

COURT OF APPEALS OF GEORGIA

RETURN NOTICE

September 29, 2015

To: Ms. Mary Doster, 618 Broad Street, LaGrange, Georgia 30240

Case Number: _____ Lower Court: _____ County Superior Court _____

Court of Appeals Case Number and Style: _____

Your document(s) is (are) being returned for the following reason(s).

There is no case pending in the Court of Appeals of Georgia under the name of Dana Owens.

You may want to voice the comments you have about the Troup County Superior Court with that Court. The mailing address for the Troup County Superior Court is: Post Office Box 866, LaGrange, Georgia 30241. The Clerk of Court is: Jackie W. Taylor.

A Notice of Appeal is filed with the clerk of the trial court and not with the Court of Appeals of Georgia. See OCGA §5-6-37. Once the trial court clerk has received and filed the Notice of Appeal, the trial court clerk will prepare a copy of the record and transcripts as designated by the Notice of Appeal and transmit them to this Court. Once the Notice of Appeal is docketed in the Court of Appeals of Georgia, a Docketing Notice with the Briefing Schedule and other important information is mailed to counsel for the parties or directly to the parties, if the parties are representing themselves. You do not need to provide this Court with a copy of the Notice of Appeal you filed with the superior court.

The Notice of Appeal must include a proper Certificate of Service. A Certificate of Service must show service to the opposing counsel and contain the counsel's full name and complete mailing address. The opposing counsel must actually be served with a copy of your filing.

An Application for Writ of Habeas Corpus should be filed in the superior court of the county in which you claim you are illegally detained. An appeal from a denial of an Application for Writ of Habeas Corpus is to the Supreme Court and not the Court of Appeals.

An Application for Writ of Mandamus should be filed in the superior court of the county official whose conduct you intend to mandate. An appeal from a denial of an Application for Writ of Mandamus is to the Supreme Court and not the Court of Appeals. The mailing address for the Supreme Court of Georgia is: 244 Washington Street, S.W., Suite 572, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

Your appeal was disposed by opinion (order) on _____. The Court of Appeals _____
divesting this Court of jurisdiction. The case decision is therefore final.

Your mailing/documents indicate that you intended to file your papers in another court rather than the Court of Appeals of Georgia. The address of the Clerk of the _____ is:

If an attorney has been appointed for you and you are concerned with the representation provided by that attorney, you should address that issue to the trial court. As long as you are represented by an attorney, you cannot file pleadings on your own behalf. Your attorney must file a Motion to Withdraw as Counsel and it must be granted, before you can file your own pleadings in this Court.

A request for an out-of-time appeal should be made to the trial court from which you are appealing. If your motion is denied by the trial court, you can file an appeal of that decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with the clerk of the superior court.

Mary Doster
618 Broad Street
LaGrange, Georgia 30240

September 23, 2015

Georgia Court of Appeals
47 Trinity Avenue S.W.
Suite 501
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

RECEIVED
2015 SEP 23 AM 10:59
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
TROUP COUNTY, GEORGIA

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Mary Doster. I am a lifetime resident of Troup County, Georgia. I have a Bachelor's degree in journalism from Auburn University. I enjoy attending and investigating local court cases as possible subjects for my short stories. Ms. Dana Owens was recently convicted of arson in Troup County Superior Court under Judge Travis Sakrison. I originally was interested in her case two years ago as her property located at 3016 Hwy 18 in West Point, Georgia, is located near a family friend. I have interviewed two police officers off the record about what they experienced regarding the fire. I am also privy to a transcript of the hearing. There are factors in this case that have me puzzled:

- The jury was deliberately informed of the unfortunate fire of Mr. and Mrs. Owens' property in January 2006 by District Attorney Ray Mayer. That fire was investigated and deemed an accident long ago. Judge Sakrison apparently felt similarly because he twice asked the jury to disregard what they heard about events of the previous fire. Mr. Mayer continued to mention this fire more than twenty times, especially during his closing argument, without any objection. I doubt the jury could disregard the DA's intention. Why was this practice allowed?
- Ms. Owens, rather than Mr. Owens, was the target of blame for the 2013 fire. When I Googled Ms. Owens' name I found that she had been nominated for, or awarded, many accolades for her service work in her community. When I Googled Mr. Brandon Owens' name I got a mug shot and information about his drug arrests. Was I misinformed that Detective William Grizzard, a fire detective on this case, had formerly been a drug investigator? If so, could there be some unresolved animosity in that coincidence?

- Key evidence regarding the origin of the fire in the pantry was not able to be investigated by the defendant's team. I was led to believe that this evidence was "lost" only after the prosecution's team was able to conduct their own investigation. If there is no "proof" of arson, how could there even be a trial? Why was there no accountability regarding this loss of evidence?
- I find the length of the punishment obscene! Some murderers don't get that lengthy a sentence! According to my research, arson is punishable by no less than one year and not more than twenty. She was convicted of "two" counts of arson only because of wording of the law. Forty years, serve 12, is above and beyond punitive, in my opinion. Indeed it seems personal!

The natural order of law is probably to appeal this case. If the appeal is successful, perhaps the judge will be more objective and not enter the courtroom with his announcement of "I don't know why I am even trying this case."

As an educated, tax-paying voter in this county, I appreciate your time.

Sincerely,



Mary Doster

CC: Governor Nathan Deal, Attorney General of Georgia Sam Olens and Judge Travis Sakrison