

## QUESTIONNAIRE

To: Candidates for the Court of Appeals of Georgia, November 2008 Election

From: *Fulton County Daily Report*, based on questionnaires of judicial candidates before the Georgia Judicial Nominating Commission and the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee

1. Please give your full name. **Sara Lynn Doyle**
2. Please give the date and place of your birth. **January 2, 1968; Dallas, Texas**
3. If you are a naturalized citizen, please give the date and place of naturalization.  
**Not applicable.**
4. Indicate your marital status; if married, the name of your spouse; and the names and ages of your children.  
**Married: James R. Doyle II ("Jay");  
Child: Mary Donovan Doyle, 14 months**
5. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of attendance, the degree awarded, and your reason for leaving each school if no degree from that institution was awarded.  
**University of Florida, B.S. B.A. Management 1990  
Mercer University School of Law, J.D. *cum laude* 1994**
6. This question asks where you have worked since college. List all governmental agencies, business or professional organizations, companies, firms, or other enterprises, partnerships, institutions and organizations with which you have been affiliated as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, elected official or employee since graduation from college, and if you received payment for your services. Include the name and city of the employer, job title or job description and dates of service.  
**Holland & Knight, LLP, Atlanta, Georgia  
Partner (1/1/03 to present)  
Associate (8/16/00 to 12/31/02)**  
**Wilson, Strickland & Benson, P.C., Atlanta, Georgia  
Associate (7/1/94 to 8/15/00)  
Summer Associate (Summer 1993)**  
**The Limited, Macon, Georgia  
Sales Associate, Summer 1992**

**The Limited Express, Jacksonville, Florida  
Assistant Manager, December 1990-August 1991**

7. Please state whether you ever have been an unsuccessful candidate for election to any public office, including a judicial office, stating the position and date involved.

**Not applicable.**

8. List all courts in which you are presently admitted to practice, including the dates of admission in each case. Give the same information for administrative bodies having special admission requirements.

<b>United States Supreme Court</b>	<b>July, 2004</b>
<b>United States Tax Court</b>	<b>September, 2002</b>
<b>Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals</b>	<b>August, 2002</b>
<b>Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals</b>	<b>November, 1999</b>
<b>Northern District of Georgia</b>	<b>August, 1994</b>
<b>Middle District of Georgia</b>	<b>September, 1996</b>
<b>All Georgia Courts</b>	<b>July, 1994</b>

9. List all bar associations and professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable or other organizations to which you have belonged since graduation from law school.

**American Bar Association, Fellow; Tort Trial Insurance Practice  
Section Leadership Academy**

**State Bar of Georgia**

**Atlanta Bar Association, Fellow; Bard Show, Member and Director;  
Editorial Board Member**

**Georgia Association of Women Lawyers**

**Gate City Bar Association**

**Lawyers Club of Atlanta, Inc., Secretary, Executive Committee; Past  
Membership Chair**

**Leadership Midtown**

**Atlanta Regional Commission Leadership Institute**

**Bleckley Inn of Court, Barrister**

**Emory University, Trial Advocacy Program, Faculty Member**

**Inman Park Neighborhood Association**

**UF Alumni Association**

**Hands On Atlanta Day Team Leader [Wilson, Strickland & Benson,  
P.C.]**

**American Cancer Society Neighborhood Fundraiser Leader**

**Georgia Volunteer Lawyer for the Arts**

10. Please indicate whether any of the organizations listed in response to the previous question has discriminated on the basis of race, sex or religion – either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies – during the time that you have belonged. If so, describe any action you have taken to change these policies and practices.

**No.**

11. Have you regularly appeared in court during the past five years?

**Yes.**

12. Please estimate what percentage of your practice over the course of your legal career has been in litigation.

**90%**

13. Please estimate a percentage to the frequency of your appearance in court as a lawyer (as opposed to a judicial officer) over the course of your legal career:

**100%**

- (a) What percentage of your appearances has been in:

(1) federal courts? **45%**

(2) Georgia state courts? **50%**

(3) other courts? **5%**

- (b) What percentage of your court appearances has been in:

(1) civil proceedings? **100%**

(2) criminal proceedings?

14. List all cases in courts of record that you tried to verdict or judgment (rather than settled) over the past five years, indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel. Identify the court, approximate date of trial, the nature of the case, and whether the trial was a jury or non-jury trial.

***Tedra Moore v. Josephine King*, Superior Court of Bartow County (August, 1998). As an associate, but lead and sole counsel at trial to a jury, I successfully defended Ms. King in a rear-end car wreck case.**

***Laura and Ron Stein v. Frito Lay & Erwin*, State Court of Fulton County (October 1998). As an associate but lead counsel at trial to a jury, I represented Laura and Ron Stein in a car wreck and loss of consortium case. The jury rendered a verdict in favor of the Defendants.**

***Ishak Shahied v. Rebecca Bulmash*, Superior Court of Cobb County (November 1998). As an associate but lead and sole counsel at trial to a jury, I defended Ms. Bulmash, a Life University student who was accused of tortiously interfering with the employment contract of a former Life University Professor, Dr. Shahied. The jury returned a verdict in favor of Ms. Bulmash.**

***Design Works v. Stapleton*, State Court of Cobb County (January, 1999). As an associate but lead and sole counsel at trial to a jury, I represented Design Works on a breach of contract/quantum meruit claim for the payment of design services. The jury returned a verdict in favor of the Defendants.**

***Tom Craig v. Dan Stinchcomb*, Superior Court of Fayette County (September, 1999). As an associate counsel, working with Warner R. Wilson, Jr. as lead counsel, we represented Tom Craig, a homeowner, in a suit for breach of contract and negligent construction. The jury returned a verdict in favor of our client, Mr. Craig.**

***Judy Dommergue v. Morris Ewing, McCurry & McGarey, et al.*, Fulton County (April, 2000). As an associate, but lead counsel for McCurry & McGarey, I successfully defended a slip and fall case. Dan McGrew acted as lead counsel for a co-defendant. The jury returned a verdict in favor of the Defendants.**

***Dresser-Rand Company v. Virtual Automation, et al.*, U.S. D.Ct. for the Southern District of Texas (April, 2002). As an associate, working with Harold T. Daniel, Jr. as lead counsel and Susan Housen, we represented Dresser-Rand Company in a case against several competing businesses and individuals on claims of RICO, theft of trade secrets, breach of contract and fraud. The jury returned a verdict in favor of Dresser-Rand Company and against certain defendants in the amount of \$5.5 million.**

***The Estate of Blount v. IRS*, U.S. Tax Court, (October, 2002). As an associate working with Al Adams as lead counsel, we represented the Blount Estate in a case involving the valuation of Blount's interest in a closely-held company. The Tax Court ruled in favor of the IRS on the valuation of the estate, but a portion of that award was overturned in favor of Blount by the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals.**

***Jamie Israel v. Emory University*, Superior Court of Dekalb County (March, 2006; November 2006). As lead counsel, I represented Emory University in a breach of contract case brought by a former law student. The jury returned a verdict in favor of Emory on Count II (breach of contract-maintenance of student records) but in favor of Mr. Israel on breach of contract- failure to follow procedures). The case was retried on the issue of nominal damages in October, 2006.**

15. List all appellate cases in which you made oral arguments, including the court and approximate date of argument.

**I have orally argued two cases in Georgia's appellate courts, but have been involved in many more appeals. These two are:**

***Strickland v. CMCR Investments, LLC*, 279 Ga. 112 (March 7, 2005). Oral argument would have taken place within a few months of the date of the decision. We represented CMCR. This case involved the interpretation of a 100 year old deed.**

***Gibson v. Preferred Risk Mutual Insurance Company*, 266 Ga. 368 (1996). Oral argument would have taken place within a few months of the date of the decision. We represented Ms. Gibson. This case involved insurance coverage.**

**Additionally, I have handled numerous oral arguments in both state and federal courts prior to the appellate stage.**

16. List what you consider to be the 10 most significant matters that you personally handled as counsel. Give the citations if the cases were reported, and the docket number and date if unreported, if appropriate. To the extent not already done so in response to a previous question, give a capsule summary of the substance of each matter, identifying the parties involved and whom you represented, the nature of your participation in the matter, the final disposition of the matter and the dates of your involvement.

***Tedra Moore v. Josephine King*, Superior Court of Bartow County. This was my first jury trial as sole counsel. The jury rendered a verdict in my client's favor and this car wreck litigation remains a significant case to me personally.**

***Dresser-Rand Company v. Virtual Automation, Etal., U.S.D.Ct. for the Southern District of Texas.*** This case involved claims of RICO, conspiracy, fraud, breach of contract, and theft of trade secrets among others. We represented Dresser-Rand against ten defendants made up of businesses and individuals. I was heavily involved in handling discovery in the case, motion drafting and participation in hearings. I also participated in the one (1) month trial. The case involved claims in the bankruptcy court and an appeal to the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit.

***David Wilder, etal. v. Jefferson Ins. Co. of New York, 252 Ga. App. 563*** and its underlying companion personal injury case. We represented David Wilder and his three family members who were injured when a tow-truck driver veered off of the street into a parking lot and ran into a car in which two of the Wilder family were sitting and then struck David Wilder and his son, seriously injuring them. We obtained a 7.5 million dollar default judgment against the tow truck company and its owners. The insurance company denied coverage and we litigated the issue of coverage.

***Robinson v. ECCL, U.S. D. Ct. for the Middle District of Georgia, CAFN: 5:97-CV-532-1(DF).*** We represented the Estate of Glynn Robinson in a disability discrimination claim against his employer. The suicide of Mr. Robinson complicated the traditional legal analysis of an employment discrimination claim.

***Ishak Shahied v. Life University and Rebecca Bulmash, Superior Court of Cobb County, CAFN: 94-1662705.*** This case involved the termination of a professor after allegations of his sexual harassment of female students. After obtaining summary judgment on all claims against Life University, the court allowed Dr. Shahied's claim of tortious interference to proceed against one of the female students. As set forth above, I successfully defended the student at trial.

***Strickland v. CMCR Investments, LLC., 279 Ga. 112 (March 7, 2005).*** This case involved the interpretation of a 100 year old cemetery deed. We represented CMCR, a developer who had purchased the property believing the cemetery was .10 acres surrounded by a fence. The Strickland family sued claiming the fence was not the border but rather the cemetery was actually .5 acres. We successfully defended CMCR through the appellate process with the courts holding the deed invalid as a matter of law. This case drew media attention from Jim Strickland and became a three-part story on ABC.

***Mercer University v. TCH, Inc., Dekalb County. Date unknown.*** We represented Mercer University in a breach of contract claim against TCH. We won this case on summary judgment.

***Beau Bock v. Life University, etal., Cobb County. Date unknown.*** We

represented Life University and Dr. Sid Williams on claims of breach of contract and quantum meruit. We obtained summary judgment on behalf of the Defendants.

*Estate of Blount v. IRS*, U.S. Tax Court 2002. This case was significant to me because I was awarded the Georgia Federal Tax Conference Tax Scholar Award as a Mercer Law Student and always had an interest in tax. This was an opportunity to practice and try an estate tax case before the U.S. Tax Court.

*Fidelity National Title Insurance Company of New York v. Renee Snead, et al.* and *OHIC Insurance Company v. Renee Snead, et al.* (Superior Court of Jones County). We represented Fidelity on its claims against Renee Snead, a real estate closing attorney, arising out of her participation in mortgage fraud. We also represented Fidelity when Snead's malpractice carrier filed a declaratory judgment seeking to avoid coverage for Snead's conduct.

17. If you have been a judicial officer, list what you consider to be the 10 most significant opinions that you have authored in your judicial career.

**Not applicable.**

18. What courses, if any, 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 covered.

**None.**

19. Have you ever been sued by a client? If so, please give particulars.

**No.**

20. Have you ever been a party or otherwise involved in any other legal proceedings, other than in your role as counsel? If so, give the particulars. Do not list proceedings in which you were merely a guardian ad litem or a member of a class. Include all legal proceedings in which you were a party in interest, a material witness, were named as a co-conspirator or a co-respondent, and any grand jury investigation in which you figured as a subject, or in which you appeared as a witness.

**No.**

21. From what categories of cases that might come before you as a judge would you recuse? Please be as specific as possible.

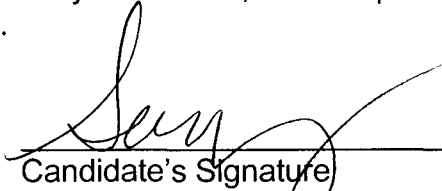
**None.**

22. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state or other law-enforcement authorities for violation of any federal law, state law, county or municipal law, regulation or ordinance? If so, please give details. Do not include traffic violations for which a fine of \$50.00 or less was imposed.

**No.**

23. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If so, please give the particulars.

**No.**



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Candidate's Signature

Date: August 27, 2008