

The background of the top half of the page is a close-up, shallow depth-of-field photograph of several golden trophies. The trophies are arranged in a row, with the one in the foreground being the most prominent and in focus, while the others behind it become increasingly blurred. The lighting is warm and golden, highlighting the metallic texture of the trophies.

DRI ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AND SERVICE AWARDS

NOMINATIONS DUE JULY 1, 2026

DRI'S ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AND SERVICE AWARDS

Celebrate and honor outstanding performance by state, local and national defense organizations (SLDOs/NDOs), DRI law firms, and individual members.

These awards identify your peers who deserve recognition either for their professional contributions to, and achievements on behalf of, the defense bar and the civil justice system, or their involvement in community and public service activities that have a positive impact on society at large.

Recognition enhances members' personal growth and accomplishments, provides us all with role models, and strengthens members' images in the legal and business communities and with the general public. Please read this nomination brochure and honor your organization and members with a nomination. We encourage you to submit an entry for each award.

Winners will be announced at the 2026 DRI Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., taking place October 21-23. In addition, DRI will recognize award recipients in *The Voice* and through a news alert on DRI.org.

LOUIS B. POTTER LIFETIME PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AWARD

PAST RECIPIENTS

Kathy J. Maus Illinois	Chrys A. Martin Oregon	Albert H. Parnell Georgia
Marc E. Williams West Virginia	James W. Morris III Virginia	Hugh E. Reynolds, Jr. Indiana
Steven M. Puiszis Illinois	Richard T. Boyette North Carolina	Samuel S. Woodley North Carolina
William R. Sampson Missouri	Burton J. Johnson Oklahoma	E. Wayne Taff Missouri
Thomas F. Segalla New York	Edward W. Mullins, Jr. South Carolina	Ollie L. Blan, Jr. Alabama
Robert E. Scott, Jr. Maryland	Lloyd H. Milliken, Jr. Indiana	Brooke Wunnicke Colorado
John H. Martin Texas	Robert S. Krause Michigan	James A. Dixon, Jr. Florida
Stephen G. Morrison South Carolina	Donald F. Pierce Alabama	Donald Patterson Kansas
Douglas G. Houser Oregon	John Parker Sweeney, Washington, D.C.	
John C. Trimble Indiana	Sheryl J. Willert Washington	
Amy L. Miletich Colorado		

CRITERIA

The nominee should exemplify both professional service and professionalism, with professionalism defined as follows:

“Professionalism goes beyond observance of the legal profession’s ethical rules and serves the best interests of clients and the public in general. Professionalism requires that lawyers conduct themselves before the Court and with opposing counsel in a manner which demonstrates respect for the law and preserves decorum and integrity of the judicial process. It preserves and enhances the image of the legal profession in the eyes of the public. It supports programs and activities to educate the public about the law and the American legal system and it fosters respect and trust among lawyers.”

ELIGIBILITY

The nominee must be a member of DRI.

SELECTION PROCESS

DRI asks that all entries be accompanied by whatever material the nominator feels will best support the nominee.

Entries for the Louis B. Potter Lifetime Professional Service Award should be **submitted via this form** by July 1, 2026.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding these awards or the nomination process, please contact Awards@dri.org.

DEADLINE FOR ALL NOMINATIONS: JULY 1, 2026

We encourage you to submit entries for each of the awards to be presented.

DRI FOUNDATION COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

PAST RECIPIENTS

Connie Matteo
New Jersey

Moheeb H. Murray
Michigan

James O. Craven
Connecticut

Laurie K. Miller West
Virginia

Elizabeth H. Huntley
Alabama

Robert A. Shields
California

Plunkett Cooney PC

Carter E. Strang
Ohio

Matthew P. Keris
Pennsylvania

Alison Y. Ashe-Card North
Carolina

Joseph M. Hanna
New York

Todd A. Rowden
Illinois

David M. Davis
Texas

Robert B. "Chip" Delano, Jr.
Virginia

Jefferey G. Frank
Washington

James F. Rosner Maryland

Patrick J. Sweeney
Pennsylvania

Carolyn M. Husmann,
Missouri

Ronald R. Robinson
California

J. Denny Shupe
Pennsylvania

R. Matthew Cairns New
Hampshire

George H. Mitchell
Arizona

Douglas G. Houser
Oregon

William T. Birmingham
Arizona

J. Robert Sheehy Texas

Melissa K. Roeder
Washington

Robert J. Williams
Pennsylvania

CRITERIA

The nominee should now be, or has been, involved in community and/or public service activities that demonstrate his or her active and outstanding commitment to improving the social and/or cultural well-being of the general public by initiating—or participating in—programs that tend to have a positive impact on a segment of his or her community and/or the general public.

She/he can be cited either for a particular activity or a service over an extended period of recent origin or past service.

ELIGIBILITY

The nominee must be a member of DRI.

SELECTION PROCESS

DRI asks that all entries be accompanied by whatever material the nominator feels will best support the nominee.

Entries for the DRI Foundation Community Service Award should be **submitted via this form** by July 1, 2026.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding these awards or the nomination process, please contact Awards@dri.org.

DEADLINE FOR ALL NOMINATIONS: JULY 1, 2026

We encourage you to submit entries for each of the awards to be presented.

TOM SEGALLA EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

PAST RECIPIENTS

Lawrence S. Ebner
Washington, D.C.

Francisco Ramos, Jr.
Florida

Rina Carmel
California

E. Todd Presnell
Tennessee

Scott Burnett Smith
Alabama

Lise T. Spacapan
Illinois

Lee Craig
Florida

Stephen O. Plunkett
Minnesota

John J. "Jack" Laffey
Wisconsin

Sergio E. Chavez
Texas

Melody Kiella
Georgia

Shane O'Dell
Texas

CRITERIA

The nominee must be a current individual member of DRI whose contributions through legal scholarship exemplify the highest educational standards of the organization and further its mission of improving the skills of the defense practitioner.

SELECTION PROCESS

On or before July 1 of each year, the President-Elect, who has oversight responsibility for educational programs, and the Law Institute Chair together shall confer and nominate a minimum of three and a maximum of five candidates who will be submitted with appropriate reasons to the Executive Committee for selection of the award recipient.

Entries for the Tom Segalla Excellence in Education Award should be **submitted via this form** by July 1, 2026.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding these awards or the nomination process, please contact Awards@dri.org.

DEADLINE FOR ALL NOMINATIONS: JULY 1, 2026

We encourage you to submit entries for each of the awards to be presented.

DAVIS CARR OUTSTANDING COMMITTEE CHAIR AWARD

PAST RECIPIENTS

Michelle Thurber Czapski
Life, Health and Disability
Committee

David L. Jones
Construction Law Committee

Baxter D. Drennon
Young Lawyers Committee

Diana M. Gerstberger
Construction Law Committee

James E. Robinson
Aviation Law Committee

Casey C. Stansbury
Governmental Liability
Committee

Jennifer Anderson Hoffman
Retail and Hospitality
Committee

Lana Alcorn Olson
Women in the Law
Committee

Michael M. Marick
Insurance Law Committee

Evelyn Fletcher Davis
Asbestos Litigation
Committee

Douglas K. Burrell
Diversity and
Inclusion Committee

Mark A. Fahleson
Employment and
Labor Law Committee

Vickie L. Henry
Commercial Litigation
Committee

Lee Craig
Insurance Law Committee

Kelly A. Freeman
Corporate Counsel
Committee

Simeon D. Rapoport
Life, Health and Disability
Committee

Robert W. Hesselbacher, Jr.
Professional Liability
Committee

Stephen G. Pesarchick,
Trucking Law Committee

Jay Barry Harris
Trucking Law
Committee

Henry M. Sneath
Commercial
Litigation
Committee

Linda M. Lawson
Life, Health and
Disability Committee

Thomas A. Packer
Medical Liability
Committee

Michael F. Aylward
Insurance Law
Committee

Steve Gerber
Employment and Labor
Law Committee

Tracey L. Turnbull
Commercial Litigation
Committee

Gretchen N. Miller
Product Liability
Committee

CRITERIA

The nominee must be a current or immediate past DRI Committee Chair:

- 1) Whose committee has achieved committee goals, including presenting successful seminars and producing high-quality publications;
- 2) Who has increased committee membership;
- 3) Who has motivated membership participation, including participation by minorities;
- 4) Who has created and implemented new projects; and
- 5) Who has filled all required committee leadership positions.

SELECTION PROCESS

On or before July 1 of each year, the First Vice President, who has oversight responsibility for committees, and the DRI Director of Committees together shall confer and nominate a minimum of three and a maximum of five candidates who will be submitted with appropriate reasons to the Executive Committee for selection of the award recipient.

Entries for the Davis Carr Outstanding Committee Chair Award should be be **submitted via this form** by July 1, 2026.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding these awards or the nomination process, please contact Awards@dri.org.

DEADLINE FOR ALL NOMINATIONS: JULY 1, 2026

We encourage you to submit entries for each of the awards to be presented.

KEVIN DRISKILL OUTSTANDING STATE REPRESENTATIVE AWARD

PAST RECIPIENTS

Juan M. Marquez, Jr.
New Mexico

Jill Cranston Rice
West Virginia

Beth A. Lochmiller
Kentucky

Robert J. Chomiak, Jr.
Connecticut

Glenn M. Holley
California

Michael J. "Sam"
Sandmire
Oregon

F. James Robinson, Jr.
Kansas

Edward M. "Bubba"
Hughes Georgia

C. Scott Toomey,
Pennsylvania

Emily G. Coughlin
Massachusetts

Mark J. Neal
Louisiana

Thomas J. Maroney
New York

Christopher A. Kenney
Massachusetts

Peter J. Hersha
Ohio

Leland "Lee" H. Ayres
Louisiana

Mary Ann Dempsey
New Hampshire

Allen C. Smith
North Carolina

Michael S. Ryan
Minnesota

David M. Davis
Texas

William S. Davies, Jr.
South Carolina

James E. Lozier
Michigan

Douglas M. McIntosh
Florida

F. Drake Lee, Jr.
Louisiana

Michael D. Carter
Oklahoma

Stephen P. Cooney
Rhode Island

CRITERIA

The nominee must be a current or immediate past DRI State Representative who has:

- 1) Made significant contributions toward promoting DRI membership within his/her state;
- 2) Been instrumental in implementing a significant, unique program to foster the relationship between DRI and the SLDO to enhance DRI's stature; and/or
- 3) Enhanced the public's view of the role of the defense lawyer in the broader society.

SELECTION PROCESS

On or before July 1 of each year, the Second Vice President, who has responsibility for membership development, and the DRI Vice President, Engagement, together shall confer and nominate a minimum of three and a maximum of five candidates who will be submitted with appropriate reasons to the Executive Committee for selection of the award recipient.

Entries for the Kevin Driskill Outstanding State Representative Award should be **submitted via this form** by July 1, 2026.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding these awards or the nomination process, please contact Awards@dri.org.

DEADLINE FOR ALL NOMINATIONS: JULY 1, 2026

We encourage you to submit entries for each of the awards to be presented.

ALBERT H. PARNELL OUTSTANDING PROGRAM CHAIR AWARD

PAST RECIPIENTS

Nick A. Rauch
Litigation Skills Seminar

Caroline Berdzik
Nursing Home/ALF Litigation
Seminar

Stacy Lynne Douglas
Diversity for Success Seminar
and Corporate Expo

Brian K. Brookey
Intellectual Property Litigation
Seminar

Gary L. Howard
Diversity and
Inclusion Seminar

Eric E. Kinder
Employment and Labor Law
Seminar

Ilana B. Olman
Insurance Coverage and
Practice Symposium

Charles W. Browning
Insurance Coverage and
Practice Symposium

Joshua C. Webb
Young Lawyers Seminar

Casey C. Stansbury
Civil Rights and
Governmental Tort
Liability Seminar

James W. Kraus
Government Enforcement
and Corporate Compliance
Seminar

Atoyia Scott Harris
Diversity for Success
Seminar

Laura D. Eschleman
Medical Liability and
Health Care Law Seminar

Heidi B. Goldstein
Women in the Law
Seminar

Asim K. Desai
Insurance Bad Faith and
Extra-Contractual
Liability Seminar

Daniel W. Gerber Life,
Health, Disability and
ERISA Claims Seminar

Albert H. Parnell
Asbestos Medicine
Seminar

CRITERIA

The nominee must have been a DRI program chair for a substantive law educational seminar:

- 1) Who, along with the seminar steering committee, created a dynamic educational program that included contemporary and provocative topics in a manner that sustains and enhances DRI's image as the premier provider of defense oriented continuing legal education offerings;
- 2) Who lead and participated in the effective planning, marketing and presentation of the educational program;
- 3) Who displayed leadership, dedication and creativity in seminar development; and
- 4) Whose program met organizational expectations established for his or her seminar.

ELIGIBILITY

The nominee must be a member of DRI and a past or current program chair for a traditional DRI seminar.

SELECTION PROCESS

Entries for the Albert H. Parnell Outstanding Program Chair Award should be **submitted via this form** by July 1, 2026.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding these awards or the nomination process, please contact Awards@dri.org.

DEADLINE FOR ALL NOMINATIONS: JULY 1, 2026

We encourage you to submit entries for each of the awards to be presented.

DRI LAW FIRM/CORPORATE LEGAL DEPARTMENT DIVERSITY AWARD

PAST RECIPIENTS

The Hartford	Gallivan White & Boyd PA	Abbott Simses & Kuchler
Bowman and Brooke LLP	Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP	Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP
Tucker Ellis LLP	Venable LLP	Gordon & Rees LLP
Thompson Hine LLP	Lewis Wagner LLP	Thelen Reid & Priest LLP
Beveridge & Diamond PC	Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice PLLC	Holland & Knight LLP
Wood Smith Henning & Berman LLP	JAMS The Resolution Experts	Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A.
Phelps Dunbar LLP	Masucci Dispute Management and Resolution Services	U-Haul International, Inc.
Chartered Institute of Arbitrators	Resolute Systems Wright	
Chubb Limited	Public Entity	
City University of New York		
IAT Insurance Group, Inc.		

CRITERIA

The nominee shall be a member of DRI, who has:

- 1) Achieved significant success in the area of law office management while also demonstrating a commitment to increase diversity within and outside of their law firm; and
- 2) Demonstrated a commitment to broadening perspectives within their legal department.

SELECTION PROCESS

Entries for the DRI Law Firm/Corporate Legal Department Diversity

Award should be **submitted via this form** by July 1, 2026.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding these awards or the nomination process, please contact Awards@dri.org.

DEADLINE FOR ALL NOMINATIONS: JULY 1, 2026

We encourage you to submit entries for each of the awards to be presented.

SLDO DIVERSITY AWARD

PAST RECIPIENTS

Defense Trial Counsel
of Indiana

Virginia Association of
Defense Attorneys

Minnesota Defense
Lawyers Association

Oregon Association
of Defense Counsel

New Mexico Defense
Lawyers Association

Defense Association of
New York

Oklahoma Association
of Defense Counsel

Arizona Association
of Defense Counsel

North Carolina Association
of Defense Attorneys

Ohio Association of
Civil Trial Attorneys

Maryland Defense Counsel
Inc.

New Jersey Defense
Association

Minnesota Defense Lawyers
Association

North Carolina Association
of Defense Attorneys

Alabama Defense Lawyers
Association

Florida Defense Lawyers
Association

Colorado Defense Lawyers
Association

Canadian Defence Lawyers

Wisconsin Defense Counsel

CRITERIA

The nominee shall be a state or local defense organization that:

- 1) Has achieved significant success in demonstrating a commitment to diversity within and outside of their organization; and
- 2) Demonstrates a commitment to broadening perspectives within their organization.

SELECTION PROCESS

Entries for the SLDO Diversity Award should be **submitted via this form** by July 1, 2026.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding these awards or the nomination process, please contact Awards@dri.org.

DEADLINE FOR ALL NOMINATIONS: JULY 1, 2026

We encourage you to submit entries for each of the awards to be presented.

RICHARD H. KROCHOCK YOUNG LAWYER AWARD

PAST RECIPIENTS

Brett A. Mason Georgia	Mary “Re” Knack Washington	Sheryl J. Willert Washington
John F. Kuppens South Carolina	Todd Presnell Tennessee	Laura E. Proctor Tennessee
John C. Trimble Indiana	Anne M. Talcott Oregon	Charles A. Stewart III Alabama
Kelly Jones Howell New York	Patrick J. Sweeney Pennsylvania	Randall R. Riggs Indiana
Todd S. Manuel Louisiana	Linda M. Lawson California	Kelly A. Freeman Michigan
Douglas K. Burrell Georgia	Kimberly D. Baker Washington	E. Wayne Taff Missouri
R. Craig Mayfield Florida	Kathy J. Maus Florida	Shannon M. Nessier California
Laurie K. Miller West Virginia	J. Richard Moore, Indiana	Baxter D. Drennon, Arkansas
		Peyton Watts Arkansas

CRITERIA

The nominee shall be a member of DRI, who has:

- 1) Provided exemplary leadership to the DRI Young Lawyers Committee through sponsorship or participation in its programs and activities;
- 2) Who has provided guidance, support, and service as a mentor to the members of the YLC; and
- 3) Who has promoted those qualities which enhance the image of the civil defense trial lawyer to the public.

SELECTION PROCESS

Nominations for this award shall be made by the Young Lawyers Committee Long Range Planning Subcommittee, which is comprised of those members of the YLC that have previously chaired a subcommittee of the YLC and remain eligible for YLC membership (admitted to practice ten years or less.) The YLC Long Range Planning Subcommittee shall meet to consider nominees for this award immediately following the annual mid-year meeting of the Young Lawyers Steering Committee. Immediately thereafter, the name or names of not less than one nominee and not more than three nominees shall be submitted to the DRI Executive Committee who shall select the recipient of the award to be presented at the DRI Annual Meeting.

VETERANS NETWORK MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

PAST RECIPIENTS

David A. Anderson
South Carolina

W. Douglas Berry
Florida

John V. Garaffa
Florida

John R. Kouris
Illinois

Dan K. Worthington
Texas

Edward P. Perdue
Michigan

David M. Davis
Texas

Lee C. Schmeer,
Pennsylvania

Clint. V Cox
Texas

CRITERIA

The nominee must be a DRI member who has served honorably in peacetime or wartime as a member of the United States Armed Forces or the United States Coast Guard and has distinguished himself or herself by providing exemplary and outstanding service to other veterans, their country, state, community, foreign jurisdiction or the legal profession.

ELIGIBILITY

The nominee must be a member of DRI.

SELECTION PROCESS

DRI asks that all entries be accompanied by whatever material the nominator feels will best support the nominee.

Entries for the Veterans Network Meritorious Service Award should be **submitted via this form** by July 1, 2026.

PRESENTATION

The award shall be presented during the DRI Annual Meeting in those years in which a qualified candidate is selected.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding these awards or the nomination process, please contact Awards@dri.org.

DEADLINE FOR ALL NOMINATIONS: JULY 1, 2026

We encourage you to submit entries for each of the awards to be presented.

DRI SLDO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AWARD

PAST RECIPIENTS

Ana Ramos
Florida Defense Lawyers
Association

Mary Gadd
Tennessee Defense Lawyers
Association

Jane L. Brown
Mississippi Defense Lawyers
Association

Lynette D. Pitt
North Carolina Association
of Defense Attorneys

Kathi C. McKeown
Kentucky Defense Counsel

Maggie S. Sweeney
Washington Defense
Trial Lawyers

Aimee L. Hiers
South Carolina Defense Trial
Attorneys' Association

Jenni Kilpatrick
Wisconsin Defense Counsel

Jennifer M. Davis
Georgia Defense Lawyers
Association

Peggy L. Schultz
Defense Lawyers Association of
Wyoming

Jennifer W. Hayes
Alabama Defense Lawyers
Association

CRITERIA

The nominee shall be a current DRI State or Local Defense Organization (“SLDO”) Executive Director who best fosters a relationship between their SLDO and DRI, and who has otherwise demonstrated exceptional service to the cause of the defense bar and their SLDO.

NOMINATION PROCESS

DRI asks that all entries are accompanied by whatever material the nominator feels will best support the nominee.

SELECTION PROCESS

Nominations must come from a current DRI member or a DRI SLDO Executive Director and be **submitted via this form** by July 1, 2026.

The DRI Executive Committee shall select the award recipient.

PRESENTATION

The award shall be presented during the DRI Annual Meeting in those years a qualified candidate is selected.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding these awards or the nomination process, please contact Awards@dri.org.

DEADLINE FOR ALL NOMINATIONS: JULY 1, 2026

We encourage you to submit entries for each of the awards to be presented.

FRED H. SIEVERT AWARD

RECOGNIZING AN OUTSTANDING DEFENSE BAR LEADER

PAST RECIPIENTS

Heather A. Sanderson, KC
Calgary

John R. Sly
Maryland

Anthony W. Livoti
South Carolina

Jeanne F. Loftis
Oregon

R. Mark Mifflin
Illinois

Andrew S. Bolin
Florida

Amanda M. Good
Wyoming

Bradford D. Box
Tennessee

Lynn M. Roberson
Georgia

Keith B. O'Connell
Texas

Bonnie J. Refinski-Knight
North Carolina

John T. Lay, Jr.
South Carolina

Susan E. Gunter
Toronto

Robert H.S. Schaffer
Michigan

Robert W. Shively
Nebraska

Christopher A. Kenney
Massachusetts

David E. Chamberlain
Texas

Sharon Soorholtz Greer
Iowa

Stephen R. Pennell
Indiana

Katherine S. Kerby
Mississippi

Linda Stephens
North Carolina

Thomas J. Welk
South Dakota

John C. Trimble
Indiana

Thomas C. Riney
Texas

Matthew G. Moffett
Georgia

Joseph J. Joyce
Utah

Robert C. Riter, Jr.
South Dakota

Eugene Tierney
Ohio

Daniel R. Formeller
Illinois

Mary K. Wolverton
Wisconsin

H. Daniel Vogel
North Dakota

Paul L. Price
Illinois

James W. Mohr, Jr.
Wisconsin

Peter J. Hoffman
Pennsylvania

J. Robert Sheehy
Texas

D. Cameron Beck, Jr.
Virginia

Michael P. Lowry
Las Vegas

CRITERIA

The nominee should be an individual who has made a significant contribution towards achieving the goals and objectives of the organized defense bar.

ELIGIBILITY

The nominee must be the current or past president of a SLDO who has initiated innovative projects for the betterment of the organization and exercised strong leadership.

SELECTION PROCESS

DRI asks that all entries be accompanied by whatever material your association feels will best support the nominee.

Entries for the Fred H. Sievert Award should be **submitted via this form** by July 1, 2026.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding these awards or the nomination process, please contact Awards@dri.org.

DEADLINE FOR ALL NOMINATIONS: JULY 1, 2026

We encourage you to submit entries for each of the awards to be presented.

RUDOLPH A. JANATA AWARD

RECOGNIZING AN OUTSTANDING DEFENSE BAR ASSOCIATION

PAST RECIPIENTS

Minnesota Defense Lawyers
Association

Philadelphia Association of
Defense Counsel

North Carolina Association
of Defense Attorneys

Tennessee Defense Lawyers
Association

Wisconsin Defense Counsel

Washington Defense Trial
Lawyers

Minnesota Defense Lawyers
Association

Kentucky Defense Counsel

Massachusetts Defense
Lawyers Association

Georgia Defense Lawyers
Association

Pennsylvania Defense
Institute

Mississippi Defense Lawyers
Association

Georgia Defense
Lawyers Association

Ohio Association of Civil
Trial Attorneys

Defense Counsel of
Rhode Island

Canadian Defence Lawyers

Maryland Defense
Counsel Inc.

New Mexico Defense Lawyers
Association

Alabama Defense Lawyers
Association

Minnesota Defense Lawyers
Association

Defense Trial Counsel of West
Virginia

North Carolina Association of
Defense Attorneys

Colorado Defense
Lawyers Association

South Carolina Defense Trial
Attorneys Association

Illinois Association of Defense
Trial Counsel

South Carolina Defense Trial
Attorneys' Association

Virginia Association
of Defense Attorneys

Louisiana Association of
Defense Counsel

Defense Trial
Counsel of Indiana

Texas Association
of Defense Counsel

Florida Defense Lawyers
Association

Missouri Organization of
Defense Lawyers

Iowa Association of
Defense Counsel

Philadelphia Association
of Defense Counsel

Oregon Association
of Defense Counsel

Washington Defense Trial
Lawyers

Ohio Association of Civil
Trial Attorneys

Association of Southern
California Defense
Counsel

CRITERIA

The nominee should be a SLDO that has undertaken an innovative or unique program contributing to the goals and objectives of the organized defense bar.

ELIGIBILITY

All SLDOs are eligible.

SELECTION PROCESS

DRI asks that all entries be accompanied by whatever material your association feels will best support the nominee.

Entries for the Rudolph A. Janata Award should be **submitted via this form** by July 1, 2026.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding these awards or the nomination process, please contact Awards@dri.org.

DEADLINE FOR ALL NOMINATIONS: JULY 1, 2026

We encourage you to submit entries for each of the awards to be presented.

G. DUFFIELD SMITH OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION AWARD

PAST RECIPIENTS

Afam I. Okeke
Los Angeles, California

Ryan Harrison
Austin, Texas

Kelsey Osborne Knoxville,
Tennessee

Anne A. Gruner
Nicholas M. Centrella, Jr.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Anthony L. Schumann
Chicago, Illinois

Toni L. Frain
Boston, Massachusetts

Matthew J. Lavisky Tampa,
Florida

Gary L. Johnson Salt Lake
City, UT

Sean C. Griffin Washington,
D.C.

John G. Browning Dallas,
Texas

Laurie K. Miller Charleston,
West Virginia

Michael P. Bruyere Atlanta,
Georgia

Scott Rees
Norcross, Georgia

David C. Marshall Columbia,
South Carolina

Max C.R. Heerman
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Andrew Tauber
Brian Wong Washington,
D.C.

Shana A. O'Grady
Wheaton, Illinois

Loren H. Brown
Christopher G. Campbell
Daniel J. Cooper
New York, New York

Kerry P. McInerney
Birmingham, Alabama

Heather K. Kelly Denver,
Colorado

Jonathan Allan Klein
Annmarie M. Liermann
San Francisco, California

James M. Meseck Denver,
Colorado

J. Mark Coulson
Baltimore, Maryland

Sidney K. Kanazawa Los
Angeles, California

Michael F. Aylward Boston,
Massachusetts

Scott P. Stolley
Dallas, Texas

Bradley D. Honnold
Kansas City, Missouri

Kenneth Ross Minnetonka,
Minnesota

Craig A. Livingston
Walnut Creek, California

Michael J. Ruttinger
Cleveland, Ohio

Colton Driver
Nashville, Tennessee

Christine A. Hogan Bismarck,
North Dakota

Alfred W. Cortese, Jr. Phillip
A. Wittmann
New Orleans, Louisiana

Forrest S. Latta
Mobile, Alabama

William H. Hardie, Jr.
Mobile, Alabama

Kevin M. Reynolds Richard J.
Kirschman
Des Moines, Iowa

Carol Campbell Cure
Phoenix, Arizona

William T. Birmingham
Charles D. Onofry Phoenix,
Arizona

Paul D. Coates Greensboro,
North Carolina

Martha A. Churchill Chicago,
Illinois

Georgia A. Staton
Angela K. Sinner
Phoenix, Arizona

Donald Patterson Topeka,
Kansas

Brooke Wunnicke
Denver, Colorado

Whitney Lay Greene and
Amanda Nardi,
Atlanta, Georgia

Kevin T. McCarthy, Brett A.
Mason, Laura Clark Fey,
Frederick J. King, Noah J.
Mason, Meredith Hamilton,
Christian W. Castile, Brent J.
Arnold, Jin Yoshikawa, and
Garrett M. Greene
Various Locations

CRITERIA

The nominee must be the author of a feature article in *For The Defense* or *In-House Defense Quarterly*. The subject matter of the article should be of current relevancy to the practice interests of DRI members, containing fresh and imaginative ideas, be well-researched, and presented in a lively writing style.

SELECTION PROCESS

The pool of articles up for consideration comes from the previous year's publications. The editors of *For The Defense* and *In-House Defense Quarterly* and the Executive Department consider the following factors: relevancy of subject matter to the interests of DRI members; current importance of the topic; fresh, imaginative ideas from the author; depth and quality of research; organization of material; writing ability; interesting writing style; and feedback from the readership. Some consideration is also given to each author's level of activity within DRI; virtually all of the nominated authors are individual members of DRI. Typically, between six and eight articles are nominated. Complete copies of the nominated articles, along with brief summaries, are presented to the DRI Officers on or around July 1 for selection of the award recipient.

Recommendations for nominees are welcome and should be **submitted via this form** by July 1, 2026.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding these awards or the nomination process, please contact Awards@dri.org.

DEADLINE FOR ALL NOMINATIONS: JULY 1, 2026

We encourage you to submit entries for each of the awards to be presented.

JOHN R. KOURIS PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

PAST RECIPIENTS

John C. Trimble
*Awarded Posthumously

Nancy Parz
Chicago, Illinois

Mark R. Beebe
IADC Past President New
Orleans, Louisiana

Evelyn Fletcher Davis
ADTA Past President
Atlanta, Georgia

Howard A. Merten
FDCC Past President
Providence, Rhode Island

CRITERIA

The John R. Kouris Presidential Award is among the highest distinctions given to an individual or organization that has made extraordinary contributions to the legal community.

The nominee should be a committed supporter of DRI with long-standing involvement and/or distinguished support of DRI, its mission, and its members. The nominee should demonstrate active and outstanding commitment to improving DRI programs, opportunities for members and a history of positive impact on education programs, public policy, or guidance to members.

SELECTION PROCESS

The award is presented by the President at the DRI Annual Meeting. It may not be given every year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding these awards or the nomination process, please contact Awards@dri.org.

DEADLINE FOR ALL NOMINATIONS: JULY 1, 2026

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