



dri The Voice of the
Defense Bar™

Declaration of Candidacy

Candidates for election as Second Vice President or Director Elected Nationally must complete this form and submit it to the Executive Director at the principal headquarters of DRI by 5:00 PM (CDT) on July 1st of the year in which the election is held.

National Director Requirements - Directors Elected Nationally or by Region must be Individual Members of the Corporation admitted to the practice of law. Each such director must meet the following qualifications at the time of election: (a) The candidate shall have been a DRI member for a total of at least five (5) years, and (b) The candidate shall have been a member of at least one DRI substantive law committee for at least three (3) years, and (c) The candidate must have registered for and attended at least one (1) DRI Annual Meeting within the previous three (3) years, and, within the three (3) years prior to the final day of the Annual Meeting, the candidate must have 1) registered for and attended at least two (2) DRI seminars, or 2) registered for and attended one (1) DRI seminar and one (1) DRI Regional Meeting.

Position sought

☐ Second Vice President* ☒ Secretary- Treasurer ☐ National Director

*If you have declared your candidacy for Second Vice President and are not the successful candidate, will you consider the Secretary - Treasurer Officer position?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Name BRYAN C. GARCIA

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Born (location) Tucumcari, New Mexico

Education

Bachelor of Arts, 1998 – Economics and Political Science - University of New Mexico;

Juris Doctor, 2001 - University of New Mexico School of Law.

Awards and achievements

Peer Review, AV Preeminent Rated, Martindale-Hubbell
Southwest Super Lawyers – Rising Star (2012-2016)
Presidential Scholar – University of New Mexico (1994-1998)
New Mexico Defense Lawyers Association
 President (2010)
 Board of Directors (2006 to present)
Association of Defense Trial Attorneys (By Invitation Only)

Areas of practice

My firm represents a variety of large and small businesses, as well as government entities and healthcare providers. I consider myself a general civil defense attorney, with most of my recent work in medical negligence, civil rights, and complex commercial litigation. A smaller percentage of my business is transactional, helping small businesses with formation and start-up issues.

Years as a defense attorney

Seventeen, since I first graduated and passed the New Mexico bar in 2001.

Employment history

Garcia Law Group, LLC – July 2014 to present – Owner and managing member
Narvaez Law Firm, P.A. – May 2000 to June 2014 - Law clerk, associate attorney,
 and partner
District Attorney Office, Second Judicial District Court, Albuquerque, NM –
 Clerkship - Summer 2000
Salomon Smith Barney – August 1995 to May 1998 (office clerk/runner)

Noteworthy defense work

As a general defense attorney, I practice in front of both State and Federal Courts. I have trial and appellate experience. My most public work is Lobato v. New Mexico Enviro. Dept., 733 F.3d 1283 (10th Cir. 2013) which helped to solidify the law in the Tenth Circuit concerning investigations into allegations of discrimination and other issues. I have several other cases reported in the Fed. Supp.

Recently, I have defended several cases involving physicians and the University Hospital.

Professional affiliations

Defense Research Institute. Southwest Region Director, former New Mexico State Representative.

Association of Defense Trial Attorneys (ADTA). Membership to the ADTA is by invitation only after peer review. The ADTA selects a single defense trial attorney to be its “prime member” for a designation region and population base.

New Mexico Defense Lawyers Association. Past president, current board member.

Texas Association of Defense Counsel. Member.

DRI member since 2010

Please describe your previous involvement in DRI, including but not limited to, leadership positions held. Projects contributed to, Committee memberships, presentations given, and written materials authored. Special accomplishments should also be noted.

My DRI adventure started as I was progressing through the ranks of the New Mexico Defense Lawyers Association. Cary Hiltgen and Kevin Driskill came to the NMDLA Annual Meeting. I was encouraged to attend the regional meeting in San Antonio. I went, I was hooked, and I have stuck around ever since.

- Southwest Region Director, DRI Board of Directors (2015 to present).
- Chair, DRI for Life (current)/Vice Chair (2017). DRI for Life is in the process of spearheading a member-wide survey on “stress hardiness” and satisfaction in the work place.
- Committee Member, Membership Committee (current).
- Committee Member, SLDO Relationship Committee (current).
- Committee Member, National Foundation for Judicial Excellent, SLDO outreach (current).
- DRI Governance Committee (2015).
- DRI Board Liaison – Trucking (2015 to current)
- I am a member of 16 DRI Substantive Law Committees.
- DRI State Representative for New Mexico (2011 to 2014)

List any leadership roles in other defense organizations.

New Mexico Defense Lawyers – Past president (2010) and I remain a current board member. Before I was President, I held every officer position. After I was president, I was selected as the New Mexico State Representative for DRI.

Association of Defense Trial Attorneys, Membership Committee (current)

Describe your goals if you are elected to the above position.

I would like to continue to address the declining DRI membership and what appears to be a declining number of defense lawyers across the country. I think that DRI needs to continue pressing the “big tent” message and expand beyond the historic perception that we are primarily an insurance defense organization.

I tend to be membership-value focused. As you are aware, there is a member-wide survey. I would like to be on the team that digests this data. I suspect that it will reveal clues about our membership and how we can better serve the members.

My primary goal as Treasurer/Secretary would be to review the finances, budget targets, budgeting process, and investment strategies. My objective is not to micromanage the process, but I am the person in the room that pays attention to finances. When I was a young officer with the NMDLA, I learned this lesson the hard way after we suffered a horrible financial setback. We need to be good stewards of the membership funds with one eye on today and one eye forward looking.

I am also interested in helping the small defense firms. As the owner of a small firm that I built from the ground up, I think that this is an under-served and under-utilized segment of DRI. I think DRI could see sizeable returns on this front.

What do you believe is the most important issue confronting the defense bar?

From a practice perspective, I consider the disappearing jury trial and inter-generational management issues as taking top billing.

From a DRI perspective, I think we need to focus on the “big tent” message and drive the membership value message.

From a broader management perspective, there are many disruptive factors impacting the traditional insurance defense firm (think accounting firms, non-lawyer ownership, and soon artificial intelligence computerized processes) that chip away at our traditional models and revenue streams. I do not believe that extinction is the answer. I think that DRI can assist not only in helping attorneys re-vitalize or pivot a practice, but I think we can serve our members by helping to identify new market equilibriums.

Finally, as the “big tent” organization with the largest defense membership, DRI needs to continue to press the inclusion and diversity message. It is good for our firms and, frankly, the modern corporate culture demands it. DRI adds value by helping our member firms modernize in both the hiring practice and technological sense of the word.

Define the appropriate role for DRI as the national defense bar organization.

DRI must continue its efforts to press the “big tent” message and encourage our members to be more inclusive and innovative. DRI does not have to be on the vanguard of every issue, particularly when paired working with our sister organizations (ADTA, IADC, and FDCC) and the state and local defense organizations, but DRI can and should serve as the place where the innovative ideas are openly shared and discussed.

Also, DRI can never lose sight of its pedagogical mission to provide quality continuing legal education. This is a critical component.

Hobbies and/or interests

I have three kids and we love swimming and riding bikes. I also enjoy reading. But what most people consider hobby time, I use for DRI.

Family

Alarie, and I have three children – Jackson (age 6); Blake (age 4); Scarlett (age 2).
