



# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

Nicholas C Pappas

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Frost Brown Todd LLC

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Born (location) Gary, Indiana

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Education University of Notre Dame, '88, Accounting and Philosophy; Indiana University School of Law, Bloomington, '91.

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#### Awards and achievements

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2010 Indiana Defense Lawyer of the Year (Defense Trial Counsel of Indiana.)  
Chambers, Best Lawyers, Super Lawyers for many years.

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#### Areas of practice: Product Liability

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Years as a defense attorney 28

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#### Employment history

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Frost Brown Todd LLC (fka Locke Reynolds LLP) 1991 – present.

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#### Noteworthy defense work

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National Counsel for several consumer product, construction, agricultural, and mining equipment manufacturers. Have retained many fellow DRI members as local counsel throughout the country. Tried cases to successful defense verdicts in Alabama, Kentucky, Indiana, Iowa, South Dakota and Wisconsin. First Chaired the following cases at trial and appeal, making the following law: Barnard v. GM (Indiana Court of Appeals)- established for the first time in Indiana that plaintiff's fault causing the underlying accident is admissible in an enhanced injury case; Smith v. Joy (6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals) Established that Kentucky Rebuttable Presumption Statute of Frauds is not a "vanishing presumption" and it was not error to instruct the jury about it; Otieno v. Rolls Royce Corp (Indiana Supreme Court) established favorable Forum Non Convenience rule for first time by Indiana Supreme Court.

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#### Professional affiliations

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DRI, IADC, DTCL, Indianapolis Bar Association, Indianapolis Lawyers Club.

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DRI member since 1994

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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.

ACMIE SLG Newsletter Editor, Marketing Chair, SLG Vice-Chair and SLG Chair. Product Liability Seminar Chair, 2012. Product Liability Committee Panel Counsel Chair; Product Liability Committee SLC Vice Chair and Chair. Member of DRI Membership Committee (same time as SLC Vice-chair.) Indiana Liaison to the Annual Meeting Steering Committee, 2017 and 2018; Annual Meeting Mentor, 2017 and 2018; Authored numerous "From the Chair" articles as Committee Chair, and several other articles for FTD over the years. Product Liability Main Stage Ethics Presentation, "What Every Lawyer Can Learn from Abraham Lincoln." Various presentations to SLGs on discovery, experts, and trial presentation.

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List any leadership roles in other defense organizations.

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DTCI Transportation Law Section Chair (many, many years ago.)

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

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My primary goal as a member of the board would be to help DRI continue to evolve and remain relevant, and necessary, to its members. I would like to see the organization continue to evolve and adapt to the wants and needs of the defense bar, which are very different than the wants and needs of the defense bar in 1994, when I joined DRI. My goal would be to bring to the Board the perspective of a DRI member who for more than two decades has held many leadership positions in DRI's largest SLC.

On a personal level, my goal would be to continue to build relationships and network with fellow board members and officers.

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

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The vanishing jury trial, scarcity of the next generation of trial lawyer, and decreasing seminar attendance.

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

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DRI should provide a platform for its members to network, build relationships, expand business and deepen substantive legal knowledge.

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Hobbies and/or interests

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Weightlifting. Chicago Cubs. Notre Dame Football. Active in Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (former Parish Council Treasurer, Vice-President and President. No DRI leadership position could be as challenging as leading hundreds of Greeks.) Yardwork. I like power tools, equipment, and getting my hands dirty.

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Family

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My wife of 27 years, Tracy, is an attorney at Indiana Legal Services. Children: Elizabeth (25) Chris (22) and Annie (19). I am a first generation American on my mother's side, second generation on my father's side. My grandmother immigrated to this country in the early 20th century and three of her sons, including my father, fought in WWII. My mother was born in Bombay, India and grew up in Bagdad, Iraq. And I've lived in Indiana my whole life...

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