



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: Gary L. Grubler

Firm/Company: Grange Insurance Company

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Education: High School – Linsly Institute, Wheeling, WV
B.A. – Wittenberg University, Springfield, OH (Business & English)
J.D. – Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, Columbus, OH

Awards and achievements:

2003 OH Association of Civil Trial Attorneys (OACTA) Distinguished Service award
2009 OACTA Distinguished Service award for Trial Tactics Committee Chair
2019 OACTA Frank Seth Hurd Member of the Year award

Areas of practice: Insurance defense, personal injury defense, insurance coverage

Employment history (Please do not include years)

Beery & Spurlock, Columbus, OH – represented trucking companies before regulatory agencies (Public Utilities Commission of Ohio & Federal Interstate Commerce Commission) as well as those companies' employment, workers compensation and corporate matters.

Sheppard & Bale, Columbus, OH – insurance defense (85%), collections work for Budget Rent a Car (10%), Plaintiff personal injury (5%).

Nationwide Insurance – In house manager of Nationwide's Columbus Trial Division office defending litigation against the company's insureds and the company as well as representing the company on coverage matters.

Grange Insurance Company - In house manager of Grange's Columbus House Counsel office managing attorneys and staff defending litigation against the company's insureds and the company as well as representing the company on coverage matters.

Noteworthy defense work

I have tried approximately 50 to 60 personal injury and property damage cases over the years, although as management responsibilities have increased in recent years, trials have decreased.

I have argued before numerous appellate courts in Central and Southern Ohio and argued before the Ohio Supreme Court on 3 occasions.

Professional affiliations: Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys, DRI, Claims and Litigation Management (CLM) Alliance

Have you been a DRI member for 5 or more years? Yes.

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.

I served as DRI's Central Region Director until 2020. I also served as Co Vice Chair of DRI's Membership Committee and sat on that committee by appointment for 4 years. In March of 2020 I was appointed to the Staff Counsel Membership Initiative Committee. In 2018 and 2019 I was appointed to DRI's Board of Directors Online Community. I am a member of the Corporate Counsel, Insurance Law, Litigation Skills and Diversity & Inclusion Committees. In 2020 I served as board liaison to the Diversity & Inclusion Committee and in 2018 and 2019 served as board liaison to the Lawyers' Professionalism and Ethics Committee. I have on several occasions been a speaker at OACTA seminars, most recently in 2013 for OACTA's Insurance Coverage seminar on insurance coverage intentional acts exclusions following an Ohio Supreme Court case I argued. I was to be a presenter on an in-house perspective to claim handling at the Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia's annual meeting in June of 2020, but the program was canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. I was scheduled to speak at DRI's Managing Partner Conference in September, 2020, but that program was also canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. It has been rescheduled for August of 2021, and I am pleased to again be on the agenda. At President Coughlin's request, in 2021 I am developing and leading a DRI Task Force targeted at recruiting and engaging insurance company in house attorneys.

List any leadership roles in other defense organizations.

I served on the Board of the Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys (OACTA) from 2000 to 2016, serving as Treasurer in 2007 and 2008, Secretary in 2008 and 2009, Vice President in 2009 and 2010, President in 2010 and 2011 and DRI State Representative from 2012 to 2015. I was OACTA's annual meeting Program Chair in 2003 and served as Chair of the Trial Tactics Committee from 2007 to 2009.

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

As would any officer, I would continue to implement methods to increase membership and retention. In that regard, I believe my many years on DRI's membership committee is valuable. In doing so, I would particularly focus on promoting several affinity group committees (Women in the Law, Diversity & Inclusion, Young Lawyers & Corporate Counsel) as a "home" for members or potential members of diverse racial, gender,

LGBTQ, socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds to share their common concerns or issues and where their often unique voices can be heard. A similar model could be used to promote membership in SLDO's, which I am convinced are the backbone of DRI. Further, I would like to develop a process in which DRI officers or board members, likely through the recommendations of committee chairs or board committee liaisons, would by email or letter promote exemplary engagement and performance of DRI young lawyer members to leaders in their firms and companies to enhance those young lawyers' leadership opportunities in their firms and in DRI, also causing firm and company leaders to promote further young lawyer membership and engagement in the organization.

If honored with the 2nd Vice President position, I would further promote what members in the McKinley study DRI conducted was a primary goal of membership – networking. As life moves into a post COVID-19 stage, I would like to identify creative methods for members to network, including increasing/enhancing corporate counsel membership and engagement and the staff counsel membership initiative to allow law firm attorneys more networking interaction with company decision makers. While, as an in-house lawyer, I am not invested in DRI for business referrals, I have had the pleasure of connecting the decision makers in my company who select counsel with numerous DRI members that I know are the “cream of the crop” defense lawyers. In 2021 I increased my company's DRI corporate counsel membership by 3, creating opportunities for those persons who retain counsel for the company and its insureds to network with the “best of the best” – DRI's law firm members. I would strive to create networking to make those opportunities available to corporate and noncorporate members.

I have managed an office of attorneys and staff for over 20 years. I will listen and always respect every person's perspective.

I have been heavily entrenched in OACTA (Ohio's SLDO) for over 20 years, having the honor of serving as OACTA's President in 2010 and 2011. At OACTA's request I have arranged for my company to host approximately a half dozen OACTA seminars over the last 10 years. Each year OACTA supports DRI with unmatched attendance of its leaders at DRI's annual meeting and regional meetings. I have, as a proud member of the Ohio contingent and more recently as a DRI leader, attended approximately 15 consecutive DRI annual meetings and regional meetings. My bar association focus for the last 20 years has been almost exclusively on OACTA and DRI. I believe my background would further help promote SLDO and DRI relations and common interests.

I obtain no clients through DRI membership or officer status. I enjoy no increased stature in my company, which strongly supports my decision to run, by becoming a DRI officer. A leadership role in DRI has no bearing on my involvement in other bar organizations. Very simply, I am running for the 2nd Vice President position

because I have a passion for the organization and feel my unique background as an in house lawyer adds a perspective that is valuable to every DRI member. Our law firm members routinely recognize business opportunities and connections as a major driver in their membership. Connecting with other law firm members certainly creates those rainmaking opportunities. Why not broaden our base with welcoming those who actually hire our law firm members?

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

I still believe the defense bar should better represent the population of jurors and should consist of more diverse attorneys. I feel the defense bar can better create opportunities for diverse and young lawyers.

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

DRI's role should continue to be focused on education, networking and weighing in on significant court or legislative matters involving the civil defense bar. DRI's CLE opportunities have always been top notch. The organization has in recent years enhanced virtual CLE offerings, and in 2020 was, like the rest of the world, forced to do so even more. It has succeeded, and as an officer I will continue to work with the Executive Committee to strengthen DRI's "virtual" presence while still embracing the essential "in person" opportunities. It must continue its rich tradition of offering top notch education to members, continuing as it has in 2020 to do so with more online options. Even with diminishing COVID-19 risks, CLE opportunities in the form of online programs will need to continue to be robust as people are growing accustomed to education without live attendance, and people will likely for some time to come re-examine their travel and group habits. I believe online CLE opportunities are a membership opportunities. The expense involved with in person CLE attendance may on some occasions cause companies and firms to shy away from membership, especially for young lawyers. The reduced expense and increased abundance of virtual CLE can create cost effective opportunities for new member engagement. The beauty of DRI is that once engaged, perhaps virtually, members will eventually crave the in person networking.

As travel and "in person" group attendance resumes, DRI should continue to be a leader in live substantive law seminars and must continue to do so to fill the other key role of the defense bar organization – *networking*. While the pandemic of 2020 has introduced everyone to various virtual networking options, there is nothing that can replace meeting and spending time with colleagues. As I indicated above, as an in-house attorney for an insurance

carrier, I am not engaged in DRI to get business. However, I have had the pleasure of connecting claims professionals in my company with several DRI members. As a DRI officer, I would continue to bolster networking opportunities so that DRI members can walk away from DRI events with new connections and potential new business.

While this “category” seeks a definition of DRI’s role as a “national” defense bar organization, I believe that DRI, like no other defense organization, is capable of directing greater focus on being an *international* defense bar organization. While changes in travel have caused face to face interaction with defense lawyers in other nations difficult, attorneys’ and bar organizations’ increased emphasis on virtual interaction can, in a cost-effective manner, enable DRI to heighten its international presence. If everyone in our profession is doing more remotely, this seems like an excellent opportunity to remotely reach across our borders to strengthen DRI’s international member footprint.

Hobbies and/or interests:

Golf, reading, gardening and traveling.

Family

I live in a suburb of Columbus, Ohio, with my partner of 30 years, David Dierks, and our bulldog. I have five siblings and many nieces and nephews scattered across the Eastern and Midwest part of the country.
