

PRESS RELEASE

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John F. Kuppens Named National Director for DRI— *The Voice of the Defense Bar*

CHICAGO –DRI – *The Voice of the Defense Bar* installed John F. Kuppens as a National Director during its Annual Meeting recently held in Washington, D.C.

Kuppens has previously served as a state marketing liaison for the DRI Annual Meeting as well as chaired the DRI Product Liability Committee.

Kuppens is a partner in the Columbia, South Carolina, office of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP. He has been a DRI member since 1992 and has 21 years experience as a defense attorney. He has been an active DRI member, from being a chair to the DRI Young Lawyers Committee (1999–2000) to serving on the DRI Membership Committee (2007–2009) to serving on the DRI Strategic Planning Committee (2005–2008).

Aside from DRI, Kuppens currently serves as the International Association of Defense Counsel Class Action Committee’s webinar vice chair, as is a past faculty member of the IADC Trial Academy. Kuppens has served on the South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys’ Association Executive Committee since 2008.

Kuppens will serve as a National Director from 2011-2014. Kuppens will serve alongside fellow newly elected National Directors: Karen R. Glickstein of *Polsinelli Shughart PC*, Toyja E. Kelley of *Tydings & Rosenberg LLP* and Lise T. Spacapan of *Jenner & Block LLP*. Additionally, the following members serve on the Board of Directors: R. Bruce Barze, Jr. of *Balch & Bingham*; John J. Burke of *Hall Farley Oberrecht*; Donna L. Burden of *Burden Gulisano & Hickey*; David E. Chamberlain of *Chamberlain McHaney*; Francisco J. Colón-Pagán of *Colón & Colón* and F. Thomas Cordell of *Frailey Chaffin Cordell*; Lee Craig of *Butler Pappas*; Stephen R. Crislip of *Jackson Kelly*; John E. Cuttino of *Turner Padgett Graham & Laney*; Kevin Driskill of *Driskill Law Firm*; Stephen J. Heine of *Heyl Royster Voelker*; James D. Holland of *Page Kruger & Holland*; Edward M. Kaplan of *Sulloway & Hollis*; Christopher A. Kenney of *Kenney & Sams*; Neva G. Lusk of *Spilman Thomas & Battle*; John J. McDonough of *Cozen O’Connor*; Michael I. Neil of *Neil Dymott Frank McFall & Trexler*; Patrick J. Paul of *Snell & Wilmer*; William J. Perry of *Carter Perry Bailey*; Steven M. Puiszis of *Hinshaw & Culbertson*; Carlos Rincon of *Rincon Law Group*; Joseph W. Ryan, Jr. of *Porter Wright Morris & Arthur*; Mark E. Schmidtke of *Ogletree Deakins Nash*; Steven R. Schwegman of *Quinlivan & Hughes*; Robert W. Shively of *Shively & Lannin*; Quentin F. Urquhart, Jr. of *Irwin Fritchie Urquhart*; George M. Walker of *Hand Arendall*; Margaret Fonshell Ward of *Ward & Herzog*; and Glenn M. Zakaib of *Cassels Brock & Blackwell*.

DRI’s Executive Committee includes President Henry M. Sneath, President-Elect Mary Massaron Ross, First Vice President J. Michael Weston, Second Vice President John Parker Sweeney, Secretary-Treasurer Laura E. Proctor and Past-President R. Matthew Cairns.

DRI will host more than 20 seminars and dozens of webcasts throughout 2012 that will focus on a variety of substantive law topics. In addition to the 2012 seminars and webcasts, the DRI Annual Meeting will be held October 24–28, 2012 at the New Orleans Marriott in New Orleans, Louisiana. Information regarding early registration and housing discounts will be made available soon.

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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