

News Release

For Immediate Release

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DRI Plays Major Role in Passage of SMART Act

President Obama Signs Bill Into Law on January 10th

CHICAGO – (January 15, 2013)—DRI – *The Voice of the Defense Bar* joined other members of the Medicare Advocacy Recovery Coalition (MARC) in celebrating the passage of the SMART Act, legislation that will, among other things, facilitate payment to Medicare beneficiaries, reimbursement to the Medicare Trust Fund, and give finality of liability claims to insurers.

DRI is a member of MARC's 14-member steering committee and, as such, helped to create and execute the successful plan to enact the legislation. Additionally, DRI representatives met regularly on Capitol Hill with members of Congress to provide expertise on the issue. DRI also developed a formidable grass roots effort among its 22,000 members to reach out to their state representatives to express their views on the topic.

The SMART Act :

- Requires Medicare to inform settling parties of the Medicare Secondary Payer amount before settlement
- Prohibits Medicare from expending more money pursuing a claim than it hopes to recover
- Honors good faith efforts to comply with Medicare's complex reporting requirements
- Protects the privacy of beneficiaries' Social Security and Medicare numbers
- Establishes a statute of limitation for all MSP claims

DRI Executive Director John R. Kouris said, "If ever there was legislation that offered a win for all stakeholders, this was it. We are proud to have worked shoulder-to-shoulder with other Coalition members to the benefit of the country."

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About DRI – *The Voice of the Defense Bar*

For more than fifty years, DRI has been the voice of the defense bar, advocating for 22,000 defense attorneys, commercial trial attorneys, and corporate counsel and defending the integrity of the civil judiciary. A thought leader, DRI provides world-class legal education, deep expertise for policy-makers, legal resources, and networking opportunities to facilitate career and law firm growth. For more information, log on to www.dri.org