

PRESS RELEASE

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DRI's 16th Annual Meeting—Washington, D.C., Event Yields More than 1,500 Attendees!

CHICAGO – DRI – *The Voice of the Defense Bar* recently held hosted their 16th Annual Meeting: DRI Today—The Next 50 Years. The Annual Meeting, now recognized as a world-class program and a must-attend event for defense bar leaders, defense lawyers and corporate counsel, consisted of renowned blockbuster speakers, top-notch continuing legal education events, important committee and state and local defense organizations' meetings, and endless networking opportunities.

More than 1,500 attendees heard from President Bill Clinton, Founder of the William J. Clinton Foundation and 42nd President of the United States, on how to embrace our common humanity. Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court Antonin Scalia and Bryan A. Garner, Founder and President of LawProse, Inc., presented excerpts from their recent collaboration, *Making Your Case: The Art of Persuading Judges*, and shared insights on the principles of persuasion, legal reasoning, brief writing and oral argument. Nora O'Donnell, chief White House correspondent for CBS, addressed the Leadership Breakfast attendees and discussed a more detailed sense of the complex issues in the news today, and presented her insights on the key Washington power players and how the Obama administration works. Attendees of the Thursday Awards Luncheon were treated to a presentation by political columnist, TV personality and radio host Tony Blankley who presented on *The Politics of Change in a Crucial American Moment*. John S. Pistole, Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, spoke to attendees on Friday on *Transportation Security—Its Evolution and Future*. His packed presentation provided valuable insights in to our nation's transportation and security system. The substantive portion of the meeting concluded on Saturday with an interactive three-hour blockbuster featuring trial advocacy experts Thomas A. Mauet and Dominic J. Gianna, who focused on dynamic ways to view the arts of advocacy and persuasion. Overall, more than 90 speakers presented during the three-day event.

The Annual Meeting also means the election of new DRI leadership, and the organization is honored to announce its new president, Henry M. Sneath of Picadio Sneath Miller & Norton PC in Pittsburgh. Continuing to serve the organization as an officer is R. Matthew Cairns of Gallagher, Callahan & Gartrell PC, Concord, New Hampshire, who is now immediate past president.

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Mary Massaron Ross of Plunkett Cooney PC in Detroit is now DRI's president-elect, and J. Michael Weston of Lederer Weston Craig PLC in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, rises to first vice president. Each year, by election of the DRI Board of Directors, two new officers are also chosen at the Annual Meeting. DRI congratulates John Parker Sweeney of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice PLLC in Baltimore for his election to the office of second vice president. Mr. Sweeney will become the DRI President in 2014. Laura E. Proctor of LP Building Products in Nashville, Tennessee, was again elected as the organization's secretary-treasurer. National directors were also elected to serve on DRI's board: Karen R. Glickstein of Polsinelli Shughart PC in Kansas City, Missouri; Toyja E. Kelley of Tydings & Rosenberg LLP in Baltimore; John F. Kuppens of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP in Columbia, South Carolina; and Lise T. Spacapan of Jenner & Block LLP in Chicago. They join DRI's new regional directors who were selected this summer: R. Bruce Barze, Jr., of Balch & Bingham in Birmingham, Alabama; John J. Burke of Hall Farley Oberrecht in Boise, Idaho; Stephen R. Crislip of Jackson Kelly in Charleston, West Virginia; and Glenn M. Zakaib of Cassels Brock & Blackwell in Toronto, Ontario.

The 17th DRI Annual Meeting will be held on October 24–28, 2012, at the New Orleans Marriott in New Orleans, Louisiana. Information regarding early registration and quality education will be available in the coming months.

About DRI – *The Voice of the Defense Bar*

DRI – *The Voice of the Defense Bar* is an international organization of defense attorneys and corporate counsel that is recognized as a thought leader and an advocate for the defense bar at the national and state level, as well as in Europe. With more than 22,000 members, DRI provides members and their clients with access to world-class education, legal resources and numerous marketing and networking opportunities that facilitate career and law firm growth. For more information, log on to www.dri.org.

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