



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

Name Emily G. Coughlin

Firm/Company Coughlin Betke LLP

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Born (location) Baltimore, Maryland

Education Juris Doctor, Suffolk University Law School (1989, Cum Laude)
Bachelor of Arts, History, Brown University (1984, Cum Laude)

Awards and achievements

- Massachusetts Defense Lawyer of the Year Award (MassDLA) (2017)
 - Each year, the MassDLA honors one lawyer with this award based upon the candidate's trial and defense experience and the candidate's contribution to the legal community and to MassDLA and its mission.
- International Association of Defense Counsel - Trial Academy Faculty (2015)
 - The Trial Academy is one of the oldest and most respected programs for developing defense trial advocacy skills. Faculty consists of leading defense lawyers selected on a national basis that are well-recognized trial lawyers with extensive trial experience. The seven-day intensive program blends faculty instruction and demonstration with student participation.
- Recipient of DRI Outstanding State Representative Award (2013)
 - The State Representative award is "given to the State Representative who has enhanced the public's view or role of the defense lawyer to the broader society."
- President, Massachusetts Defense Lawyers Association (MassDLA) (2012)
Vice President (2011)
Treasurer (2010)
Secretary (2009)
Board of Directors (2002 - 2012)
- Massachusetts Joint Bar Committee on Judicial Appointments (2009-2012)
- Massachusetts Task Force on the Future of Peremptory Challenges (2009-2011)
- Massachusetts Task Force on Plain English Jury Instructions (2009-2010)
- International Association of Defense Counsel (By Invitation Only)
- Massachusetts Super Lawyer
- Litigation Counsel of America (By Invitation Only)
- Association of Defense Trial Attorneys (By Invitation Only)
- Peer Review, AV Preeminent Rated, Martindale-Hubbell

Areas of practice

Civil Litigation defense on behalf of small & large businesses, healthcare providers, and insurers in construction-related litigation, employment liability, professional liability, products liability and premises litigation

Years as a defense attorney 28

Employment history

Coughlin Betke LLP	(Boston, MA) (1996 - present)
Parker, Coulter, Daley & White	(Boston, MA) (1989 - 1996)

Noteworthy defense work

I have 28 years of broad civil defense trial experience representing small and large corporations, emerging businesses, individuals and insurers in general liability, products and premises litigation, construction-related litigation, employment litigation, professional liability, and coverage litigation. The following is an example of the broad range of my cases:

- Defense of doctors and hospitals in a variety of employment, civil rights and other general litigation matters
- Defense of health care provider in ERISA litigation by former employee
- Defense of doctor and hospital in fraudulent misrepresentation and interference with contractual relations claim involving probate dispute of deceased patient
- Representation and defense of owner of thousands of wireless infrastructure assets across the country in a Massachusetts dispute and litigation arising out of leases with 5 major wireless telecommunications carriers.
- Defense of negligent design/installation cases involving HVAC systems, products and components alleged to cause fires
- Defense of Construction defect/delay claims
- Defense of wide variety of personal injury claims arising out of construction, including a tower crane collapse killing and injuring numerous of workers
- Noteworthy defense work also includes drafting and submission of a number of Amicus briefs on behalf of the Massachusetts Defense Lawyers Association, some of which are available on the MassDLA website at www.massdla.org.

Professional affiliations

I am a member of the following associations:

- International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC). Membership to the IADC is by invitation only after extensive peer review.
- Association of Defense Trial Attorneys (ADTA). Membership to the ADTA is by invitation only after peer review. The ADTA invites only one defense trial attorney to be its prime member per one million in population for each city, town or municipality across the U.S.
- Litigation Counsel of America (LCA), Fellow. LCA is an invitation only “honorary society of the best trial lawyers” on both sides of the bar.
- American Bar Association
- Massachusetts Defense Lawyers Association (MassDLA)
- Massachusetts Bar Association
- Women’s Bar Association
- Hellenic Bar Association (Massachusetts)
- Association of Greek American Women Professionals
- Massachusetts Joint Bar Diversity Roundtable

DRI member since 1997

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.

The following is a summary of my DRI activities:

- National Director, DRI Board of Directors (2014 – 2017)
- Immediate Past Chair, DRI Membership Committee (2017)

- Chair, DRI Membership Committee (2015 - 2016)
 - During my tenure as Chair of Membership for DRI, DRI rolled out an entirely new membership recruitment and engagement strategy to focus on attracting new members who would be engaged in DRI.
 - This strategy included a new membership recruitment toolkit, with a seven-step recruitment process, focused on spreading the message on the return on investment of DRI Membership.
 - The strategy also included instituting and launching new incentive programs for seminar recruitment, SLC recruitment, and SLDO recruitment.
 - By the end of my tenure, full dues paying member recruitment increased by approximately 50% over the previous year for both SLCs and State Representatives.
- Vice Chair, DRI Membership Committee (2014 - 2015)
- DRI Board Liaison to Young Lawyers Committee (2016-2017)
 - Board Liaison is responsible for overseeing the Young Lawyers Committee on behalf of the Board and acting as a liaison between the Committee and DRI Officers and Directors.
- DRI Board Liaison to Construction Law Committee (2014 - 2016)
 - Board Liaison is responsible for overseeing the Construction Law Committee on behalf of the Board and acting as a liaison between the Committee and DRI Officers and Directors.
- DRI Governance Committee (2015 – 2017)
 - The Governance Committee is a standing committee of DRI responsible for review and update of bylaws, articles of incorporation, and other Board policies.
- DRI Board Liaison Training Committee (2016 - 2017)
 - The Board Liaison Training Committee is responsible for developing good practices for Board Liaison relationship with SLC.
- DRI Annual Meeting Steering Committee, Chair Sponsorships & Exhibits (2016)

- DRI Annual Meeting Steering Committee, Vice-Chair Sponsorships & Exhibits (2015)
- DRI Massachusetts State Representative (2010 – 2014)
- DRI Outstanding State Representative Award (2013)
- DRI SLDO Relationship Committee (2010-2013)
 - The SLDO Relationship Committee is a standing committee focused on enhancing and improving the relationship between DRI and the State and Local Defense Bar organizations.
- Member of DRI Annual Meeting Marketing Committee (2012 – 2014)
- Member of DRI State Liaison Outreach Committee (2012 – 2014)
- Member of DRI Construction Law Committee
- Member of DRI Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Committee
- Member of Employment Law Committee
- Member of DRI Technology Committee
- Member of DRI Women in the Law Committee

List any leadership roles in other defense organizations.

International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC)

- Member since 2005
- Chair, IADC Massachusetts Membership Committee (2017 - 2018)
 - Responsible for identifying and peer-reviewing new IADC members in Massachusetts.
- IADC Midyear Meeting Steering Committee (2017 - 2018)
 - This Committee is responsible for identifying, developing and securing Major CLE programming and speakers for the 2018 Midyear IADC Meeting.

- IADC Annual Meeting Steering Committee (2015 - 2016)
 - This Committee was responsible for identifying, developing and securing Major CLE programming and speakers for the 2016 Annual IADC Meeting.
- IADC Trial Techniques & Tactics Committee, Vice Chair, Defense Counsel Journal (2015-2017)
- IADC Trial Academy Faculty (2015)
 - Faculty consists of leading defense lawyers selected on a national basis that well-recognized trial lawyers with extensive trial experience. The seven-day intensive program blends faculty instruction and demonstration with student participation.

Massachusetts Defense Lawyers Association (MassDLA)

- President (2012)
- Vice President (2011)
- Treasurer (2010)
- Secretary (2009)
- Board of Directors (2002-2012)
 - Responsible for forming Young Lawyers Division of the MassDLA.
 - Responsible for forming MassDLA's first substantive law committees.
 - Responsible for organizing and chairing numerous seminars and programs through the years and speaking on various panels, including two incredibly successful "Women in the Courtroom" seminars (first of their kind in Massachusetts).
 - Organized and presented at numerous other seminars and programs through the years.
 - Wrote several Amicus Briefs submitted on behalf of MassDLA in support of issues of importance to the defense bar and their clients, including Amicus Briefs in two Massachusetts cases challenging the constitutionality of Massachusetts' 12% prejudgment interest rate, at a time where the going market rates are often less than 1%. The cases were disposed of prior to decisions on this issue.

Describe your goals if you are elected to the above position.

If elected to the office of Second Vice President for DRI my goals would be: (1) to continue the work I began as Vice Chair and Chair of Membership to increase membership recruitment & engagement in the organization; (2) to focus particularly on recruiting and attracting new diverse and young defense lawyers; (3) to continue to work to strengthen the relationship between DRI and the state and local defense organizations (SLDOs); (4) to strengthen DRI's relationship with corporate and industry partners and stakeholders.

Rapidly changing demographics has resulted in a coming wave of retirements from the defense practice as well as from the organization. At the same time, technology and social media has brought a new generation of young lawyers that may find less value in in-person networking. One of my goals will be to continue to work with DRI leadership on membership recruitment and engagement of young lawyers in the organization. In order to do this, I believe we need to continue to find ways to adapt to the needs of younger lawyers by serving and providing services to these members in new and creative ways. Attracting and engaging diverse defense lawyers in the organization will also be one of my objectives. I would like to lend my energy to further develop both a diversity and inclusiveness strategy that recruits and retains lawyers of diverse gender, socio-economic, color, ethnicity, sexual orientation and geographic backgrounds.

The two pillars of DRI are the substantive committee leadership (SLCs) and the State Representatives from the SLDO side. My broad experience and work on the SLDO side of DRI, combined with my position as Chair of Membership in which I worked intimately with the SLC side of DRI, makes me well positioned to work on continuing to strengthen the relationship between DRI and the SLDOs. I believe that stronger relationships between DRI and SLDOs will help each achieve a better understanding of the value the other has to offer. By joining forces, DRI and the SLDOs can mutually reinforce the benefits of membership on the state, local and national level. Through collaboration both DRI and the SLDOs can better represent, and be more effective in anticipating and responding to the needs of, their membership.

As the leader of the defense bar, DRI represents not only private practice defense lawyers but also corporate partners and industry stakeholders. One of my goals would be to continue to work with DRI to attract, recruit and engage more corporate counsel and industry professionals. By engaging more members from corporations and industry, DRI can better appreciate the needs of and service the clients it represents. In addition, more members from corporations and industry will allow for even better CLE and networking opportunities all around. Increased corporate membership will better position DRI to provide even more cutting edge CLE topics that are relevant to both defense lawyers and their clients. In addition, increased participation by industry and clients will also attract and retain more private practice defense lawyers who are frequently being asked by their firms to justify DRI membership by identifying networking and business opportunities.

What do you believe is the most important issue confronting the defense bar?

The most important issues confronting the defense bar include: 1) the disappearing jury trial; 2) the urgent call for diversity and inclusion in our law firms; and 3) the transformation in our practices driven by rapidly advancing technology. First, the disappearing jury trial is of critical importance. Not only are fewer cases being tried, but clients are also choosing to have the most senior lawyers try their cases. As a result, young lawyers are not learning or developing the skills they need to be the next generation of defense lawyers. Interestingly, the paradox is that some defense lawyers also believe that their skills may not be as highly valued as they once were.

Second, there is also an urgent need for diversity and inclusion in the defense practitioners' law firms. Law firms and businesses have only just begun to add diverse lawyers. In 2017 and beyond, defense firms will no longer be made up of just senior and junior members. Rather, they will need to be made up of three or even four generations of diverse professionals with different experiences, values, needs, and priorities. In addition, the juries and clients of the present and future defense bar are equally as diverse. Today's juries, and our society as a whole, may reflect the greatest diversity of age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and socio-economic status than ever before. Successful defense lawyers need to mirror that diversity in their law firms and corporations, and need to develop inclusion strategies to help those diverse lawyers grow and develop as successful professionals.

Third, not only is technology changing the subject matter of our cases, but it is also transforming the nature of our practice and profession. Tomorrow's defense lawyers will need to be educated in constantly changing subject matter to keep up with their own cases. They will also need to have the agility to adapt to constantly advancing technology in their workplace. Adapting to this unprecedented high-velocity and dynamic environment will likely be critical to our shared success as professionals and to the success of our organization. Finally, the nature of law firms and legal professionals is also changing. With the rise of artificial intelligence and deep machine learning, much of what lawyers do may be augmented or eroded by new automated intelligent systems. As a result, the nature of defense practice is likely to evolve as well. Separate and apart from the above, the alternative business structures (ABS), which allow non-lawyer ownership of law firms, is another serious concern for the defense bar. Although efforts to bring ABS to United States firms has been slow to adopted, success in other countries make this an important issue that the defense bar must remain acutely aware of.

Define the appropriate role for DRI as the national defense bar organization.

The role of DRI, as a national defense organization, is to be the thought leader and voice of the defense bar. Its role is to identify critical changes in the environment and to anticipate how the profession as a whole will respond most effectively. DRI is uniquely positioned to serve this role. The Board is made up of not only National Directors, Regional Directors and Officers but also, ex officio members from our sister organizations (officers of IADC, ADTA and FDCC). Because DRI welcomes that input, DRI is able to commit to partnering, collaborating, and not competing with them, in order to serve the defense bar in its entirety. As a national defense bar, DRI should also represent the diversity of the profession. It should strive to give diverse defense lawyers leadership opportunities early in their careers and through their work life.

Hobbies and/or interests

I enjoy traveling, cooking, playing guitar, and performing and/or listening to a cappella music. I am bilingual in Greek and proficient in Spanish.

Family

I have been married to my husband, Joseph Coughlin, Ph.D., for over 31 years. We have two daughters, Mary (24) and Catherine (14). Despite the Irish last name, both daughters speak, read and write Greek.