

For Immediate Release

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From “Unranked” to 6th: DRI Surges Into the Top Ten in Supreme Court Amicus Activity

Recent Study Covers Three Years and 1,750 Organizations

CHICAGO – (April 15, 2013)—DRI – The Voice of the Defense Bar is sixth among 1,750 organizations in providing certiorari-level amicus briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court, according to a recent study published by Adam Chandler in SCOTUSblog (sponsored by Bloomberg Law). That study updates one performed five years ago. DRI is a Chicago-based fifty-year old professional organization representing 22,000 attorneys of the defense bar.

Among the 1,750 private groups and advocacy organizations in the study, only 160 filed three or more briefs between May, 2009 and August, 2012. According to the Chandler study, DRI filed twenty-one. Because DRI has over 22,000 members engaged in defending businesses and individuals in civil litigation, it brings a wealth of practical real-world experience and knowledge that can be used to provide the United States Supreme Court and other appellate courts with unique and helpful insights into the legal issues they are considering.

“Several years ago, we decided to develop a more robust amicus program,” said DRI president Mary Massaron Ross of Plunkett Cooney in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. “Amici can be most helpful to an appellate court when they tell it something it doesn’t already know. Our amicus briefs try to help the Court by providing insight into the practical effect of various rules on the litigation system. Examples of these kinds of issues include the briefs that DRI has filed in the areas of expert testimony, punitive damages, and class action litigation. DRI also has a wealth of knowledge in substantive areas of law, such as employment or products litigation that allow it to provide the Court with insight into the impact various rules or holdings are likely to have.”

According to the study, the stage on which certiorari petitions are argued has gotten considerably more crowded in the five years since the first study. During that time, the total number of briefs filed rose by thirty-five percent and the number of organizations filing them increased by almost sixty-five percent. Ranked first in the study was the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

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Any DRI member can request DRI to file an amicus brief in a particular case. A committee of seven DRI members then screens the applications and makes recommendations based upon the extent to which they “present an opportunity for DRI to make meaningful and original arguments that could result in a contribution to jurisprudence...and be of special significance to the defense bar.”

“Our activity is actually greater than that reflected in the study,” said Marc Williams, Director of DRI’s Center for Law and Public Policy. “In addition to cert petitions, we have submitted a number of briefs on merit and several more in the federal appellate and state courts. We are definitely making good use of the intellectual firepower of our members.”

To link to the SCOTUSblog article, click [here](#).

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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