with my nomination on November 17, 2010, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois. I certify that the information contained in that document is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.

I also am forwarding an updated Net Worth Statement and Financial Disclosure Report as requested in the Questionnaire. I thank the Committee for its consideration of my nomination.

Sincerely,



Sara Darrow

cc:
The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510