



dri The Voice of the
Defense Bar™

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 x 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 Stacy Linn Moon

Firm/Company Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP

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Born (location): Annapolis, Maryland

Education: Cumberland School of Law at Samford University, 1998; University of Montevallo, 1990.

Awards and achievements: DRI Leadership Award, 2001; Graduate, Connect Huntsville Leadership Program (2007); Cumberland School of Law - Curia Honoris, Graduated magna cum laude, Member, Phi Kappa Phi, Member of Cumberland Law Review, Justice, Henry Upton Sims Moot Court Board

Areas of practice: Employment Law, Commercial Litigation, Construction Law, Personal Injury Defense; General Litigation Defense

Years as a defense attorney. 22

Employment history: Senior Counsel, Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP, July 2019 – present; Shareholder, F&B Law Firm (previously Fees & Burgess, P.C.), June 2011 – May 2019; Associate, Fees & Burgess, P.C., April 2005 – June 2011; Associate, Ferguson, Frost and Dodson, April 2001 – April 2005; Associate, Holtsford, Gilliland, Higgins, Hitson, and Howard (previously Nix, Holtsford, and Vercelli), May 1998 – April 2001. Before attending law school, I was flight attendant for American Airlines from October 1990 – August 1995.

Noteworthy defense work: Warden v. City of Guntersville, et al. – As sole trial counsel, I obtained a defense verdict in a case involving a brush truck being tipped over onto plaintiff's vehicle while it was sitting at a stoplight. Our client was driving the brush truck for the municipality, and he entered the intersection with a green light. He was unaware that a tractor-trailer was approaching the intersection without any brakes. He tried to avoid the collision at the last moment, but the tractor-trailer hit the brush truck on the rear side panel, causing it to tip over onto the plaintiff's car. In addition to receiving a defense verdict at trial during which the judge applied significant pressure to settle, we were able to recover the cost of the brush truck from the tractor trailer insurer (which had a diminishing policy), in spite of violations of confidentiality by the mediator. Milton, et al., v. City of Huntsville – as lead counsel, I defended a captain in the Fire Department against claims arising out of a serious accident. The plaintiffs were both very sympathetic, and their extremely serious injuries were undisputed. In the end, we were able to use plaintiffs' expert witness to establish that the fire truck had slowed down before entering the intersection while it was responding to a call and that the driver of their vehicle had tried to beat the fire truck through the intersection. The trial resulted in a defense verdict. Dawson

Building Contractors, Inc. v. City of Huntsville, Alabama – the case involved significant construction and design issues surrounding a municipal and county jail. Previous counsel took a position that was rejected by the Alabama Supreme Court, meaning a multi-million dollar claim by the COH became a multi-million-dollar liability. Working with other counsel at F&B, we reached a creative solution with Dawson, which essentially resulted in the COH and Dawson cooperating to recover damages from various designers and subcontractors on the project. The matter was finally resolved after approximately six years. While this case was strange, both because the COH started as plaintiff and we pursued claims against others, the ability to work with significantly adverse parties, including several who felt personally attacked during the course of the litigation, resulted in a significant cost-savings to the client. Campos v. Benchmark Electronics Huntsville, Inc. – as second chair in trial, I was challenged with finding a way to cross-examine the plaintiff in such a way that the jury would lose the sympathy it had developed for her. The case resulted in a defense verdict; Furin v. City of Huntsville, Alabama, 3 So. 3d 256 (Ala. 2008) (establishing that a municipality cannot be held liable for acting in accordance with federal regulations). In this reported case arising out of a serious flash flood, plaintiff tried to argue that the COH owed a duty to dredge a local waterway to reduce the opportunity for flooding. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which had jurisdiction over the area, had already banned that dredging. Although the proposition seems common sense, no cases in Alabama had addressed the situation.

Professional affiliations: DRI, Alabama Defense Lawyers Association, Birmingham Bar Association, Alabama Bar Association

DRI member since March 1999

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 Activities and Leadership Positions: Current Member, Membership Committee; Current Member, Small Firm Task Force (On-line programming Chair); Current Member, DRI for Life; Current Member, Seminar Committee Member, Construction Law; Current Chair, Pre-Trial Practice SLG, Commercial Litigation Committee; Immediate Past Chair, Law Practice Management Committee, 2017-2019; Vice-Chair, Law Practice Management Committee, 2015-2017 (including taking over duties of chair in 2018 as a result of chair's illness at the time); Membership Chair, Law Practice Management Committee, 2013-2015;

Chair, Marketing, Managing Partner/Law Firm Leader Seminar, 2016-2018 (including being the first in that position, organizing and developing marketing strategies for a unique seminar for DRI – with attendance limited to DRI members); Member, Planning Committee, Managing Partner/Law Firm Leader Seminar, 2016 – present; Editor, Employment Law Committee Newsletter, The Job Description 2015-2016; Member, Planning Committee, Employment and Labor Law Seminar, 2014-present; Planning Committee, Litigation Skills Workshop on 30(b)(6) depositions, attached to the 2019 Employment and Labor Law Seminar (including essentially being in charge of planning, assisting with locating volunteers for the planning and actual seminar, assisting with finalizing materials, and organizing the workshop, ensuring cooperation with the Employment and Labor Law seminar in light of concerns that the workshop was competing with, rather than working in tandem with, the main seminar, and organizing publicity for the seminar); Social Media Chair, Government Liability Steering Committee, 2013-2015 (approximately); Chair, Lawyers’ Professionalism and Ethics Committee (2009-2011) (including organizing the first Fly-in Meeting for Steering Committee of Lawyers’ Professionalism and Ethics Committee); Vice-Chair, Lawyers’ Professionalism and Ethics Committee (2007-2009); Editor, "Committee Perspective", Legal Professionalism and Ethics Committee, 2003-2007; Publications Chair, Lawyers’ Professionalism and Ethics Committee (2003 – 2007); Diversity Liaison, Commercial Litigation Committee, Business Torts SLG;. In addition to the committees mentioned above, I am also a member of the Aviation, Construction Law, Insurance Law and Women in the Law Committees.

Special Projects: Small Firm Task Force (2018-2019); Law Practice Management Advisory Group (2017 – present); External Revenue Source Task Force

DRI Presentations Given: Questions and Answers – Dealing with Owners and Employees in the Post Shutdown Construction Project, ToolBox Talk, Construction Law Committee; ADA Is Just the Beginning: Workplace Accommodation Obligations You May Not See Coming, DRI Employment and Labor Law Seminar 2019; 30(b)(6) Depositions: What You Want to Know; What You Need to Know; What You Should Know, Litigation Skills Workshop, Employment and Labor Law Seminar, 2019; Law Firm Culture: It Matters, DRI Managing Partner and Law Firm Leader Seminar 2018; Defining and Defending Retaliation Claims, DRI Employment and Labor Law Seminar 2017; Toll Road Ahead: The Use & Enforceability of Tolling Agreements, DRI Commercial Litigation Committee Annual Meeting “Firehose” Presentation, DRI Annual Meeting 2016; Viewing the Wage and Hour Claim from the Other End of the Telescope, DRI Employment and Labor Law Seminar 2015; New HIPAA Rules for Lawyers and Law Firms: You Need to Know Them!, DRI Life, Health, Disability, & ERISA Seminar 2014

Articles and Publications (not including Notes from the Chair): “Questions and Answers – Dealing with Owners and Employees in the Post Shutdown Construction

Project.” The Critical Path, Upcoming Edition; “It Depends: In House Counsel, To Attend or Not Attend,” For the Defense (“FTD”), March 2018; “Book Review, How to Train Associates by Frank Ramos,” FTD, July 2017; “Ethical Pitfalls of Social Media (or Can You Do That?),” FTD, Nov. 2016; “I Want to Work Forever (Or Why Law Firms Need to Perform Succession Planning),” It’s Your Business, July 2015; Co-Author, “How to Assess Delay Damages: How Critical Is the Critical Path,” FTD, June 2014; Author, 2006 A Young Lawyers’ Guide to Defense Practice (chapter on Balancing Professional and Personal Life); Co-Author, Young Lawyers’ Form Book, Chapter on Lead Cases (2001)

List any leadership roles in other defense organizations. Young Lawyers’ Committee, Vice President, Northern District 2005; Planning Committee, 40th Annual Meeting of the Alabama Defense Lawyers’ Association (Fall 2004)

Describe your goals if you are elected to the above position. First, I hope to work with various committees to increase the effective and efficient use of various social media platforms to engage our current members and attract our new members. Social media provides a free or low-cost way for members to continue connecting, receiving CLE, and making the personal connections so important to many DRI members. Using social media platforms also allows members to engage their clients and provide their clients with free but valuable information – making our members more valuable to their clients. Second, I hope to be a bridge between “big” DRI to the committees and the members who tend to want to be left alone to encourage communication and cooperation between the two. Finally, I hope to encourage committee members to communicate to “big” DRI with their unique or creative solutions to engaging current members and identifying new members.

What do you believe is the most important issue confronting the defense bar? Obviously, writing this in June 2020, the most important issue facing the defense bar (and broader) is how to address the disruption and opportunities created by the COVID-19 pandemic. From keeping the doors of firms open, to new technology (or lack thereof) to handle litigation effectively, COVID-19 has created a sea change of how to litigate matters. The changes created by COVID 19 have accelerated the concerns regarding overhead and costs to operate law firms. However, second, and related, the effect of COVID-19 on the cost of litigation is an important issue. Cases will take longer to litigate and will be more expensive. Even with remote depositions and mediations, when travel is necessary, it will be more expensive and more difficult. Fighting off attempts by the plaintiff’s bar to “short cut” the system will be necessary and essential. Already, some jurisdictions are considering reducing the number of jurors (which favors plaintiffs). Courts also are applying more pressure for defendants to pay something to get rid of a case.

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

DRI is in the position of being able to provide state judicial commissions and other similar organizations with expert advice and input regarding changes to the litigation process required by the COVID-19 pandemic. Added to the current climate regarding race and societal relations, it has a unique opportunity, particularly in light of its diversity strategy, to show the rest of the legal community how to effect internal change and encourage minority and under-represented participation and leadership. It also has the ability to advise Congress and state legislatures on needed, balanced, changes. As I write this, I am particularly thinking of the governmental liability committee. With the call to eliminate qualified immunity, that committee in particular can assist policy-makers in identifying needed changes, while still balancing legitimate protections for public servants.

Hobbies and/or interests: Hobbies - Vocal performance, running, cooking.

Interests – history, sports (all sports)

Family: Husband – Virgil Carthel (“Buddy”) Moon; one dog – Margaret May (“Maggie”) Moon
