



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

KRISTEN E. DENNISON

Littleton Park Joyce Ughetta & Kelly LLP
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Place of Birth:

Attleboro, Massachusetts

Education:

The Pennsylvania State University, B.A. International Politics	1996
The Georgetown University School of Law, J.D., <i>cum laude</i>	2000

Awards and achievements:

Public Service Award from Dean of Georgetown University 2000

Areas of practice:

- Product Liability, including agricultural, construction, and industrial equipment, automobile, aviation, toxic torts, medical devices, consumer products, and pharmaceutical
 - Commercial Litigation
 - Business Litigation
 - Advanced Motions and Appeals
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Years as a defense attorney:

I have been practicing as a defense attorney for 20 years.

Employment history:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| • Immigration Court Law Clerk Intern | 1999 |
| • Cozen O'Connor | Summer 1999, 2000-2002 |
| • Campbell Campbell Edwards & Conroy | 2002-2011 |
| • CNH Industrial America LLC | 2011-2019 |
| • Littleton Park Joyce Ughetta & Kelly LLP | 2019-present |
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Noteworthy defense work:

Over the course of my career, I have tried a number of cases for Ford Motor Company and Omega Flex. Throughout my private practice career, I have briefed and argued for changes in Pennsylvania product liability law, culminating in the seminal case of *Tincher v. Omega Flex*, Chester County, PA, which, on appeal, overruled long-standing Pennsylvania law on product liability. While I left private practice after trying the *Tincher* matter, and was not involved in the appeals, I developed the underlying briefing and preservation of the issues for the appeal. While at the Campbell firm, I oversaw the Advanced Motions and Appellate Group. I have briefed and argued appeals before the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, the New Jersey Appellate Division, and the Pennsylvania Superior Court. Most recently, my partner and I were successful in obtaining a dismissal for lack of Article III standing in *Thorne v. Pep Boys*, a putative class action alleging damages

from a violation of a record-keeping procedure. That matter is currently on appeal before the Third Circuit.

In 2011, I left private practice for eight years to go in-house at CNH Industrial America LLC. While at CNH, I was able to work with the company in litigation-prevention strategies through advising the company's engineers, buyers, field personnel, and others on risk prevention and providing training to many of these groups on responsible corporate communications and important legal terms in agreements. Additionally, I implemented and successfully executed a two-day intensive corporate witness training. As with many companies, CNH was challenged with corporate witnesses who were nearing retirement or were consulting from retirement, with little to no succession planning. This two-day intensive training helped identify potential corporate witnesses and provide them with a skill-set to handle aggressive deposition strategies from the plaintiffs' bar. Incredibly, the first program was so successful, managers were asking for their employees to attend the second program.

Professional affiliations:

ABA
DRI
IADC
Pennsylvania Bar Association
Federal Bar Association
The Federalist Society

DRI member since:

I have been an active DRI member since 2008.

Previous involvement in DRI:

I have been an active DRI member, contributing to DRI publications, presenting at seminars, attending numerous seminars, including Annual Meeting, Appellate Advocacy, Corporate Counsel Roundtable, Diversity & Inclusion, Product Liability, and Women in the Law. I have attended Corporate Counsel Fly-Ins since 2015, and put together and led the 2019 Corporate Counsel Fly-In.

As the Corporate Counsel Liaison to the Product Liability Committee, I increased attendance by obtaining CLE credit for the breakout session and moving the session so that it was not presented at the same time as the SLG breakout sessions, as each of those sessions had corporate counsel speakers which prevented them, and often their colleagues, from attending.

In the Corporate Counsel leadership, and particularly over the last two years, I have led the way for, and been successful in, increasing the steering committee, filling leadership roles, and increasing participation in steering committee calls. We have established a Diversity subcommittee and have been actively working with the Diversity & Inclusion Committee to increase diversity within the steering committee and the leadership.

While not on the committee, I have assisted with this year's Annual Summit, securing Ford Motor Company's and CNH Industrial America's General Counsel as speakers and agreeing to moderate the session. DRI leadership knows that I will assist with and produce results in any tasks asked of me. As you will note from the below, lengthy list, my passion for DRI and its development is apparent and well-known to all of those with whom I have worked at DRI.

Committees:

Product Liability Committee Member since 2008

Attended Product Liability Seminar 2008, 2012-2020

Appellate Advocacy Committee Member since 2008

Attended Appellate Advocacy Seminar 2008

Corporate Counsel Committee Member since 2012

Attended Annual Meeting 2018-2019

Women in the Law Committee Member since 2019

Attended WITL Seminar 2020

Presentations:

- Band of Sisters: Better Together, 2020 Women in the Law Seminar
- You Can Learn a Lot Just by Watching: Lessons Learned from Litigation, SCAD SLG Breakout, 2018 Product Liability Seminar
- Ethical Issues & Privilege Pitfalls for In-House Lawyers, Corporate Counsel Breakout, Product Liability Seminar, Feb. 2018.
- A Higher Standard – Ethical Issues & Privilege Pitfalls for In-House Lawyers.” Presentation for DRI Corporate Counsel Roundtable, Jan. 2018.
- Persuasive Writing for Young Lawyers, YL Breakout, 2015 Product Liability Seminar

Publications:

- Dennison, Kristen E., Harris, Bridget, and Holcombe, Stephanie, “Band of Sisters: Better Together”, Sharing Success, The Newsletter of the Women in the Law Committee, Volume 10, Issue 1, June 25, 2020.
- Dennison, Kristen E., “What I Learned About Business Management from DRI’s Business Principles for Lawyers Program.” DRI In-House Defense Quarterly, Spring 2017.
- Dennison, Kristen E., “Build a Better Brief: Tips for Persuasive Legal Writing.” For the Defense, October 2010, 78, 87.

Leadership Positions:

- Corporate Counsel Committee Liaison to Product Liability Committee 2015-2017
 - Developed Break-Out Content 2015: Networking for In-House Lawyers
 - Developed Break-Out Content 2016: Finance for In-House Lawyers
 - Developed Break-Out Content 2017: Attorney-Client Privilege Pitfalls for In-House Counsel
 - Developed Break-Out Content 2018: Affirmative Recovery: Turning Your Law Department into a Profit Center
- Corporate Counsel Committee Second Vice-Chair 2017-2018
- Corporate Counsel Committee First Vice-Chair 2018-2019 (Chair of C3 changed jobs and I took over most of the responsibilities as Chair)
- Corporate Counsel Committee Past Chair Liaison 2019-2020 (Assisting Chair in running committee)
- Product Liability Steering Committee 2017-present
- Product Liability ACMIE Marketing Chair 2019-2020
- Product Liability ACMIE Vice Chair 2020-2021
- Women in the Law Seminar Counsel Connect Chair 2020-2021
- Women in the Law Vice Membership Chair 2020-2021
- Corporate Counsel Roundtable Steering Committee 2017-2019
- Corporate Counsel Roundtable Vice-Chair 2019-2020
- Corporate Counsel Roundtable Chair 2020-2021
- Attended Leadership Meetings 2018-2020
- Participation in philanthropic activities at seminars and meetings

Leadership roles in other defense organizations:

To date, I have not held leadership roles in any other defense organizations. However, I have co-authored an article for IADC, participated in IADC's Trial Academy, authored in article in ACC, and am now a member of IADC and its product liability committee. I am also seeking to become a faculty member for IADC's Trial Academy.

Publications in other defense organizations:

- Dennison, Kristen E., "Dealing the Best Deck: Succession Planning for In-House Witnesses." ACC Docket, May 2015, 76-81.
- Dennison, Kristen E. and Conroy, William J., "Defending the Punitive Damages Claim: How to Use Philip Morris v. Williams and Exxon Shipping Co. v. Baker." IADC Product Liability Committee Newsletter, May 2009.
- Dennison, Kristen E. and Toomey, C. Scott, "Restraining the Defense: The Fight to Admit Seatbelt Nonuse." Pennsylvania Bar Institute, September 2009.

I have held many other leadership roles in college, law school, my local area, and at work. Beginning in college, I served as Rho Chi Chair for sorority rushes and was invited to be a member of several leadership organizations. In law school, I served as Co-Chair Georgetown University Law Center's Annual Philanthropic basketball event (1999-2000); served on the Board of Directors for the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless (1999-2000); served on the Board of Directors for Twin Valley Youth Football League (approx. 2013 through 2015); was a member of my local Rotary Club; served as the Wellness Champion at CNH Industrial America LLC 2012-2017, where I ran the program for company's New Holland Technical Center location with approximately 450 employees; served as Chair for Robeson Elementary School's Annual Christmas Bizarre in approximately 2012 and 2013, taught religious education at my church, and coached youth sports as both Head and Assistant Coach for youth cheerleading and field hockey from 2012 through 2018.

Goals if elected as a National Director:

I have come up in the DRI leadership through the Corporate Counsel Committee. This provides me with a unique perspective that is much needed on the Board. I am an active advocate for increasing corporate counsel involvement not only in the corporate counsel committee, but more importantly, in DRI as a whole. I have seen DRI leadership bring corporate counsel issues to the forefront in recent years, and I want to continue that, bringing my experiences as a corporate counsel DRI member and my understanding of the needs of other corporate counsel DRI members to the Board of Directors.

As I have expressed to many in DRI leadership, when I was corporate counsel, I often felt like raw meat in a lion cage at networking events. This has begun to change in recent years as DRI has introduced programming, particularly in the Diversity & Inclusion and Women in the Law seminars, to teach lawyers how to pitch and how to establish authentic relationships with in-house counsel. In that vein, my immediate goals, if elected to the Board of Directors, are as follows:

1. Make DRI the go-to organization for corporate counsel through (a) targeting “Big-DRI” programming to corporate counsel (b) providing premier corporate counsel content and (c) creating a partnership with defense counsel and corporate counsel DRI members, which will develop as we continue to teach private practice attorneys, particularly the Young Lawyers, how to establish authentic relationships with corporate counsel so that corporate counsel will.
2. Increasing Corporate Counsel membership through (1) updating the website to be more user-friendly (2) increasing and improving content (3) increasing awareness of the committee and its benefits through strategic marketing.
3. Increasing Corporate Counsel involvement in leadership, seminars, programming, and networking in both the Corporate Counsel Committee and “Big-DRI”.
4. Increasing overall membership in DRI by bringing in new private practice attorneys for opportunities to meet, connect with, and form authentic relationships with corporate counsel.

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

Currently, COVID-19 and racism are the most important issues in the nation, and certainly the most important issues confronting the defense bar.

COVID-19 has changed the way the world does business. It has led to clients having to close their doors, either temporarily or permanently. It has led to layoffs, salary reductions, and never-before-seen legal and financial issues. Defense lawyers are learning to navigate this new remote-working world, many with limited at-home resources, through the introduction to conducting meetings, depositions, court hearings, arbitrations, and other business via zoom or related web-conferencing programs. We are only beginning to learn how to adapt to this new world and we don't yet know where it will go and how and if it will end. On top of COVID-19, recent events have catapulted racial issues to the forefront of the nation, leading to numerous changes with businesses, government, and social interactions. This, of course, is at the forefront of all organizations, including those involving the defense bar.

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

DRI is and should continue to be the leader of the national defense bar. As the leader of the defense bar, it should be front and center on ongoing and critical dialog on current issues impacting the defense bar and the nation, such as COVID-19, racism, and diversity and inclusion. It should offer cutting-edge programming and content and should look to break out of traditional roles to offer unique programming and content that makes DRI stand out from other organizations.

Hobbies and/or interests

Physical fitness (I am a group fitness instructor); avid reader of fiction; riding on our motorcycle with my husband; hiking; playing with my kids; escape rooms (because what defense lawyer doesn't like escape rooms?); skiing; boating.

Family

I've been happily married to my husband Bob (another lawyer, also member of DRI) for almost 18 years. We have been blessed with three amazing kids, Zach (age 17), Peyton (age 15), and Olivia (age 13). We also have 2 German Short-haired Pointers (Maggie and Bailey), 2 cats (Tessa and Nala), and a rabbit (Lightning).
