



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: Anthony J. Sbarra, Jr.
Firm/Company: Hermes, Netburn, O'Connor & Spearing, P.C.
Address: 265 Franklin Street, 7th Floor, Boston, MA 02110
Telephone: (617) 210-7755
Cell Phone: (617) 686-7995
E-mail: asbarra@hermesnetburn.com
Born (location): Boston, MA
Education: University of Massachusetts at Amherst (B.A. 1985)
Suffolk University Law School (J.D. 1988)

Awards and Achievements:

2019 DRI Leadership Conference Membership Recruitment Award

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| 2018 | DRI Leadership Conference Membership Recruitment Award |
| 2018 - 2020 | <i>Best Lawyers in America</i> – Personal Injury/Defense |
| 2017 | ABA/TIPS Most Innovative Committee Award |
| 2017 | ABA/TIPS Committee Chair Certificate of Appreciation |
| 2017 | DRI State Leadership Award |
| 2017 | DRI Leadership Conference Membership Recruitment Award |
| 2016 | DRI Leadership Conference Membership Recruitment Award |
| 2012 | DRI Exceptional Performance Citation |
| 2012 | MassDLA Outstanding Leadership and Dedication Award |
| 2011 - 2020 | <i>Super Lawyer</i> – <i>Boston Magazine</i> |
| 2011 - 2020 | 10.0 Avvo Rated |
| 2009 - 2020 | Peer Reviewed Elected Member – ABOTA |
| 1998 - 2020 | Preeminent AV Rated – <i>Martindale Hubbell</i> |

Areas of Practice: Broad civil defense trial practice experience in general liability, premises liability, dram shop/social host liability, construction-related litigation and motor vehicle liability. More recent emphasis on asbestos litigation and product liability litigation. Elected by trial attorney peers as member of ABOTA in 2009.

Years as a Defense Attorney: 31

Employment History: Shareholder - Hermes Netburn, Boston, MA (2011 – present)
 Shareholder - Campbell, Campbell, Edwards & Conroy, Boston, MA (2004 - 2011)
 Senior Trial Attorney - Lynch & Lynch, South Easton, MA (1989 – 2004)

Noteworthy Defense Work:

I have 31 years of civil defense trial experience representing individuals, insureds, insurers, businesses, corporations and product manufacturers. I have tried to verdict over 30 superior court and 60 district court cases. The majority of these were in Massachusetts, but I have also tried cases in Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York. Some of those matters are described below:

Baptiste v. Briggs

Defense verdict obtained in Plymouth Superior Court where plaintiff, who sustained permanent injuries in motor vehicle accident, alleged that adult defendant negligently supervised operator who was intoxicated at time of accident.

Pola v. Huck

Summary judgment obtained in Barnstable Superior Court in paraplegia case where plaintiff alleged that professional tree cutting was “inherently dangerous” activity.

Argemma v. DeLuca

Defense verdict obtained in Worcester Superior Court where plaintiff alleged that lack of handrail on attic stairs proximately caused fall resulting in permanent back injuries.

Pelligrino v. Marchant

Defense verdict obtained in Lowell Superior Court where plaintiff alleged that defendant was liable for tree falling on car causing permanent head injuries.

Lazaro v. Ferreira

Defense verdict obtained in Fall River Superior Court where plaintiff alleged that he was permanently injured when struck from the rear by defendant's vehicle.

Wright v. Chisholm

Defense verdict obtained in Somerville District Court (jury of six) where plaintiff alleged permanent scarring from dog bite.

Howard v. Scannell

Defense verdict obtained in Lowell Superior Court on causation after court directed verdict for plaintiff on issue of liability.

Courtemanch v. AT&T

Defense verdict obtained in Lawrence Superior Court where plaintiff alleged defendant Construction Company negligently maintained scaffolding system.

Fitchburg v. Juliano

Declaratory judgment action defeated at summary judgment stage in Norfolk Superior Court where homeowner's carrier declined coverage for social host claim.

Medeiros v. Chrysler

Summary judgment obtained in Plymouth Superior Court in favor of automobile manufacturer in asbestos/mesothelioma case after Special Master recommended denial of motion.

Petty v. General Motors

Summary judgment obtained in Bridgeport Superior Court in favor of naval engine manufacturer due to lack of sufficient expert product identification testimony.

Kroskob v. Detroit Diesel Corporation

Dismissal of claims obtained in Providence Superior Court in asbestos/mesothelioma case just before jury selection.

Owens v. MacMillen

Defense verdict obtained in Plymouth Superior Court where plaintiff sustained permanent facial/eye injuries while constructing a deck at defendant's home.

Zdanowicz v. Zides

Defense verdict obtained in Suffolk Superior Court where plaintiff fractured leg while delivering oil to defendant's home.

Pactovis v. Moran

Defense verdict obtained in Norfolk Superior Court where plaintiff fractured hip when she fell at a donut shop after being bumped by the defendant.

Wagner v. Leroy

Defense verdict obtained in Plymouth Superior Court where plaintiff fractured both hips, requiring surgery, after tripping over a holiday decoration (pumpkin) while delivering packages to the defendant's home.

Epro v. Letendre

Defense verdict obtained in Norfolk Superior Court where plaintiff sustained shoulder injuries falling while filling his car with gas at the defendant's service station.

Watson v. Aubert

Verdict of \$2,400 in dog bite case in Fall River Superior Court. Plaintiff alleged permanent scarring and nerve/leg injuries and demanded \$100,000. Settlement offer prior to trial was \$15,000.

Ortega v. Roman

Defense verdict obtained in Hamden Superior Court where plaintiff fractured leg falling on snow and ice on the defendant's driveway.

Gonsalves v. Martin

Defense verdict overturning a plaintiff's award from the District Court obtained in Fall River Superior Court in motor vehicle accident case.

Switzer v. Hamilton

Defense verdict obtained in Middlesex Superior Court where plaintiff sustained facial and head injuries with resulting vertigo after being hit by a shot-put thrown by the defendant at high school track practice.

Lewis v. Valle

Defense verdict obtained in Middlesex Superior Court where plaintiff sustained wrist injuries after an altercation with her sister-in-law at a family holiday gathering.

Scully v. McGrath

Defense verdict obtained in Suffolk Superior Court where plaintiff fractured leg when struck by wedding guest while dancing at the defendant's premises.

Andrade v. Andrade

Defense verdict obtained in Plymouth Superior Court where plaintiff fractured both feet and legs falling from the defendant's roof.

Hostetter v. ArvinMeritor, Inc.

Summary judgment awarded in mesothelioma case where plaintiff through documents, but not testimony, claimed he was exposed to Rockwell brakes allegedly installed in Mack trucks. Rockwell prevailed on argument that "a" supplier was not the same as "the" supplier. This was the first contested summary judgment motion awarded to an asbestos defendant in Providence Superior Court in over 20 years.

Centerplan Construction v. Connecticut Doubleplay

Summary judgement awarded to the Hartford Yard Goats minor league baseball team in dispute over construction of Dunkin Donuts Park. The plaintiff claimed that the team and its owner tortuously interfered with its contracts with the City of Hartford. The case was in the Hartford Superior Court Complex Litigation section and, despite Connecticut's high summary judgment burden, the

defendants were able to illustrate that no such interference occurred as a matter of law.

Professional Affiliations:

- DRI member since: 2002
- Massachusetts Defense Lawyers Association (MassDLA) (See details of leadership positions below)
- Massachusetts Bar Association
- Defense Counsel of Rhode Island
- American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)
- American Bar Association – Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (See details of leadership positions below)
- American Bar Foundation – Life Fellow

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.

Positions:

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|-------------|--|
| 2019 – 2020 | Chair – State Membership Chair Subcommittee – Membership Committee |
| 2019 – 2020 | Vice Chair - SLDO Relationship Committee |
| 2018 – 2020 | DRI Membership Committee |
| 2018 – 2020 | SMC Liaison – New England |
| 2019 – 2020 | Asbestos Medicine Seminar Steering Committee |
| 2011 – 2020 | Asbestos Medicine Seminar Marketing Committee |
| 2017 – 2020 | Annual Meeting Marketing Committee |
| 2017 – 2019 | Massachusetts State Membership Chair |
| 2015 – 2017 | Massachusetts State Representative |
| 2002 - 2020 | Northeast Region Committee |
| 2002 - 2020 | Litigation Skills Committee |
| 2002 - 2020 | Products Liability Committee |
| 2002 - 2020 | Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Committee |

DRI Awards:

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|------|--|
| 2019 | DRI Leadership Conference Membership Recruitment Award |
| 2018 | DRI Leadership Conference Membership Recruitment Award |
| 2017 | DRI State Leadership Award |
| 2017 | DRI Leadership Conference Membership Recruitment Award |

- 2016 DRI Leadership Conference Membership Recruitment Award
- 2012 DRI Exceptional Performance Citation

Presentations:

- 2020 Asbestos Medicine Seminar – Main Stage Presentation “These are Not Your Father’s Evidence Battles – Recent and Recurring Disputes Surrounding Genetic Testing and Tissue Digestion” (Scheduled for November, 2020)
- 2017 Defense Counsel of Delaware – Annual Dinner Presentation by Invitation - “Building Defenses through Depositions”
- 2016 Asbestos Medicine Seminar – Main Stage Presentation “Pulling Back the Curtain – Are Those Independent or Exclusive Organizations Really Independent or Exclusive?”
- 2014 Asbestos Medicine Seminar – Breakout Session Presentation “Fact Witness Depositions: Building Your Defenses”
- 2013 Asbestos Medicine Seminar – Main Stage Presentation “Confronting Nonsense with Common Sense – Thoughts on Cross-Examining the Every Exposure Counts Expert”

Publications:

- 2020 DRI During COVID-19 – Thanks for Throwing Me a Line! – *The Voice*
- 2020 Tales from a Defense Lawyer – Coping with COVID-19 and How DRI Can Help – DRI “A Conversation with ... ” Podcast
- 2017 DRI – It’s Personal – *The Voice*
- 2016 “Pulling Back the Curtain – Are Those Independent or Exclusive Organizations Really Independent or Exclusive?” – Seminar Course Materials Article
- 2014 “Fact Witness Depositions – Building Your Defenses” – Seminar Course Materials Article
- 2013 “Confronting Nonsense with Common Sense – Thoughts on Cross-Examining the Every Exposure Counts Expert” – Seminar Course Materials Article

While I will describe my contributions to DRI in chronological order below, I wish to emphasize at the outset my most recent efforts in that regard. Almost immediately after the Annual Meeting in October, 2019, I decided to become more involved with DRI at a leadership level and requested that I be given the opportunity to do so. Put simply, I did not want this to be a “dormant” year. Instead, I wanted to demonstrate that my commitment to DRI was increasing rather than staying the same or decreasing. As is often the case with DRI, my

request were quickly honored, and for that I am grateful. My recent contributions have been in three new (or newer) areas.

First, Anne Talcott, as incoming Chair of the Membership Committee, appointed me to a new position within that committee. I am the Chair of the SMC Subcommittee now, and have served in that role since before the new DRI year began. I am the leader of the SMCs throughout the country and in Canada. My responsibilities in this capacity include setting the agenda for and running the national conference calls. Anne, Jodi Terranova, Gary Grubler and I have been working with the SMCs to assist them with their efforts to recruit new members and meet their recruitment goals.

Before the COVID-19 crisis (more about that later), we developed a “small task” strategy to enable the SMCs to leverage their recruitment efforts with upcoming DRI events. My job in this context is to provide the SMCs with content for email communications to be used in conjunction with this program. I am also tasked with following up with the SMCs, assisting with additional information and keeping track of all of the SMC reporting efforts. As is to be expected, with the onset of Covid-19, new DRI member recruitment has appropriately been relegated in terms of priorities. This has not, however, resulted in the abandonment of communications with and support for DRI members generally, and the SMCs in particular. On the contrary, we have continued to hold most if not all of our calls, with the focus now on how we, together, can cope with this crisis. While taking substantial time and not really advancing the traditional goals of the Membership Committee, these efforts have been surprisingly rewarding. Reaching out to DRI member during this crisis, if only to ask “How are you doing?” has further demonstrated to me just how necessary and “human” our organization is. As we begin the process of re-opening our businesses, DRI will do so as well. I am hopeful that, within a short period of time, we will be able to re-start the membership recruitment activities and that these efforts will begin to again bear fruit.

Second, in addition to my Subcommittee Chair position, Phil Willman asked me to serve as Vice-Chair of the DRI SLDO Relationship Committee. The relationships between DRI and the SLDOs are vital going in both directions. In that capacity, I am assisting Chair Jon Berkelhammer and the rest of the committee with improving the back and forth between DRI and the various SLDOs. We are producing an updated and improved Power Point presentation for DRI representatives to present at state and regional meetings. We have also revived the SLDO Relationship Committee Community Page and are using it to increase communications on this topic. Attendance during committee calls has been excellent, even during the COVID-19 crisis, and I am confident that the committee will be successful.

Third, I decided to become more involved in the production of one of DRI's most successful programs, the Asbestos Medicine Seminar. This seminar typically attracts over 1000 attendees. To do so, I reached out to Evelyn Davis and Bruce Bishop, who have been putting on the seminar for years. Evelyn and Bruce graciously invited me to serve on the Steering Committee for the program. Together with Evelyn, Bruce, Masha Kashani Tippins, Jennifer Cout, Jennifer Snyder Heis and Jessica Burgasser, I have been working on the program since January. After countless hours and conference calls, we have secured the facilities, obtained the sponsors, set the topics and arranged for the speakers. I am honored to have been selected to present on the main stage for the third time in my career, this time on the constantly evolving subject of genetic testing. As of now, the seminar is scheduled to take place in early November in San Diego. As with anything these days, time will tell. I am confident that the Steering Committee will be able to adapt if forced to change or alter these plans. As of the time of this submission, the Steering Committee had just decided to begin plans for conversion of the seminar to virtual programming should that be necessary. It looks like we are back to work - calls are scheduled and I will be working with the others to make such a virtual program a success.

In addition to these efforts, I also attended and presented at this year's Leadership Conference in January. At the request of Doug Burrell, I spoke to the attendees about DRI new member recruitment and how to be a successful SMC. As the COVID-19 crisis unfolded, in May I also appeared on Frank Ramos' pod cast "A Conversation with ..." Frank and I discussed how defense lawyers were handling the crisis and how DRI can help.

I hope that these recent activities reveal my continuing commitment to DRI. None of this has been easy, but nothing of value is.

For a more historical account of my DRI experience, as Massachusetts State Representative, I received membership recruitment achievement awards for attaining at or near the quotas in question during the relevant years. Also, for each of the DRI Annual Meetings (Washington DC, Chicago and San Francisco), I organized (location, funding, food/beverage and entertainment) the Northeast Region's meeting and social event. I attended all or most of the MassDLA Board of Directors' meetings and kept the members apprised of all upcoming DRI events. I also assisted the MassDLA with procuring DRI keynote speakers for its Annual Meeting and Spring Seminar. I attended all or most of the MassDLA seminars and events, including the Winter Social and Annual Meeting and spoke about the benefits of DRI membership. I also attended all of the Northeast Regional meetings and participated in the various workshops and CLE events. In addition, I have attended all of the DRI Leadership Conferences (as an SLDO

officer, DRI State Representative and DRI State Membership Chair) to which I was invited.

As State Membership Chair, I again received membership recruitment awards for attaining at or near the quotas in question during the relevant years. I appointed a Vice-Chair and worked with him to recruit new members and renew the membership of lapsed members. I have spoken at MassDLA events, including the Annual Meeting as an SMC as well. As an SMC, I was asked to and prepared a joint presentation on SLDO/DRI relations at the Leadership Conference. For each of the years I have served as either State Representative or State Membership Chair, Massachusetts DRI membership has either remained steady or has grown. Massachusetts is one of the few states with more DRI members than SLDO members.

In 2018, I was appointed to the National Membership Committee. I attended the “fly-in” meetings before the Leadership Conference in 2018, 2019 and 2020. I regularly participate in Membership Committee conference calls. I have also served as an SMC Liaison for all of my years on the committee. In that capacity, I try to serve as a mentor to the SMCs to which I am assigned. I hold monthly conference calls with my group and submit monthly activity reports to the Membership Chair.

As a member of the Marketing Committees for the Asbestos Medicine Seminar and the Annual Meeting, I have worked to publicize those events and increase attendance. I have participated in regular conference calls and prepared and sent publicity-related email communications to SLDO members and other potential attendees.

As noted, I have been privileged to speak on the main stage of the Asbestos Medicine Seminar twice (and will be doing so again). I have also presented at a breakout session at that seminar. All three of those presentations involved having articles published in the course materials and available on the DRI website (I still get calls from attorneys with questions to this day). In 2017, I was invited by the Defense Counsel of Delaware to be a DRI speaker on deposition practice.

List any leadership roles in other defense organizations:

Massachusetts Defense Lawyers Association

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| President | (2011) |
| Vice President | (2010) |
| Treasurer | (2009) |

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| Secretary | (2008) |
| Board of Directors | (1999-2017) |
| Annual Meeting and Spring Seminar Co-Chair | (2010) |
| Annual Meeting and Spring Seminar Co-Chair | (2009) |
| Annual Meeting and Spring Seminar Co-Chair | (2008) |
| Annual Meeting and Spring Seminar Co-Chair | (2007) |
| Annual Meeting and Spring Seminar Co-Chair | (2006) |
| Annual Meeting and Spring Seminar Co-Chair | (2004) |
| Annual Meeting and Spring Seminar Co-Chair | (2003) |
| Annual Meeting and Spring Seminar Co-Chair | (2002) |
| Annual Meeting and Spring Seminar Co-Chair | (2001) |

As president, in addition to the typical responsibilities associated with the position, the organization was confronted with the surprise resignation of its Executive Director. Faced with this, I set up a small hiring committee and we secured the services of Stephanie Giancola. I am proud to say that Stephanie still successfully serves as the Executive Director of MassDLA. During my tenure, we were also able to complete efforts to correct accounting and record keeping deficiencies that had been in existence for several past years.

During my tenure as Co-Chair of the Annual Meeting and Spring Seminar, the meeting grew from approximately 100 attendees to consistently over 200. We were also able to significantly increase sponsorship of the event as the years progressed.

ABA – Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Committee

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| Seminar – Asbestos Panel Moderator | (2019) |
| Emerging Issues in Motor Vehicle Product Liability Law | |
| Seminar – Asbestos Panel Moderator | (2018) |
| Emerging Issues in Motor Vehicle Product Liability Law | |
| Ethics and Professionalism Committee | (2017) |
| Long Range Planning Committee | (2017) |
| CLE Board Member | (2017) |
| Products Liability Chair | (2017) |
| CLE Board Member | (2016) |
| Products Liability Chair Elect | (2016) |
| Ethics and Professionalism Committee | (2016) |
| Seminar – Asbestos Panel Moderator | (2016) |
| Emerging Issues in Motor Vehicle Product Liability Law | |
| Products Liability Committee Vice-Chair | (2015) |
| Seminar – Asbestos Panel Moderator | (2015) |
| Emerging Issues in Motor Vehicle Product Liability Law | |

Seminar – Asbestos Panel Moderator (2014)
Emerging Issues in Motor Vehicle Product Liability Law
Seminar – Asbestos Panel Moderator (2013)
Emerging Issues in Motor Vehicle Product Liability Law
Seminar – Asbestos Panel Moderator (2012)
Emerging Issues in Motor Vehicle Product Liability Law
Seminar – Asbestos Panel Speaker (2011)
Emerging Issues in Motor Vehicle Product Liability Law
Seminar – Asbestos Panel Speaker (2010)
Emerging Issues in Motor Vehicle Product Liability Law

During my tenure as Chair of the Products Liability Committee, the committee was able to exceed the section’s institutional requirements regarding membership, presentations and publications. The committee received the “Most Innovative Committee” award and I was given a certificate of appreciation from the ABA.

I was also involved with the early planning and presentation of the motor vehicle asbestos/friction portion of the Emerging Issues in Motor Vehicle Product Liability Law Seminar. After my eight years as the moderator of the panel, what started out as an experimental program is now a mainstay at the seminar.

American Conference Institute

- 2016 Asbestos Seminar - Main Stage Presentation
“Component Part Supplier Claims and Asbestos Equipment Litigation –
The Bare Metal Defense: Dispatches from the Front”
- 2015 Asbestos Seminar – Main Stage Presentation
“What Do You Ask These Guys? – Cross Examining Plaintiffs’ Causation
Experts”

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

If elected as a National Director, I realize that I will be joining an exclusive team of extraordinarily dedicated, talented and committed defense attorneys. If so honored, I hope to contribute to and draw from the collective wisdom of the Board to further the interests of DRI, help it grow in profile and stature, better equip it to serve its members and position it to boldly stride into the future. I recognize that this is a tall order, but believe that it, like all worthy goals, is worth the effort. That said, with the onset of COVID-19, everything has changed.

Even so, for DRI to maintain and increase its prestige and relevance, it must continue its CLE excellence, continue to provide and increase its public support

for defense oriented but reason based tort policies (perhaps better said, provide a balance to the plaintiffs' bar's public pronouncements and lobbying efforts), continue to increase membership and be willing to adapt and change with the times to accomplish all of this.

My bar association experience is somewhat unique. While working my way up the MassDLA/DRI ladder, I also spent some time with another group, the ABA's Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section. As described above, I held significant leadership positions with TIPS and achieved success there. It was a valuable experience; I learned a lot, made great friends and I am glad that I had the privilege of doing it. As time moved forward, however, work and life pressures accumulated and I had to choose where I would focus my efforts.

Quite frankly, the choice was an easy one. Given its organizational structure, quality of CLE, financial situation and strength of membership, I believe in DRI's future and am a better fit in DRI. That said, having had the TIPS experience will assist me in serving the DRI Board. I was intimately involved with one of the more successful TIPS stand-alone CLE programs for almost 10 years. I effectively chaired one of the largest and most active substantive law committees in the section. Having lived through the ups and downs of these experiences gives me a perspective that those who have not been active in other organizations may not have.

As explained above, I came up through the ranks of the MassDLA, then became the Massachusetts State DRI Representative, the Massachusetts State DRI Membership Chair and am now the Chair of the Membership Committee's SMC Subcommittee. Given my long and extensive experience on the SLDO side of DRI, I am well equipped to work on the goals outlined above. With the MassDLA, I witnessed first-hand how DRI and SLDOs can work together to achieve what are very often mutual aspirations and objectives. When I was an officer with the MassDLA, we received significant assistance from DRI. This continues today. Not only did DRI provide well-received (and free) speakers for our Annual Meetings, but when faced with an unexpected trial procedure change (attorney conducted voir dire), we worked with DRI to put together a substantive and badly needed seminar in record time. The assistance went both ways. When the DRI Annual Meeting was in Boston, the MassDLA gave full support, marketed the event and successfully recruited attendees.

Because of my experience working with and through the SLDO/DRI relationship, I have been asked to make presentations on the subject at the last three DRI Leadership Conferences. Also, Phil Willman, perhaps recognizing my familiarity with these issues, asked me to serve this year as Vice-Chair of the SLDO

Relationship Committee. If elected to the Board, I will continue to support DRI collaboration with the SLDOs. It is important, and benefits all concerned.

My recent DRI experience in terms of positions held has focused on membership. I was appointed to the Membership Committee in 2018. To be sure, this is a vital issue for the sustenance of the organization. To be honest, however, I have always been and still am terrible at asking people to do things, especially things that require a financial commitment. Despite this, I have had some success over the years. This is not due to my salesmanship skills.

In my experience, if accurately described, the benefits of DRI membership sell themselves. The CLE and networking opportunities are obvious, but there are other things that DRI offers that, in my view, need to be better communicated to prospective members. *LegalPoint* is just one example. With less effort than a Google search, one can tap into materials from For the Defense, the In-House Defense Quarterly, Committee Newsletters, the Defense Library Services, DRI Seminars and the DRI Defense Wins Reporter. This is an incredible resource and I fear that it is not being publicized nearly enough. If elected to the Board, I will work to do so.

Recruiting new members to DRI really involves the fundamental goal of the organization, which is providing value for membership itself. The two go hand in hand and should be pursued simultaneously. One of the jewels of the DRI is the quality of its CLE programs. In the early 2000s, my practice developed from traditional insurance defense to focus more on products liability defense. Included with the products work were and are cases involving asbestos.

The DRI Annual Asbestos Medicine Seminar is quite frankly the best program on this area of litigation in the country, and I have attended most of the others. After my first one, I decided to become involved and joined the marketing team. After a few years, I marshalled some courage and submitted a paper and proposed presentation. Since then, I have spoken on the main stage twice, and in breakout sessions several other times. The opportunity to work with and among the best attorneys and experts in the nation in this field is, to use the most overused word in my kids' vocabulary, awesome. I now have a network of professionals throughout the country to whom I can and do turn often. As noted above, I am presently intimately involved with the production of this year's seminar and will be speaking at it.

One reason why this seminar is so successful is the outside counsel meeting program with which it is associated. Because of DRI incentives, many institutional clients hold their outside counsel meetings in conjunction with the seminar. This makes the seminar a "must attend" for most asbestos defense lawyers. While this program has been offered for some other DRI seminars, I believe that it will work for most, if not all of

them. If elected to the Board, I will work towards expanding this program when we are able to plan and have in-person seminars. The concept may well be adaptable to virtual programs as well.

As indicated at the outset, the opportunity to join a group as distinguished as the DRI Board of Directors is both humbling and aspirational to me. I am certain that I can and will learn from everyone on the Board and that, working together, we can keep DRI moving forward with these and other ideas.

I would be missing the “big picture,” however, if I did not address the changing landscape DRI and other organizations face due to the COVID-19 crisis, and the struggle for social justice and equality. As we push through them, I am amazed at how much I have come to rely on DRI for support. We often, sometimes in passing, speak of the personal relationships we develop as DRI members. These relationships have come to the forefront for me as we muddle through. Social media contacts with DRI members, conference calls, Zoom meetings such as the “coffee breaks” organized and led by Emily Coughlin and other communications have illustrated that DRI is at its best in times of crisis. We have adapted to constantly changing and challenging times with grace, support, dignity and even humor. DRI is its people, and they have and continue to come through.

I was expressing these thoughts recently during a Membership Committee Zoom conference. Lana Olson asked me to write a quick “testimonial” for the website, which of course I did. Instead of remaining a brief website piece, DRI decided to run my thoughts in *The Voice* as a stand-alone article. I hope that these types of messages about DRI become more common, and I will work to see that this is so.

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

For every organization, coping with COVID-19 is paramount. Clearly, we will need to offer more virtual programming. Equally important is recognition of, and support for, those in our society who have been mistreated and underappreciated. These are larger issues than whether we are able to increase our membership, train better defense lawyers or have nicer events. I am proud of the public statements issued by DRI in support of equality and social justice. I am also proud of how DRI has acknowledged the need for improvement with these issues and am confident that we, as an organization, can address them. The new DRI Town Hall series which began with a session entitled “*Acknowledging Systemic Racism: The Personal Experience and How to be an Ally*” is an excellent example of how we can advance these goals as an organization. Quite simply, we need more of these.

That said, the fading emphasis on trial skills, professionalism and civility remains an important issue confronting the defense bar. The increasing rarity of jury trials contributes to it, as does the fact that it is monumentally difficult for younger attorneys to acquire courtroom experience. Evolving demographics also play a role. Law firms are more multi-generational and diverse than ever before. Despite the different values, needs and priorities among us, we must not lose sight of our overarching common goal – to be the best, most decent, civil and professional trial lawyers that we can be. The defense bar needs to stress that we are all engaged in an honorable profession, and not just a job.

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

DRI is the preeminent defense organization in the country and should continue to be so. It should work with, and not against, its sister organizations and SLDOs to continue to provide value to its members and to promote policies that benefit the public at large. This necessarily includes promoting policies, within the organization and publically, that advance the causes of inclusion and social justice.

In my view, the COVID-19 crisis, and the recent upheaval related to issues of social justice provide DRI with opportunities in addition to challenges. We are about to begin living in a “new normal.” DRI can and must adjust to whatever comes its way. While we all want to return to robust in-person seminars in exciting cities, this may not happen for a while. Virtual CLE programming and other DRI meetings will become even more important as we move forward. DRI will need to improve its technical abilities and make sure that its virtual programming is evolving and keeping up with the times.

Also, DRI has always emphasized and engaged in charitable and public support activities such as those promoted by DRI Cares and DRI for Life, especially during its meetings and seminars (how many bikes have we assembled and back-packs have we filled?) Given the increased national interest in social justice issues, DRI can and should increase public awareness of how it as an organization has consistently stood for charity, diversity, inclusion and equality. To a large extent, we are already doing the work. We should let others know about it.

But, defense lawyers continue to have an image problem. John Grisham’s heroes are never the defense attorneys. Justice is a two way street. Why is it that only when plaintiffs’ lawyers win a large verdict has “justice” been served? Is it not “justice” when an individual or business wrongfully accused of severely injuring a plaintiff is told by a jury that the tragedy was not his, her or its fault? Having represented such defendants, I can say that it certainly is for them. Best-selling novels, television and movies have glamorized plaintiffs’ attorneys and villainized

defense attorneys for years. This must have an effect on juries. DRI speaks for all defense lawyers, members and non-members alike. Working towards improving the public perception of the defense bar is something that DRI can and should do.

Hobbies and/or interests:

The Grateful Dead, UMass football, basketball and hockey, Boston professional sports teams, skiing with family, reading history and keeping goldfish.

Family:

Married to Attorney Laura Richards (29 years). Sons Daniel and Andrew and daughter Lily. Dogs Teddy, Ernie, Leo and Ralph. Goldfish Woodward and Bernstein.