

## News Release

For Immediate Release

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### **DRI National Poll: As Jurors, 58% Would Be Biased Against Oil and Gas Companies**

**Chicago - (May 3, 2013)** - According to a recent national poll by DRI – The Voice of the Defense Bar, in a trial between an individual and an oil or gas company, 58% of prospective jurors would favor the individual. And that figure is identical for male and female respondents.

Attitudinal differences are more likely to occur at different age, education, and income levels. For instance, 63% of those in the 18-39 age group would favor the individual while that number drops a full ten percentage points to 53% among 50-64-year olds.

Gaps are even more pronounced in the education and income categories. Among non-college grads, 62% would favor the individual while only 47% of college grads would. In income, 62% of respondents making less than \$50,000 per year would tend to favor the individual while only 46% of those making more than \$100,000 would.

Only 20% of respondents said they would not favor either the individual or the oil/gas company.

“The results of our poll show two things,” said John R. Kouris, DRI Executive Director. “The fact that only 20% would approach their responsibilities as a juror in an objective manner means that we have a bit of public education to do on the role of a juror in the administration of justice. Second, while some of the demographic responses are expected, others are quite surprising.”

One of the more surprising responses was that geography seems to make little difference in attitude with a sizeable majority tending to favor the individual even in the broad geographic regions that include sizeable oil and gas operations. Where there are differences, they are not statistically significant.

Not unexpected but dramatic nevertheless was the strong ideological divide between liberals and conservatives with a full thirty percent difference between liberals (73%) and conservatives (43%) who would favor individuals over oil and gas companies.

The poll was the first of what will become a DRI annual national opinion poll on the civil justice system.

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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*

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