

Declaration of Candidacy

Candidates for election as Second Vice President or Director Elected Nationally must complete this form and submit it to the Chief Executive Officer 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 Matthew S. Hefflefinger

Firm/Company Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen

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Born (location) Carlisle, PA

Education: Juris Doctor, Southern Illinois University School of Law, 1989; Master of Business Administration, Southern Illinois University, 1989; Bachelor of Science, Bradley University, 1984

Awards and achievements

I have served as the Chair of our firm's Trucking Practice Group for the last six years, and we have been fortunate to experience consistent growth each year. I attribute much of this growth to the exposure that DRI has provided me as well as to our firm. I have handled the work of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA), the governing body of Illinois high school sports for almost 20 years. A number of matters for the IHSA have received a great deal of media attention, given the impact upon the lives of high school student athletes. I have been recognized as a Leading Lawyer in Illinois since 2014, Past President (2005-2006) of Abraham Lincoln American Inn of Court and was recognized as 40 Leaders Under 40 in 2000. I have always been active in the community, and was the founder of two local 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations dedicated to awarding college scholarships to area high school seniors.

Areas of practice: Trucking, Commercial Litigation, Construction and Product Liability

Years as a defense attorney: Since 1989

Employment history: Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen – 1989 to present

Noteworthy defense work: The bulk of my practice has evolved into handling catastrophic transportation related claims, although I have always handled a wide variety of cases touching upon a number of different industries and legal issues. I have never shied away from handling cases that are unique or novel simply because I am unfamiliar with the industry involved or a particular area of law. From approximately 2012 through 2018, I was involved in two cases in the Northern District of Illinois for the Illinois High School Association involving the rights of student athletes with disabilities. The original case was filed by the Illinois Attorney General, and the US Attorney General (Eric Holder) filed pleadings in the case associated with the application and scope of Title III of the ADA (12 CV 1155/12 CV 3758). The second case involved an ambulatory student athlete who sought to have a separate division created for him so he could win a State Championship in Track & Field (263 F.Supp 3d 705 W.D. Ill 2015 and 881 F.3d 587 (7th Cir. 2018)). The issues in the case had never been decided by an Appellate Court. We were successful in getting summary judgment in the District Court, which was affirmed by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in 2018. Both cases received a great deal of statewide/regional and some national media attention, given the scope of the issues involved.

Professional affiliations: Defense Research Institute (DRI); Trucking Industry Defense Association (TIDA); Transportation Lawyers Association (TLA); Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM); American Bar Association-(ABA)-TIPS Commercial Transportation Litigation Committee; Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel (IDC); Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA); Iowa State Bar Association; Peoria County Bar Association (PCBA); American Trucking Associations (ATA); Illinois Trucking Association (ITA); Iowa Motor Truck Association (IMTA); Abraham Lincoln Court Inn of Court

DRI member since 2005/Active since 2012

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.

Committee Memberships:

- Trucking Law Committee
- Litigation Skills
- Retail and Hospitality
- Law Practice Management
- Insurance Law
- Governmental Liability
- Diversity Inclusion
- Women in the Law
- CyberSecurity and Data Privacy

Presentations include the following:

- "Effective Team Building Strategies That Drive Results" - DRI National Leadership Meeting 2020
- "Collision Mitigation Systems: State of the Technology and Impact Upon the Trucking Industry" - DRI Trucking Law Seminar 2016*
- "Taking and Defending the Deposition of the Orthopedic Surgeon" - DRI Trucking Primer, 2015
- "Attorney and Company Perspective: Accident Response/Client Protection/Preservation" DRI Trucking Primer, 2013

*I was successful in getting a brand new International ProStar tractor parked in downtown Chicago, and a Lead Engineer for Navistar/International was with the truck during the presentation to discuss collision mitigation systems technology.

I began my journey with DRI attending the Trucking Law Seminar in Scottsdale, Arizona in February, 2012. I got involved in the work of the Committee and was fortunate to hold the position of the Annual Meeting Chair of the Trucking Law Committee for 2012. My involvement thereafter included 2013-2014 Vice Chair Membership; 2014-2016 Membership Chair; 2016-2018 Vice Chair Trucking Law Committee; 2018-Present Chair Trucking Law Committee.

Articles written for DRI include:

"Punitive Damages in Trucking Litigation: Recognizing Risk and Assessing Exposure"
In Transit - The Newsletter for the Trucking Law Committee (2012)

"Review of Broker Liability," *DRI For The Defense* (2014)

"Evidentiary Issues Involving Grief, Sorrow and Mental Suffering," *DRI, In Transit - The Newsletter for the Trucking Law Committee* (2014)

"*Dakter v. Cavallino*: An Anomaly or the New Normal?" *DRI, For The Defense* (2015)

"Supreme Court Limits the Scope of Personal Jurisdiction" *DRI, The Voice*, (2015)

One of the things that we have focused on in the Trucking Law Committee is inclusion and rewarding those who have done the hard work to advance the interests of the Committee. When this practice is consistently applied, people begin to recognize that they have opportunities to advance in the Committee by being committed to the Committee's goals and objectives. We try to foster a collegial, fun-loving atmosphere. We have also been very aggressive in making philanthropy a big part of the work of our Committee which helps develop togetherness and strengthens our Committee.

List any leadership roles in other defense organizations.

My involvement has been focused primarily upon DRI since 2012. I am a member of other associations, but they do not get my time, given I believe that DRI provides the greatest benefit for me both personally and professionally. I have been the Vice Chair of the TIPS Commercial Transportation Litigation Committee of the American Bar Association for a number of years and was past President of the Abraham Lincoln Inn of Court

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

The Trucking Law Committee has been blessed with great camaraderie amongst its members. We develop a closeness based upon the hard work of the Committee, as well as opportunities for us to interact in social settings. It is my hope that I can carry this forward in my position as a Board Member for DRI. One of the challenges we all face is getting everyone committed to the goals of our respective Committees, and it is my hope that I can help other Committees at DRI foster an attitude of promoting diversity, inclusion, growth and togetherness. If we do not strive to develop meaningful relationships, we limit our individual potential as well as the potential of the Committees we are involved in. It is also important that we take great strides to focus upon future leaders of the Committee and position them appropriately for future growth such that their leadership skills will benefit the Committee as time evolves. As I tell many people, "DRI is in my blood." I have been blessed through my involvement in DRI, and I hope to carry my affection for DRI forward in my work with other members and Committees should I be fortunate to be elected to the Board.

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

From a trucking perspective, one of the challenges the defense bar seems to encounter is an unwillingness to share information and educate each other. The plaintiff's bar is well organized, and we need to be equally well organized if we are going to handle matters successfully for our clients. DRI provides the best platform for us to share information such that we all become better lawyers and our clients are better served.

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

As part of my work in trucking, there are a number of national seminars that I attend. DRI provides unsurpassed legal education, whether it be through written materials, online programming or seminars. There are professional growth opportunities at DRI that allow us all to elevate our career in a way that no other professional organization can do. If you are willing to spend time “learning the ropes” and doing the hard work within your Committee, the success you will experience both personally and professionally is without limit. DRI is the premier defense bar organization and will transform your life.

Hobbies and/or interests: Running, Working Out, Golfing and Personal Development.

Family: Daughter, Payton, who graduated from Ole Miss in May and is spending an additional year at Oxford in the Accelerated Nursing Program
