

**UNITED STATES SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL NOMINEES**

**PUBLIC**

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

Virginia Natasha Perdew Silas (formerly Virginia Natasha Perdew)

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

United States District Judge for the Northern 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.

Federal Defender Program, Inc.  
101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 1500  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

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

1965; Atlanta, Georgia

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.

1989 – 1992, University of Virginia School of Law, J.D., 1992  
1983 – 1988, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, B.S., 1988

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.

1994 – Present  
Federal Defender Program, Inc.  
101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 1500  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Staff Attorney

1992 – 1994

Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan  
999 Peachtree Street, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309  
Litigation Associate

Summer 1992

Rich's Department Store  
Lenox Square Mall  
3393 Peachtree Street, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30326  
Sales Clerk

1991 – 1992

University of Virginia  
Housing Division  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22911  
Graduate Resident Advisor

1991 – 1992

Law Offices of David L. Heilberg  
675 Peter Jefferson Parkway  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22911  
Legal Assistant

Summer 1991

Powell, Goldstein, Frazer & Murphy  
(now known as Bryan Cave)  
One Atlantic Center, Fourteenth Floor  
1201 West Peachtree Street, NW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309  
Summer Associate

Summer 1991

Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan  
999 Peachtree Street, Suite 2300  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309  
Summer Associate

1990 – 1991

Kaplan Test Preparation and Admissions  
(formerly Stanley Kaplan Test Preparation)  
1928 Arlington Boulevard  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903  
LSAT Instructor

1990 – 1991

The Hardware Store Restaurant (now closed)  
316 East Main Street  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902  
Bartender

Summer 1990

Maynard, Cooper, Frierson & Gale  
(now known as Maynard, Cooper & Gale)  
2400 Regions Harbert Plaza  
1901 Sixth Avenue North  
Birmingham, Alabama 35203  
Summer Associate

1988 – 1989

Kaplan Test Preparation and Admissions  
(formerly Stanley Kaplan Test Preparation)  
Boston, Massachusetts  
LSAT Instructor

1988 – 1989

Hewlett Packard Corporation Medical Products Division  
175 Wyman Street  
Waltham, Massachusetts 02451  
Technical Writer

Other Affiliations (uncompensated)

2010 – Present

Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
P.O. Box 29653  
Atlanta, Georgia 30359  
Board Member

2009 – Present

Atlanta Bar Foundation  
229 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 400  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Board Member

2005 – 2006

Local Elementary School  
Atlanta, Georgia 30312  
Board Member

2003 – 2005

Georgia Public Defender Standards Council  
104 Marietta Street, Suite 200  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Council Member and Secretary

2000 – 2005

Oganiru Investment Club  
No physical address ever existed for this club  
President (2003 – 2005)

1993 – 1998

Atlanta Council of Younger Lawyers  
229 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 400  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
President (1997 – 1998)  
President-Elect (1996 – 1997)  
Secretary (1995 – 1996)  
Treasurer (1994 – 1995)

1996 – 1997

Atlanta Bar Association  
229 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 400  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Board Member at Large

1993 – 1994

Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys  
P.O. Box 4381  
Atlanta, Georgia 30302  
Assistant Secretary

Mid-1990s

Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation  
235 Peachtree Street, NE  
Suite 1750, North Tower, Peachtree Center  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Board Member

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 have not registered 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.

Atlanta Bar Association, Charles E. Watkins Award for Public Service, 2009  
Atlanta Bar Association, Distinguished Service Award, 2004  
Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, Award of Recognition, 2003 – 2005  
Supreme Court of Georgia, Committee on Court Technology Certificate of Appreciation, 2005  
University of Virginia Law Review  
Editorial Board (1990 – 1992)  
Articles Review Board (1991 – 1992)

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.

1000 Lawyers for Justice (1993 – 1994)  
American Bar Association  
Atlanta Bar Association  
Board Member at Large (1997 – 1998)  
Summer Law Internship Program, Co-Chair (approximately 2001 – present)  
Member at Large (2002 – 2003)  
Atlanta Bar Foundation  
Board of Directors (2009 – present)  
Lifetime Fellow  
Atlanta Council of Younger Lawyers  
President (1997 – 1998)  
President-Elect (1996 – 1997)  
Secretary (1995 – 1996)  
Treasurer (1994 – 1995)  
Member at Large (1993 – 1994)  
Minority Liaison Committee, Co-Chair (1993 – 1998)  
Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation  
Board Member (mid-1990s)  
Saturday Lawyers Program Member (1992 – 1994)  
Gate City Bar Association  
Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys  
Newsletter Editor (1993)  
Assistant Secretary (1993 – 1994)  
Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
Board of Directors (2010 – Present)  
Chair, Technology Committee (2010 – present)  
Georgia Association for Women Lawyers

Georgia Public Defender Standards Council (2003 – 2005)  
Secretary (2003 – 2005)  
Performance Standards Subcommittee, Member (2003 – 2005)  
Qualifications for Personnel Subcommittee, Member (2003 – 2005)  
Technology/Data Collection Committee, Chair (2003 – 2005)  
Georgia Supreme Court Committee on Technology (2004 – 2005)  
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
National Legal Aid and Defender Association  
State Bar of Georgia

**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, 1992

There has been no lapse in membership to my knowledge.

- 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, 2000  
United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, 1998  
United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, 1992  
Supreme Court of Georgia, 1993  
Georgia Court of Appeals, 1993  
Fulton County Superior Court, 1992

There has been no lapse in membership to my knowledge.

**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.

Local Middle School  
PTA (2007 – present)

Local Elementary School (2002 – present)  
PTA Member (2002 – present)  
Board Member (2005 – 2006)  
Oganiru Investment Club (approximately 2000 – 2005)  
President (2003 – 2005)

- 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.

To my knowledge, none of the organizations listed above invidiously discriminates or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion, or national origin.

**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.

This list represents the published material I have identified through searches of my files and Internet databases. I have tried my best to list all of them here, although there may be some that I have not been able to identify or locate.

Atlanta Bar Association Summer Law Internship Program (SLIP) website.  
Authored posts and maintained site from Feb. 2010 – present.  
<http://www.abaslip.blogspot.com>. Copy of site pages supplied.

The Federal Defender Program, Inc., Northern District of Georgia official website. Authored some content and maintained site since August 2009.  
<http://gan.fd.org>. Copy of current site supplied.

GAN Defenders Blog – Blogsite of the Federal Defender Program, Inc., for the Northern District of Georgia. Authored some posts and maintained site from Nov. 2009 – March 2010. <http://www.gandefenders.blogspot.com>. Copy of site pages supplied.

“Hitting it Out of the Park at Sentencing,” distributed at the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Winter Seminar, January 30, 2010. Copy supplied.

“Atlanta Bar Foundation – Celebrating 25 Years of Service.” Prepared a slideshow that was played at the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Foundation, December 9, 2010. Available on-line at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hH7S3-kq3Tg>.

2008 Saint Crispin’s Day Seminar Newsletter, October 2008. Copy supplied.

“Get With It: Using Technology in the Courtroom is Very Effective and You Can Do It. (No, Really, You Can),” Winter 2008. Copy supplied.

Obituary of Amanda Bowens Perdew, Published in Atlanta Journal Constitution and Americus Times Recorder, December 2006. 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.

May 17, 2005: As a member of the Georgia Supreme Court Committee on Court Technology, I contributed to a report entitled, “Embracing Information Technology in Georgia’s Courts.” Copy supplied.

January 2004: While I served as a member of the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, the Council prepared a report entitled, “The Georgia Indigent Defense Act of 2003: Implementation Manual for County, Municipal and Consolidated Governments.” Copy supplied.

- 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.

None that I recall or have been able to 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.



I have searched my files and Internet databases to refresh my memory in an effort to produce as complete a list of public speaking engagements as I could, but it is still possible there are some I was not able to locate.

January 30, 2010: Hitting it Out of the Park at Sentencing, Winter Seminar for the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, with co-presenter Dwight Thomas, Esquire. This talk focused on the basics of federal sentencing law and advocacy in federal court. Presentation slides supplied. I based my remarks on the article, "Hitting It Out of the Park at Sentencing," which is supplied in response to Question 12a.

October 28, 2009: The Chronicles of Defending, Federal Defender Saint Crispin's Day Celebration CLE Seminar, with co-presenter Jake Waldrop. This talk focused on the history of the right to counsel as it developed from English common law in Colonial America, through Gideon v. Wainwright and beyond. The talk was given at the State Bar of Georgia to a gathering of CJA panel attorneys and colleague federal defenders. Presentation slides supplied.

June 2009, June 2008: Justice Robert Benham Law Camp, Gate City Bar Association, Georgia State University. These events were twenty minute overviews of the federal court system and the role of federal defenders. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. Press coverage of the June 2008 camp is supplied. The address of the Bar Association is P.O. Box 16727, Atlanta, Georgia 30321.

May 14, 2009: Using Technology in the Courtroom, United States Navy Judge Advocate General's Naval Justice School, Newport, Rhode Island. The talk was in the nature of encouraging lawyers to find creative and effective ways to use technology to enhance courtroom presentations. Presentation slides supplied. I based my remarks on the paper entitled, "Get With It: Using Technology in the Courtroom is Very Effective and You Can Do It. (No, Really, You Can)," which is supplied in response to Question 12a.

March 18, 2009: I spoke on behalf of the Atlanta Bar Association at the Southern Regional Diversity Summit of the American Bar Association at the State Bar of Georgia in order to provide information about the inclusion of minority lawyers in the Atlanta Bar Association and its activities. I did not speak from prepared remarks. Although I have been unable to obtain a copy of my testimony, a summary of the remarks is supplied. The American Bar Association headquarters are at 740 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20005. The Atlanta Bar Association is located at 229 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

February 2009: I gave an informal talk to my daughter's kindergarten class for Black History Month. I talked to the class about the role of protesters in securing equal rights in the country and the importance of treating people the same regardless of their backgrounds or race. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. Presentation slides supplied.

November 2008: Reconsidering the Burden of Proof for Mitigating Role Adjustments for Drug Couriers, University of Alabama School of Law. This was a talk presented to faculty members at the law school regarding the interpretation of United States Sentencing Guidelines section 3B1.2 as applied to low level drug couriers. Presentation slides are supplied.

October 23-26, 2008: Taking Persuasion to New Heights with Technology for the Fall Meeting of the National Association for Criminal Defense Lawyers in Tampa, Florida. This was another talk on the effective use of technology in the courtroom. Presentation slides and video recording supplied. I based my remarks on the paper entitled, "Get With It: Using Technology in the Courtroom is Very Effective and You Can Do It. (No, Really, You Can)," which is supplied in response to Question 12a.

March 2008: Using Technology in the Courtroom, Federal Defender Seminar in Gainesville, Georgia. I discussed how to use technology effectively in the courtroom. Presentation slides supplied.

February 8, 2008: Not Your Father's Overhead Projector: Effective Use of Technology at Trial, Panel Member, White Collar Crime Conference, State Bar of Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia. The panel fielded questions from program participants about how to handle electronic discovery. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address of the State Bar is 104 Marietta Street NW, Suite 100, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

January 26, 2008: Don't Be Out-Teched by the Prosecution, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Winter Seminar, Atlanta, Georgia. Presentation slides supplied. I based my remarks on the paper entitled, "Get With It: Using Technology in the Courtroom is Very Effective and You Can Do It. (No, Really, You Can)," which is supplied in response to Question 12a.

May 2007: Preserving the Record Below for Appeal, with co-presenters Jake Waldrop and Sharon Stokes at the State Bar of Georgia. The seminar was sponsored by the Federal Bar Association. The talk concerned the need to preserve errors in the trial court so that there can be effective review in the appellate courts. Presentation slides supplied.

April 2007 and April 2005: Race and the Criminal Justice System, Guest Lecture for an undergraduate course at Emory University. The Professor was Sylvia Turner, Ph.D. I spoke about the impact and significance of race in the criminal justice system. Presentation slides supplied.

2007: I spoke at a public school in the Atlanta area, giving an overview of the procedures used in the federal criminal justice system and also the personnel

involved. I do not recall the date or the school involved. Presentation slides supplied.

October 25, 2005: Putting the Heart Back Into Federal Sentencing: The Road to Booker, Saint Crispin's Day Celebration CLE at the Federal Defender Program, Inc. This talk summarized Supreme Court opinions that led to the re-examination of the constitutionality of the United States Sentencing Guidelines as a mandatory scheme. There was a serious component and also a tongue in cheek component. The goal of the remarks was to encourage defense attorneys to find creative ways to humanize defendants facing sentencing before judges. Presentation slides supplied.

October 25, 2004: Blakely v. Washington, The Tail That Finally Wagged, Federal Defender Saint Crispin's Day Celebration CLE. This talk focused on the development of the Supreme Court's jurisprudence regarding the distinction between sentencing factors and offense elements. Presentation slides supplied.

August 6, 2004: Five Quick Hitters on Metro Bar Diversity, Panel Discussion on Diversity for the National Conference of Bar Presidents, Atlanta, Georgia. I provided details about the success of the Atlanta Bar Association with its Summer Law Internship Program. I did not prepare remarks for the event, but a newsletter article about the discussion is supplied. The National Conference of Bar Presidents is located at 321 Clark Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60654.

May 14, 2004: Data Sharing Needs and Abilities, Georgia Public Defenders Standards Council to the Georgia Supreme Court Committee on Technology. The purpose of the talk was to explain to other members of the Georgia Supreme Court Committee on Technology the technology needs of the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council. Presentation slides supplied.

April 30, 2004: 1001 Ways to Get Jacked Up by the Feds: The Effect of State Convictions on Federal Sentencing, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys Seminar, Savannah, Georgia. This purpose of this talk to state practitioners was to explain the federal sentencing system and the effect that certain state convictions have on later sentencing in federal court. Presentation slides supplied.

September 12, 2003: Technology Presentation to the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council along with Stephanie Kearns. The purpose of the talk was to explain to the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council how the Federal Defender Program dealt with information management needs. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The Council minutes referencing this talk are supplied. The Georgia Public Defender Standards Council is located at 104 Marietta Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

February 2002: Elizabeth Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia. I spoke to a group of youth at this church. I talked about avoiding legal trouble in order to allow them to reach their potential. I gave examples of criminal cases in which people were accused of wrongdoing based upon their associations with friends involved in crimes. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address of the church is 4245 Cascade Road SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30331.

May 1984: Keynote Address to the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Consortium for Minorities in Engineering. I do not recall the specific topic of the speech, except that I shared my personal experience in engineering education. I have no notes, transcript or recording. The address of the Consortium is Georgia Institute of Technology, 756 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30332.

May 1983: Commencement Speech, Frederick Douglass High School. The topic was "Responsibilities that Accompany Education." The speech encouraged my fellow graduates to continue to take advantage of educational opportunities as well as fulfill their responsibility to improve the conditions of their fellow humans. I have no notes, transcript or recording. The address of the high school is 225 Hamilton E. Holmes Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30318.

Between approximately 2001 and 2010, as the Atlanta Bar Association Summer Law Internship Program coordinator, I gave occasional presentations and conducted weekly group sessions for student participants. Wade Malone, Nekia Hackworth and I maintain a blog for applicants (noted in Question 12a), which provides access to materials we use during presentations to prepare interns for their work. A copy of these materials is supplied. Press coverage on several of my past events is also supplied. A copy of my 2009 PowerPoint presentation is supplied. Additionally, two other presentations for the program are available at <http://www.authorstream.com/User-Presentations/vnpsilas/>.

Between 2005 and 2009, I participated as a faculty member at the Bill Daniel Trial Institute sponsored by the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys. Each year I gave a speech entitled, "Ten Steps to Getting Your Groove On in the Courtroom with a Theory of the Case," which focused on finding creative ways to brainstorm a criminal defense case to produce a coherent trial strategy. Presentation slides from my talks in 2006 and August 2009 are supplied.

Since 2005, I have also participated as a faculty member at the National Law & Technology Conference hosted by the Administrative Office of the Courts both for CJA and Federal Defender attorneys. This program teaches attorneys how to use Microsoft PowerPoint and Trial Director. These programs did not have formal syllabi. In particular, I participated in a Workshop entitled Trial Director Download and Case Material Preparation on July 26, 2007 in Santa Monica, California. On June 5, 2008, I again participated in a Workshop entitled Trial Director Download and Case Material Preparation, in Atlanta, Georgia. On that

same day, I also participated in a session entitled Preparing Documents for Effective Use of Trial Director/PowerPoint. I do not recall the dates or names of the events in which I participated in other years.

Approximately 2002 to 2009: I have helped to teach part of an Emory Law School NITA Course on Trial Techniques. There are approximately 8 classes taught at the Federal Defender. Up to ten attorneys participate in teaching various sessions with approximately 20 students from Emory. Students are given a case problem from Emory to use during the course. I do not prepare any of my own materials for these events. Information on Emory's program is available at <http://www.law.emory.edu/academics/academic-programs/trial-techniques.html>.

Between 1993 and 1996, I helped to organize the annual Law Day Luncheon for the Atlanta Bar Association. I gave brief remarks during those years, generally welcoming people to the luncheon and sometimes introducing the person who was going to introduce the speaker. I have no notes, transcripts or recordings. The address of the Bar Association is 104 Marietta Street NW, Suite 100, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

- 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 Internet databases to refresh my memory in an effort to produce as complete a list of interviews as I could, but it is still possible there are some I was not able to locate.

"Plea Deal for Passenger in Airborne Tussle Over Lavatory," Verdicts and Settlements, Nat'l. L.J. 20 (Col. 3), June 8, 2009. Copy supplied.

"Man Escapes 'Toilet Rage' Charges," Western Morning News (UK), June 4, 2009, at 17. Copy supplied.

Bill Rankin, "Passenger on Airline Gets Relief," Atlanta Journal-Constitution, June 3, 2009, at B1 [quote re-printed in Associated Press and News-Herald on June 3, 2009]. Copy supplied.

"Deal in Airline Bathroom Scuffle," Los Angeles Times, June 3, 2009, at 11. Copy supplied.

Lisa R. Schoolcraft, "Silas Named Winner of ABA's Watkins Award," Atlanta Business Chronicle, May 22-28, 2009, at C3. Copy supplied.

PA SportsTicker, "Benoit's Doctor Jailed for Prescription Abuse," National Post (Canada), May 13, 2009, at A7 [re-printed in Calgary Herald on May 13, 2009]. Copy supplied.

"Wrestler Benoit's Doctor Gets 10 Years in Prison," Associated Press, May 12, 2009. Copy supplied.

Ben Smith, "Wrestler's Doctor Pleads Guilty," Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Jan. 30, 2009, at C1. Copy supplied.

Dionne Walker, "Doctor to Late Wrestler Pleads Guilty in Drug Case," Associated Press, Jan. 29, 2009. Copy supplied.

John Hollis, "Drug Charges Against Doctor Hit 175 Counts," Atlanta Journal-Constitution, May 30, 2008, at A1. Copy supplied.

Harry R. Weber, "Doctor Who Treated Pro Wrestler Faces More Charges," Associated Press, May 29, 2008. Copy supplied.

John Hollis, "Benoit Doctor Allowed to Work," Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Jan. 5, 2008, at B5. Copy supplied.

John Hollis, "Astin Said to Have Flouted House Arrest Requirements," Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Dec. 22, 2007, at B1. Copy supplied.

Harry R. Weber, "Government Says Benoit Doctor Violated Bail Conditions," Associated Press, Dec. 21, 2007. Copy supplied.

Meredith Hobbs, "Students Jump on Partnership Track," Fulton County Daily Report, Aug. 1, 2006, at 1. Copy supplied.

Tasgola Karla Bruner, "Videos Don't Deter Sheriff Candidate; Beebe Says He'll Beat Charges, Win in Forsyth," Atlanta Journal-Constitution, July 17, 2004, at E4. Copy supplied.

Elliott C. McLaughlin, "Forsyth County Candidate Says He Will Still Run for Post," Macon Telegraph, July 16, 2004, at B3. Copy supplied.

Elliott C. McLaughlin, "Sheriff's Candidate Charged with Extortion will Remain in Race," Associated Press, July 15, 2004. Copy supplied.

Bill Rankin, "Indigent Defense Panel in Place," Atlanta Journal-Constitution, July 19, 2003, at E1. Copy supplied.

Tasgola Karla Bruner, "Local Senegalese Cleared in Terror Inquiry Illegal Immigrant Accused of Using Fake Documents," Atlanta Journal-Constitution, June 19, 2002, at A5. Copy supplied.

Frank J. Murray, "Ruling Brings Influx of Prisoner Suits," Washington Times, Nov. 13, 2000, at A3. Copy supplied.

Bill Rankin, "Suspect Didn't Do It; He Was in Jail," Atlanta Journal-Constitution, June 5, 1998, at 01C. Copy supplied.

Bill Rankin, "Return to Jail Ends 14 Years of Freedom," Atlanta Journal-Constitution, May 25, 1996, at D1. 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 never 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 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.



In 2003, I was appointed to the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council by then Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Norman Fletcher. My term was from July 2003 to July 2005.

In 2004, I was appointed to the Georgia Supreme Court Committee on Technology by then Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Fletcher. My service was complete in May of 2005.

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 approximately 2006, I held a meet-and-greet at my home for Karlise Grier, candidate for Fulton County Superior Court Judge.

In 2008, I co-hosted a fundraiser for Presidential candidate Barack Obama.

In approximately 2009, I held a meet-and-greet at my home for Michael Julian Bond, candidate for Atlanta City Council.

**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 have never served as a law clerk.

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

I have never practiced law 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.

1992 – 1994  
Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan  
999 Peachtree Street, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309  
Litigation Associate

1994 – Present  
Federal Defender Program, Inc.  
101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 1500  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Staff Attorney

- 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 never served as a mediator or arbitrator in any proceeding.

b. Describe:

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

From 1992 to 1994, the general character of my law practice was civil litigation. As an associate on one of the two litigation teams at Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan, I worked on a variety of civil litigation matters including employment discrimination defense as well as plaintiff's employment suits, a construction law class action in federal court, patent litigation, tax assessment cases, and other areas as well.

In November 1994, I joined the Federal Defender Program, Inc. as a Staff Attorney. I continue in that position at present. As a Staff Attorney with the Federal Defender Program, I represent indigent persons accused of federal criminal offenses in the Northern District of Georgia. I appear in court frequently. I file motions and briefs, meet with clients, argue motions, try cases, and file and litigate appeals.

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

From 1992 to 1994, my typical clients were corporations. I also represented private individuals in civil matters.

Since 1994, my clients have been indigent individuals accused of committing federal criminal offenses.

- 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.
- i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:
    - 1. federal courts: 99%
    - 2. state courts of record: 1%
    - 3. other courts:
    - 4. administrative agencies:
  - ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:
    - 1. civil proceedings: 1%
    - 2. criminal proceedings: 99%
- 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 27 cases to completion (nine as sole counsel, eight as chief counsel, and ten as associate counsel). I have tried five other cases that did not go to verdict.

- i. What percentage of these trials were:
    - 1. jury: 90%
    - 2. non-jury: 10%
- 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 filed eleven petitions for certiorari and contributed to four others. No petition has been granted. The petitions are listed below and, with the exception of the *Monroe* petition, are supplied. The file for that case has been lost, and I have been unable to obtain a copy.

Tryon v. United States, No. 07-6600, cert. denied Oct. 15, 2007.

Stewart v. United States, No. 06-9560, cert. denied Mar. 26, 2007.

Wilson v. United States, No. 06-5220, cert. denied July 27, 2006.

Conte v. United States, No. 05-5528, cert. denied Oct. 3, 2005.

Clarritt v. United States, No. 04-9926, cert. denied Oct. 11, 2005.

Kirby v. United States, No. 03-9299, cert. denied Apr. 5, 2004.

Mullins v. United States, No. 02-11209, cert. denied Oct. 6, 2003.

Woodruff v. United States, No. 02-6746, cert. denied Jan. 13, 2003.

Harris v. United States, No. 01-7281, cert. denied Jan. 14, 2002.

Lopez v. United States, No. 01-5071, cert. denied Oct. 1, 2000.

Flores-Bautista v. United States, No. 00-5365, cert. denied Oct. 30, 2000.

Okereke v. United States, No. 99-8026, cert. denied Feb. 28, 2000.

Stone v. United States, No. 99-7118, cert. denied Jan. 10, 2000.

Monroe v. United States, No. 98-6066, cert. denied Jan. 11, 1999.

Wooten v. United States, No. 96-7861, cert. denied Mar. 17, 1997.

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. Soza, Northern District of Georgia, 1:00-CR-300-CAP-JMF (2000 – 2001). Co-counsel and I won a full acquittal after jury trial for a woman accused of importing a controlled substance into the United States. The defendant had no prior convictions and only carried the controlled substance under threat and duress. I handled opening and closing arguments and the direct examination of the client. Co-counsel and I split the remaining witnesses. A loss would have exposed the client to a mandatory minimum prison term and separated her from her family.

The case was tried before the Honorable Charles A. Pannell. Co-counsel was Jimmy Hardy, Federal Defender Program, Inc., 100 Peachtree Street, Suite 1700, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, 404-688-7530. Opposing counsel was William H. Thomas, Assistant United States Attorney, 600 Richard B. Russell Building, 75 Spring Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, 404-581-6000.

- (2) United States v. Allen, Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, 97-8424; Northern District of Georgia Criminal Action Number 1:96-CR-367-MHS-JMF (1996 – 1999). Won reversal on appeal to the Eleventh Circuit. The issue was one of first impression and involved statutory interpretation regarding whether a certain fact (the intent of the defendant) was a sentencing factor or an offense element. In this case, the statute was considered a misdemeanor without the intent finding and was considered a felony with the intent finding. I argued that the intent finding had to be considered an offense element. The Eleventh Circuit agreed. See United States v. Allen, 890 F.3d 1208 (11th Cir. 1999). I was sole counsel for the defendant and handled all representation in the district and appellate court, including oral argument before the Eleventh Circuit.

The Circuit Court Judges were the Honorable Stanley Birch, Frank Hull, & Emmett Cox. The District Court Judge was the Honorable Marvin H. Shoob. Opposing Counsel on appeal was Thomas Gannon, George Washington University Law School, 2000 H Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20052, 202-994-6261. Opposing counsel at the district court level was Janice K. Jenkins, 246 Riverview Trail, Roswell, Georgia 30075, 770-993-7496.

- (3) United States v. Kirby, Northern District of Georgia Criminal Action 1:01-CR-642-JTC-AJB (2001 – 2004). Won acquittal of two out of three counts against inmate accused of mailing threatening letters from the Atlanta Penitentiary. I handled opening and closing arguments and the direct examination of the client. Co-counsel and I split the remaining witnesses.

The case was tried before the Honorable Jack T. Camp, Northern District of Georgia. Co-counsel was Barry V. Lombardo, 5425 Honeysuckle Trail, Gainesville, Georgia 30506, 770-888-3108. Opposing counsel were Mike Brown, currently with Alston & Bird, One Atlanta Center, 1201 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30309, 404-881-7000 and David Leta, Assistant United States Attorney, 600 Richard B. Russell Building, 75 Spring Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, 404-581-6000.

- (4) United States v. Momodu, 909 F. Supp. 1571 (N.D.Ga. 1995) (Freeman, J.). Won dispositive motion to suppress evidence seized during warrantless search. The district court issued a published opinion. See 909 F. Supp. 1571 (N.D. Ga. 1995). As sole counsel, I briefed the issues after conducting the suppression hearing before the Magistrate Judge.

The presiding judge was the late Honorable Richard C. Freeman, United States District Court Judge, Northern District of Georgia. The evidentiary hearing was conducted before the Honorable Richard H. Deane, now a partner in the firm of Jones Day, 1420 Peachtree Street, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30309, 404-521-3939. Opposing Counsel was David McClernan, Assistant United States Attorney 600 Richard B. Russell Building, 75 Spring Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, 404-581-6000.

- (5) United States v. Stewart, Northern District of Georgia Criminal Action 1:03-CR-671-ODE-AJB (2006). Won partial verdict at jury trial of former prison guard accused of bringing drugs into the penitentiary. This prison guard was accused of having a romantic relationship with an inmate at the penitentiary and then bringing marijuana and attempting to bring methamphetamines into the penitentiary at the inmate's direction. I was lead counsel. I handled opening statement and split the witnesses with co-counsel. The guard was acquitted of the count involving the methamphetamines and therefore avoided a much higher sentence.

This case was tried before the Honorable Orinda D. Evans, Northern District of Georgia. My co-counsel was Anna Blitz of the Federal Defender Program, Inc., 100 Peachtree Street, Suite 1700, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, 404-688-7530. Opposing counsel was Joey Burby, now with Bryan Cave, 1201 West Peachtree Street, 14th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30309, 404-572-6815.

- (6) United States v. Dones, Northern District of Georgia, 1:05-CR-432-JMF (2005 – 2006). Won acquittal for a man accused of assault following a contentious job termination from a travel agency in a federal building. I was sole counsel for the defendant, and used presentation technology during the trial very effectively to enhance our message to the jury.

The case was tried before United States Magistrate Judge Joel M. Feldman (now retired). Opposing counsel was Mary Roemer, Assistant United States Attorney, 600 Richard B. Russell Building, 75 Spring Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, 404-581-6000.

- (7) United States v. Romero, Northern District of Georgia Criminal Action Number 1:08-CR-061-WSD-AJB (2008). Won dispositive motion to suppress evidence where police entered home without warrant and without the consent of the homeowners. I was sole counsel for Mr. Romero. I used virtual tour technology to assist the trier of fact in visualizing the space involved in the illegal search. This victory was significant for Mr. Romero because he was facing a minimum of ten years in prison, and he also would have faced severe immigration consequences but for our victory.

The district court judge was the Honorable William S. Duffey. However, the suppression issue was litigated before the Honorable Alan J. Baverman, United

States Magistrate Judge. Co-counsel was Michael Abbott, 3127 Maple Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, 404-262-6510. Opposing counsel was Francey Hakes, Assistant United States Attorney, 600 Richard B. Russell Building, 75 Spring Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, 404-581-6000.

- (8) United States v. Graves, Northern District of Georgia Criminal Action Number 1:07-CR-234-ODE-CCH (2007 – 2009). Won partial verdict saving client a 25 year mandatory consecutive sentence in jury trial on drug and gun charges. Because he was convicted of certain charges, the client still received a thirteen year prison term. A loss on all counts would likely have resulted in a 38 year prison term, effectively a life sentence. I assumed the lead counsel role in this case. I handled closing arguments and split the witnesses with co-counsel.

The case was tried before the Honorable Orinda D. Evans. Co-counsel in this case was Judy Fleming, Federal Defender Program, Inc., 1700 The Equitable Building, 100 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, 404-688-7530. Opposing counsel was Joseph A. Plummer, Assistant United States Attorney, 600 Richard B. Russell Building, 75 Spring Street, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303, 404-581-6000.

- (9) United States v. Harris, Northern District of Georgia Criminal Action Number 1:95-CR-026-GET-RHD (1995). Won full acquittal from jury in first trial in prison assault/self defense case. This was my first jury trial in any court. The defendant could have faced ten years imprisonment. I was lead counsel in this case. I handled opening and closing arguments and split the witnesses with co-counsel.

The case was tried before the Honorable G. Ernest Tidwell. Co-counsel was R. Gary Spencer, 191 Peachtree Street, Suite 3300, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, 404-946-1830. Opposing counsel was Joseph A. Plummer, Assistant United States Attorney, 600 Richard B. Russell Building, 75 Spring Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, 404-581-6000.

- (10) United States v. Astin, Northern District of Georgia Criminal Action 3:07-CR-008 (2007 – 2009). I represented a physician accused of over-prescribing medication to several professional wrestlers and other patients. One of the wrestlers murdered his family and then committed suicide. There was significant press coverage of our case. Discovery was voluminous and the issues were complex. Ultimately, the client elected to enter a plea of guilty. We presented a very effective sentencing mitigation case and were able to persuade the district court judge to impose a sentence that was substantially reduced from the sentencing guidelines range. As lead counsel, I supervised the review of discovery and the investigation of mitigation. I appeared with the client at all proceedings, conducted plea negotiations, and handled statements to the media.

The case was litigated before the Honorable Jack T. Camp. Co-counsel was W. Matthew Dodge, Federal Defender Program, Inc., 100 Peachtree Street, Suite

1700, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, 404-688-7530. Opposing counsel was John Horne, Assistant United States Attorney, 600 Richard B. Russell Building, 75 Spring Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, 404-581-6000. Also assisting in the case on behalf of the Government was Jeff Davis, Assistant United States Attorney, 600 Richard B. Russell Building, 75 Spring Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, 404-581-6000.

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.)

In addition to my direct representation of indigent clients accused of federal crimes, I have participated in several other significant legal activities. In 2003, I began the tradition of celebrating Saint Crispin's Day as a time to pay tribute to the profession of criminal defense work and those that pursue it. We celebrate this in the context of the collegiality of lawyers who defend indigent persons in federal court in our district. Because I have found that our criminal defense bar does an outstanding job of supporting each other in providing high quality service to those who cannot afford to pay for it, the phrase, "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers," seemed appropriate for a celebration of this work. Out of this tradition grew an annual CLE Celebration Seminar for Saint Crispin's Day. I believe that my work on this, along with the work of my colleague Jake Waldrop, has been instrumental in inspiring other defenders to continually seek to raise the level of practice and professionalism in our district.

For the past several years, I have participated as a faculty member at the Bill Daniel Trial Institute which is an intensive four day program to teach new lawyers how to try cases. Through this program, I have come into contact with many younger lawyers who are still wondering whether they have what it takes to try criminal cases. I believe that my participation in this program has allowed me to positively impact many more cases than I handle personally through my influence on these younger lawyers.

Also very significant to me is my work with the Atlanta Bar Association Summer Law Internship Program. This is a program for high school students who are interested in pursuing a legal career. We teach them professionalism. We teach them about the legal field. We give advice about how to do a good job. We try to stay in touch with as many of the young people as possible. We are gratified to see that several of these young people have become attorneys now and practice in our area. Many of them choose to give back to the program by speaking and also hosting students.

I have never been 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 agreements for deferred compensation.

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 husband is a Staff Attorney with the Federal Defender Program, Inc. in the Northern District of Georgia. He could not appear before me in any case. I would also recuse myself from cases involving former clients. If confirmed, I would seek advice from the Chief Judge of the District and from the

Administrative Office of the United States Courts as well as the State Bar of Georgia and would address any conflict consistent with their advice.

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

If confirmed, I would carefully evaluate each case for potential conflict or the appearance of conflict according to the standards provided by the federal recusal statutes and by Canon 3 of the Code of Conduct for United States Judges. I would disclose any potential conflict on the record and/or recuse myself as called for by the statutes and the Code.

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.

The Federal Defender Program, Inc. devotes its entire practice to the representation of persons accused of federal criminal offenses who cannot afford to hire counsel for themselves. In addition to my regular caseload, I frequently answer questions for CJA (Criminal Justice Act) attorneys on their cases.

I served on the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council in Georgia's attempt to set up a statewide public defender system which comports with constitutional and professional standards. My term on the council began in 2003 and ended in 2005. I attended meetings which were held monthly and sometimes more than once a month. These meetings lasted for several hours. I served as the council's secretary before my term expired.

I have spoken at CLE conferences and courses to state level public defenders and other criminal defense attorneys about topics which I hope have assisted them in their efforts to represent indigent persons accused of criminal offenses in courts across the state. Specifically, I have been a faculty member at the Bill Daniel Trial Institute for the past five years. This program is annual and is full time for four days. I have been the lecturer for Developing a Defense Theory of the Case for the past four years. I am also an instructor in small group sessions on the other topics of the course which include brainstorming, direct examination, cross examination, impeachment, and opening and closing arguments. Other topics which I have spoken on are sentencing advocacy and using technology to enhance the presentation of a case to juries and judges. These talks were usually forty-five minutes to an hour. It took a substantial amount of time to prepare to give the lectures.

Prior to joining the Federal Defender Program, Inc., I participated in the 1000 Lawyers for Justice Program which represented defendants in criminal cases in the Fulton County Superior Court.

**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.

In February of 2009, Georgia's Democratic Congressional Delegation announced the formation of a Judicial Advisory Panel to advise the delegation regarding Presidential appointments to fill district court and other federal vacancies in the State of Georgia. All interested persons were invited to submit a letter of interest and a resume, which I did. I was then invited to complete a questionnaire, which I also did. I was selected for an interview with the panel. This interview took place on April 14, 2009. The selection committee submitted a list of nine persons to the Democratic Congressional Delegation relative to the then three openings on the Northern District of Georgia. The list was not made public and candidates were not informed of whether their names were on the submitted list.

In March 2010, I was contacted by pre-nomination officials at the Department of Justice and have been in contact with them since that time. On April 2, 2010, I interviewed with attorneys from the White House Counsel's Office and the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

On August 25, 2010, I met informally with a member of Senator Isakson's judicial nomination screening committee, Professor Ron Carlson. On December 16, 2010, I met with Senator Isakson and Senator Chambliss in Washington, D.C.

On January 26, 2011, the President submitted my nomination to the Senate.

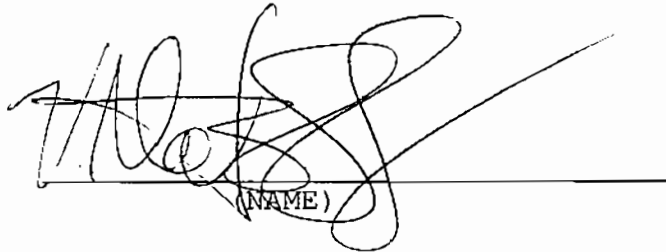
- b. Has anyone involved in the process of selecting you as a judicial nominee discussed with you any currently pending or specific case, legal issue or question in a manner that could reasonably be interpreted as seeking any express or implied assurances concerning your position on such case, issue,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

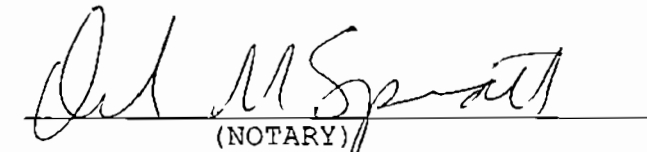
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AFFIDAVIT

I, **VIRGINIA NATASHA PERDEW SILAS**, do swear that the information provided in this statement is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.

Jan. 24, 2011  
(DATE)

  
(NAME)

  
(NOTARY)

The Commission Expires 1-7-15