Laura Gaston Dooley is professor of law and the Michael and Dianne Swygert Research Fellow at Valparaiso University School of Law in Valparaiso, Indiana. A native of Arkansas, she graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Arkansas with degrees in music and English, and received her JD from Washington University in 1986. Following law school, Professor Dooley served as a law clerk to Judge John W. Oliver of the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri, and then clerked for Judge Pasco M. Bowman of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. She was a Bigelow Fellow and lecturer in law at University of Chicago Law School before joining the faculty at Valparaiso.

Professor Dooley's scholarly work has focused on procedure, both civil and criminal, and her work has appeared in such journals as the New York University Law Review, Cornell Law Review, and University of Illinois Law Review. Her articles have also attracted the attention of national press outlets including the Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune, and Investor's Business Daily, as well as the blogosphere. She is a member of the American Law Institute and serves on its Members’ Consultative Group for the Principles of the Law of Aggregate Litigation. She was the 2007 recipient of the Jack Hiller Distinguished Faculty Award at Valparaiso.

Professor Dooley also has been involved in the arts in her community. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Chicago Street Theatre and performs regularly with the Bach Institute at Valparaiso University and the Camerata Vocal Ensemble. She also regularly appears in theatrical productions at Valparaiso University and community theaters in the region. She has two daughters, Sarah, a sophomore at Barnard College in New York, and Julia, a fifth-grader.