

Declaration of Candidacy

Candidates for election as Second Vice President or Director Elected Nationally must complete this form and submit it to the Executive Director at the principal headquarters of DRI by 5:00 PM (CDT) on July 1st of the year in which the election is held.

National Director Requirements - Directors Elected Nationally or by Region must be Individual Members of the Corporation admitted to the practice of law. Each such director must meet the following qualifications at the time of election: (a) The candidate shall have been a DRI member for a total of at least five (5) years, and (b) The candidate shall have been a member of at least one DRI substantive law committee for at least three (3) years, and (c) The candidate must have registered for and attended at least one (1) DRI Annual Meeting within the previous three (3) years, and, within the three (3) years prior to the final day of the Annual Meeting, the candidate must have 1) registered for and attended at least two (2) DRI seminars, or 2) registered for and attended one (1) DRI seminar and one (1) DRI Regional Meeting.

Position sought

Second Vice President* Secretary- Treasurer National Director

*If you have declared your candidacy for Second Vice President and are not the successful candidate, will you consider the Secretary - Treasurer Officer position?

Yes No (N/A)

Name Christopher T. Sheehan

Firm/Company: Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP

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Born (location) Detroit, MI

Education: BA, University of Arizona, 1989; JD, University of Arizona College of Law, 1992, Cum Laude

Awards and achievements: Ares Fellow, 1990-1991, Outstanding Oral Advocate, 1991,

University of Arizona College of Law; AV Preeminent Rated by Martindale Hubbell since 2002;

Rated a Top Lawyer in Chicago since 2012; Outstanding Service Award 2004, 2009, Illinois Masters Swimming Association.

Areas of practice: Products Liability, Commercial Litigation; Intellectual Property Litigation

Years as a defense attorney: 25

Employment history: Keck, Mahin & Cate (1992-1996); Kelley, Drye & Warren, LLP (1996-2005);

Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon, LLP (2005-2009); Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP (Since 2/2009)

Noteworthy defense work: Represented Union Carbide, Praxair and Honeywell in toxic tort

work in Chicago for several years; currently national products counsel for Plano Synergy;

successfully defended software developer in trade secrets trial in Illinois; successfully

represented 900 N. Michigan Ave. shopping center at trial in radius restriction case.

Professional affiliations: Illinois Defense Counsel; Chicago Bar Association;

DRI member since: 1999

Please describe your previous involvement in DRI, including but not limited to, leadership positions held. Projects contributed to, Committee memberships, presentations given, and written materials authored. Special accomplishments should also be noted.

DRI Leadership Positions:

Marketing Chair, Business Litigation Seminar, 2013; Membership Chair, Commercial Litigation Committee, 2012-13; Vice Chair, Commercial Litigation Committee (2013-15); Chair, Commercial Litigation Committee (2015-17);

DRI Publications:

“Illinois Class Action Law,” DRI’s Compendium on Class Action Law, Spring 2011; “Bad To The Bone’ - 7th Cir. Bars Plaintiffs’ Class Action Lawyer From Filing Copycat Lawsuits,” DRI Business Suit E-Newsletter, November 2010; “Misappropriation of Non-Trade Secret Information Actions,” DRI’s For The Defense, October 2008; “Illinois Trade Secrets Law,” Compendium on Trade Secrets and Non-Compete Clauses, DRI Publications, May 2008 (Supp. 2014); “Strategies for Defeating Class Certification in Mass Tort Cases,” Exploring Toxic Tort and Environmental Liability Claims, DRI Publications, July 2007; “Defending Trade Secrets Claims,” DRI Defending Intellectual Property Compendium, Vol. 2, DRI Publications, March 2007 (Supp. 2013)

DRI Presentations

“Video Gaming in Illinois – A Jackpot for Your Establishment?” Retail & Hospitality Industry Attorneys, 2014; “Trade Secret Litigation Trends,” DRI Business Litigation and Intellectual

Property Litigation Seminar, New York, NY, May 2012; "Invasion of the Class Action Privacy Lawsuits," DRI Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., October

List any leadership roles in other defense organizations.

Chair of firm's Class Action Practice Group; Past Chair of Commercial Litigation Practice Group

Describe your goals if you are elected to the above position. DRI has been a fantastic vehicle for me in my professional development. If elected, I would like to work to give others in the defense bar the chance to participate in DRI and gain access to the network of fantastic lawyers by increasing membership and involvement in the organization and in the committees.

What do you believe is the most important issue confronting the defense bar? The plaintiffs' bar has developed a tremendous network to share information, refer clients, share theories of liability against our clients, and work to sway the bench in their favor. As a defense bar, it is incumbent upon us to work collectively to level the playing field by sharing information, referring clients, and working to educate the judiciary through the NJFE.

Define the appropriate role for DRI as the national defense bar organization. The most important function I see DRI playing, as noted above, is in the role of combatting the bombardment by the plaintiffs' bar of their message to the public, the judiciary, and our elected officials. Through the efforts of the NJFE, DRI's Amicus program, and lobbying, we can best insure that we are working on behalf of our clients to insure a fair and balanced legal system.

Hobbies and/or interests: I have been a fairly avid runner and swimmer, and continue to enjoy the never ending battle against time and gravity that working out provides. I am active with United States Masters Swimming, acting as a board member for my local club, race director for a 5K swim every year in Lake Michigan, and trademark counsel for the organization. I am also a board member of Swim Across America, a charitable organization that raises money to fight cancer. I also act as an assistant coach for my daughters when they and their coaches will let me.

Family: My wife, Trish and I, will celebrate our 25th anniversary in August, and have 4 daughters: Maggie (21), Millie (17), Trinity (15) and Maura (7).
