

Education J.D., University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law (2002); B.A., Lyon College (1999)

Awards and achievements

Since 2020, *The Best Lawyers in America*® in the fields of Construction Law and Litigation; 2012-2016, *Mid-South Super Lawyers* “Rising Star” in general litigation; 2013, *Arkansas Business* “40 Under 40”; 2010, Center For Leadership Development, Distinguished Achievement Award; 2008, the *Indiana Lawyer* “Up and Coming Lawyers.”

Areas of practice Construction law, Commercial litigation, Products Liability; Outside General Counsel

Employment history (Please do not include years)

Wright, Lindsey & Jennings, LLP (Arkansas); Riley Bennett & Egloff LLP (Indianapolis); Mitchell, Williams, Selig, Gates, & Woodyard P.L.L.C. (Arkansas); Trammell Law Firm (Arkansas)

Noteworthy defense work

Bomasada Investment Group II, LLC V. Nationwide Structural, LLC (AAA Arbitration)-First chair, dismissal after first day of arbitration; *Whatley v. ReconTrust Co. N.A.*, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 125122 (E.D. Ark. 2010), dismissal for the defense; *Bedford v. Doe et al*, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 70649 (E.D. Ark. 2016), motion for summary judgment granted for defense; *Spears et al v. ReconTrust Co. N.A. et al*, 2013 Ark.App. 272 (2013), affirming dismissal for defense

Professional affiliations 1) DRI; 2) Arkansas Bar Association; 3) American Bar Association; 4) Construction Lawyers Society of America

Have you been a DRI member for 5 or more years? Yes, DRI member since 2008

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.

Chair, Construction Law Committee (2019-2021) (Davis Carr Outstanding Committee Chair Award 2020); Vice-Chair, Construction Law Committee (2017-2019); Program Chair, DRI Construction Law Seminar (2017); Program Vice Chair, DRI Construction Law Seminar (2016) Member, DRI Membership Committee (2019-2021) (State Membership Chair Liaison); Member, DRI Annual Meeting Steering Committee (2019-2021) (Chair, Substantive Law Programs (2021); Vice Chair Substantive Law Programs 2020)); Member, DRI Diversity Committee (2008-2021); Member, DRI Commercial Litigation Committee (-2021);

Presenter, DRI Leadership Fly-in 2020; Moderator, Where Do We Go From Here? How the Construction Industry Is Reaction to a Changing World, DRI Construction Seminar 2019; Moderator, DRI Diversity Seminar 2012 - How to Find and Get on For Profit Boards

Author, *Wondering About the New Normal, The Voice*, August 26, 2020; *From the Chair, You're Entering a Hard Hat Area*, For the Defense, February 2020; co-author Arkansas Chapter of DRI's *The Law of Life Insurance* state-by-state compendium (2017). DRI Construction Law Committee Newsletter, *Critical Path*:

Date	Title
04/06/2021	From the Chair: March and Still Madness
10/08/2020	Leadership Note: Thanks for Giving
07/09/2020	From the Chair: Here Comes the Sun
02/28/2020	From the Chair: What's Your Legacy? Let's Build It Together
12/26/2019	From the Chair: Winter Is Coming
03/29/2019	From the Vice Chair: Thinking Vegas
10/18/2018	From the Vice Chair: The Season to Get in the Game
04/06/2018	From the Vice Chair: I Hope You Dance
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List any leadership roles in other defense organizations.

DRI has been and continues to be my focus defense organization.

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

- 1) Ensuring that DRI is both substantively and socially relevant.** Nationally, our country's demographics are changing. In order to ensure that our membership efforts account for these changes, we have to balance our ability to deliver impactful substantive programming with our ability to be socially relevant. In the past, it was relatively easy to court diverse constituencies with promises and platitudes. However, organizations continuing to rely on such devices to attract members now do so at their detriment. There are too many competing organizations that are willing to take a stand and voice opposition to practices, policies, and law that are archaic, oppressive, and inequitable. If we are to ensure that DRI is sustainable into the future, we must seek to show constituencies that align with trending demographics that ours is an inclusive organization and aligned with their individual values.
 - 2) Leveraging Social Media to promote DRI and Attract Membership.** In order for DRI to maximize its outreach, it must not only focus on doing good but must also ensure that these accomplishments are general knowledge. Though far from the most astute consumer of social media, I readily recognize that absence from these platforms directly impacts our collective ability to be relevant. As discussed above, these efforts carry both a social and business imperative. They impact our ability to attract members, speakers for substantive programs, client attendance to programs, and DRI brand recognition, without which our membership in DRI is devalued.
 - 3) Exploring Business Solutions to Future Viability.** As lawyers, it is easy to lapse into a belief that the professional nature of the services that we deliver makes our work something different from a business. Both for us as individuals and for DRI, this misbelief is a danger to future sustainability. We must explore all available business solutions to viability. These potential solutions include both internal and external collaboration to produce a more sustainable model.
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What do you believe is the most important issue confronting the defense bar?

The most important issue confronting the defense bar is ensuring the long-term viability of the American judicial system. Our clients rely on these systems to vindicate their interests by providing a platform through which controversies large and small can be brought to final resolution. A cornerstone of the ability of the judicial system to deliver final adjudication of controversies is a belief on both side of a matter that the system is fair and impartial. Trust in that system is steadily eroding due to real and perceived inequities in the way in which justice is administered, lack of diversity that is reflective of society, and outsized influence of politics on judicial independence. Organizations such as DRI play a role in ensuring that our judicial system remains viable into the future.

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

The appropriate role for DRI is changing significantly due to factors that both precede and involve the pandemic. Those factors include shifting national demographics, social unrest surrounding equity and justice, and deteriorating trust in previously venerated legal and political institutions. The appropriate role of DRI is to ensure that the judicial system remains a viable option for our clients to obtain redress. DRI can and should do so by advocating for and supporting practices and policies that advance public trust in that system and voicing strategic opposition to those that do not meet this goal. To fully effectuate this goal, DRI must have a presence and voice in legislative policy-making, selection of qualified judicial candidate, diversity efforts that align with good policy, client-articulated agendas, and demographic shifts. While doing so, DRI must seek to continue to deliver cutting-edge programming across emerging on-demand and virtual platforms.
