

DRI for Life: Hiking for Life

From the DRI Women in the Law Committee

Camelback Mountain, Arizona, on a glorious February morning, a group of women hike to the summit. There were also women that morning who hiked the saddle trail of the mountain. Two great hikes and two great groups of women were on that mountain that day. Who were these women? A group of incredibly motivated, interesting, and dynamic women who also happened to be great lawyers. How did a group of great women lawyers just happen to find themselves together on a mountain summit in Arizona? They took advantage of the DRI for Life hike as attendees of the DRI Women in the Law Committee's (WITL) seminar "Partnering with Our Clients for Success" in Scottsdale, Arizona. On the first morning before the seminar began, DRI for Life provided this great opportunity for attendees to get out of the conference room. In fact, quite a few were part of the leadership of WITL. All of these women were able to begin their entire seminar event by hiking this mountain as opposed to a typical registration check-in in the morning. What a fantastic start to their experience.

After hearing this group of women rave about their hike, the next day another great group of women lawyers headed out along the same trails. This hike was one of the highlights of the seminar for many of these women. These events deepened the experience and value of the DRI WITL seminar for everyone. A good hike is obviously great for a person's health and wellness. The warm, sunny Scottsdale climate is always wonderful, especially for Easterners seeking to thaw out. Lawyers from every spectrum of defense counsel and in-house corporate counsel were able to participate and get to know each other. This event broadened the experience of the seminar and allowed people to connect with each other under exceptionally fun circumstances. These



women had a chance to interact and meet each other at an event well beyond a typical interaction at a legal association seminar.

They also are able to share that opportunity beyond the hike. That group came back and shared the experience with others. The first group went out and had a fantastic time that was good for their health and legal minds. They importantly connected and made new friends. That first group of hikers was able to go on to the other seminar events and build on their relationships, as well as connect with others. By sharing what a great time they had with new people they met, that great hike experience had a ripple effect of connecting with others.

While a great hike is obviously a wonderful way to spend a morning, what do these hikes have to do with a legal seminar? For WITL and DRI for Life—everything. A key part of DRI and WITL is not only to maximize the legal skills and business acumen of women, but to provide opportunities to empower women lawyers to define their optimal paths and connect. Lawyers are more than an hour of legal work or an hour seminar topic on a legal subject. We are more interesting and more valuable when we connect beyond a presentation. This idea goes beyond the

basic idea of work/life balance. Work/life balance is critical whether it means going on hikes or finding other time for physical wellness. At DRI events, these kinds of interactions and activities outside the law not only encourage work/life balance, but enable people to make a connection outside the law and enrich the lives of the participants.

The goal, in addition to maximizing the lawyer's legal skills, is to maximize the whole person's life. This Camelback hike promoted not only physical activity but ways to connect people who have common interests. This hike and the WITL seminar itself focus on promoting the idea of developing the whole lawyer through interacting in an authentic way with other lawyers. WITL's seminar has always championed these ideas of providing invaluable programs that develop the whole lawyer. The atmosphere at the seminar in connecting beyond the fantastic substantive law programming was incredible.

These DRI interactions are increasingly key to catering to the needs of defense and corporate lawyers over the course of a lawyer's career. Lawyers' careers, both in-house and for outside defense counsel, are consistently challenging and ever changing. Keeping the whole person focused on success by making great connections

with lawyers with common interests, on hikes and other events, is critical. WITL's lawyers had a great time supporting lawyers in those efforts in Arizona through all these hiking events and others, including golf. At seminars in particular, DRI for Life is encouraging through committee liaisons to take the initiative in creating these events. Either during or after the seminars, people will be able to connect through interests such as golf, architecture, botanical gardens, literature, etc., so that they can plan to find people with similar pursuits. Keep an eye out because these are fantastic opportunities. What is better than connecting with amazing lawyers on a great mountain hike in Arizona in February? 