



Calendar

Upcoming events
of interest to
DRI members and
other defense lawyers

For more information
about any of these events,
call DRI Customer Service
at (312) 795-1101,
or visit our website at
www.dri.org.

June 4–5	Beyond the Borders: Emerging Issues in Business Litigation Seminar	Toronto
June 11–12	Diversity for Success Seminar	Chicago
June 17–19	Insurance Bad Faith and Extra-Contractual Liability Seminar	Chicago
June 25–26	Young Lawyers Seminar	Nashville
July 23–25	Class Actions Seminar	Washington, DC
September 5–9	Construction Law	Las Vegas
September 10–11	Nursing Home/ALF Litigation	Las Vegas
October 7–11	DRI Annual Meeting	Washington, DC
November 4–6	Data Breach and Privacy Law	Chicago
November 5–6	Asbestos Medicine	Las Vegas
November 12–13	Strictly Automotive	Nashville, TN
December 3–4	Insurance Coverage and Practice Symposium	New York
December 3–4	Professional Liability	New York

DRI Membership: It's Personal

By Christian R. Johnson

DRI has been such a gift not only in my career, but in my relationships. My firm signed me up in 2009 as a newly licensed attorney and I found my way to my first publication opportunity within months. From there I was appointed as a young lawyer liaison to the Professional Liability Committee and hopped a plane to New York to handle the young lawyer activities at their seminar. New York City in December is hard to beat! My initial publication led right into a speaking engagement at the Young Lawyers Breakout session for the Product Liability Conference in Las Vegas. My husband and I made a vacation out of that trip as it was our first time in Las Vegas, and my first national presentation—I was a *little* nervous. A word of advice, a week in Vegas takes stamina, is not for the weak and will net you lifelong friends if you survive it! Following my first big trial, I co-authored an article in *For The Defense*. In short, the exposure, connections, laughter, and light that DRI brings are why DRI is something to be part of for life.

I have traveled to New York City, Las Vegas, Miami, New Orleans, Denver, and Chicago multiple times on DRI business.

In each of those cities, I have had the pleasure of meeting people who have shared their sto-

ries with me. Some professional, but mostly life. We are all cut from the same mold in this profession. I have met husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, and in one profound case a very young lady—not currently a DRI member—who was searching to connect back after the sudden and devastating loss of her husband. What always surprises me when I leave a DRI seminar is how much I am going to miss my friends until the next time, and how happy I am to have met the new faces.

DRI is much more than a defense organization. As with anything it is what *you* make it. My journey with DRI began as a member. I read the DRI emails, answered the call for those interested in publishing, and continued to put myself out there. I began as a young lawyer liaison, jumped at the opportunity to be part of the Young Lawyers Committee steering committee, worked hard to do my part, and to my great surprise and honor was appointed by President Sweeney this year to two executive committees for DRI, in addition to sitting on the Young Lawyers Committee steering committee.

To me, DRI is a gift that has granted an international audience, career advancement, and most importantly lasting friendships and connections with people that I truly value. I hope you maximize your DRI experience and wish you all the very best that DRI has to offer.



■ Christian R. Johnson, a member of the Houston office of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP, specializes in employment litigation and insurance defense. Ms. Johnson currently serves on the DRI Membership Committee, DRI for Life Committee, and as co-vice chair of marketing for the Young Lawyers Committee.