

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: Rosary A. Hernandez

Firm/Company: Tiffany & Bosco, PA

Address: 2525 E Camelback Rd., Suite 700

Telephone: 602.452.2735

Cell Phone: 602.469.3878

E-mail: rah@tblaw.com

Born (location): Dallas, Texas

Education: **University of Texas at Austin**, Austin, Texas, B.A. 1990

University of Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana, J.D. 1993

Awards and achievements: AV Preeminent rating since 2014. Athena Award Nominee 2017. Arizona's Finest Lawyers – 2013 to present, Top Lawyers in Arizona, 2016-2018 by The Legal Network, Named to list of Lawyers of Distinction, Top 10% in the USA, 2017

Areas of practice: Commercial litigation, construction, professional malpractice

Years as a defense attorney: 25

Employment history: Phoenix, AZ - Tiffany & Bosco, 2014 – to present, Shareholder, Currently serving as first female on Executive Committee. Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman, Shareholder and Managing Partner of Phoenix office, 2011-2014, Righi Hernandez 2009-2011, Founding Partner, Koeller, Nebeker, Carlson & Haluck -2000-2009, Partner. Involved in litigation practice in Texas and California from 1993-1999, job relocation to Arizona in 1999.

Noteworthy defense work: Defended national builders in construction defect claims in Phoenix area. Obtained lowest per home award for large subdivision. Prevailed on MSJ resulting in dismissal of all claims against brokerage firm. Defended, resolved through motion practice, arbitration numerous large and complex matters to success conclusions,

Professional affiliations: Homebuilder's Association of Central Arizona, Board of Directors.

Esperanca Charity, Former Board of Directors for 10 years, National Hispanic Bar Association, Los Abogados (AZ affiliate), State Bars of Arizona, California, Texas and New Mexico.

DRI member since: 2004

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.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Vice –Chair 2015-2017, Chair 2017-2019,

Steering Committee since 2012, Nominating Committee – 2014 Annual Meeting,

Annual Meeting Steering Committee for Laura Proctor and John Cuttino,

Construction Committee – Steering Committee -2012, Finance Committee Appointment

List any leadership roles in other defense organizations: State Bar of Arizona, Construction

Section Board of Directors, Maricopa County Bar Association, Former Vice –Chair and Chair

Construction Section, Arizona Association of Defense Counsel – Former Board of Directors.

Homebuilders Association of Defense Counsel Attorney Member on Board of Directors,

Arizona Association of Defense Counsel, Former Board of Directors

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

In addition to fulfilling DRI’s primary mission, I am also interested in delivering enhanced value and tangible “take-aways” for our members and seminar attendees. This includes better integration of the affinity group members into DRI leadership and substantive law committees. Substantial research establishes that diverse groups with differing thoughts and perspectives, achieve enhanced results and reach better decisions. To achieve impactful progress and integration, all the affinity groups need to reach a broader audience and buy-in from decision makers in law firms and companies.

As a starting point, we can create a user-friendly diversity and inclusion presentation, which will focus on the practical impact of diversity in actual practice, such as jury selection. Not only is this consistent with recent efforts to include trial skills, it takes diversity from a value to a tangible resource.

The short-term goal will be to create a D&I presentation available to all the SLCs for seminar planning purposes. D&I members, in conjunction with the SLC leadership and seminar steering committees, can deliver the presentations. Particular practice areas could even tweak the content to maximize applicability. This will also require strengthening of the liaison positions for all the affinity groups.

Another goal is additional focus on business development skills. Although all understand the importance of generating business, it is often difficult to learn these skills absent exposure to firm marketing and pitch efforts. With collaboration of the D&I leadership, we implemented a “pitch” program for the first time during the D&I Seminar in New Orleans. Consistent with the skill development programming, the “pitch program” is designed to assist lawyers with developing business by demonstrating different styles based on a scripted set of facts. The in-house counsel then immediately provided real time analysis and feedback.

Better integration among the SLCS and affinity groups will enhance committee performance, and providing hands on business development training will assist lawyers in growing their respective practices, increasing their leverage within their firms and each member's ability to participate in DRI programs.

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

In this time when personal attacks on the judiciary and vitriolic partisanship rule the day, it is critical that all lawyers safeguard the legal system and the fundamental values it protects. Growing up as a first-generation Cuban-American, I have a deep and profound understanding of how crucial these values are to the everyday lives of individuals. My parents fled communism and left behind their entire lives to live in a democratic society. Consequently, as a lawyer and daughter of immigrants, I am steadfast that Constitutional principles of free press, due process, equal protection under the law and judicial independence must remain sacrosanct. As members of the bar, we all have a societal imperative to be mindful of our larger role in upholding the rule of law and ensuring democratic principles and values remain intact. As defense lawyers, we must defend our clients and act in their best interests while vigilantly safeguarding our legal system to ensure the fundamental blocks are protected.

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

As a national defense bar, DRI is tasked with assisting defense lawyers to obtain the requisite skill set and necessary tools to defend the rights of their clients. This includes skills training and staying abreast of legal trends and precedents as well as providing innovative access to expert and legal resources. DRI also serves a unique role by providing a national platform for defense lawyers to raise and openly discuss and debate critical legal issues in a timely and viable forum. Additionally, it creates opportunities for lawyers to develop professional networks and meaningful connections with attorneys across the country.

Hobbies and/or interests – traveling, reading, hiking and spending time with my family.

Family: Husband Mike Hernandez, three daughters, Chelsea, Madeline & Elena.
