



**Education** University of Oregon School of Law 1996/ University of California San Diego, Political Science with double minors in Economics and French Literature 1991

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### **Awards and achievements**

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- DRI Richard Krochock Award, 2011
- Super Lawyer, Product Liability Defense, 2009 - 2021; Rising Star, 2007-2008
- Oregon State Bar Product Liability Section Chair, 2003
- Multnomah Bar Association Diversity Committee, 2013-2016, Subcommittee Chair, 2015-2016
- Multnomah Bar Association Judicial Screening Committee, 2009-2012, Chair, 2011-2012
- Multnomah Bar Association Court Liaison Committee, 2006-2009, Chair, 2008-2009
- Oregon State Bar Disciplinary Board member, 2015-2019

**Areas of practice** My practice is primarily product liability defense with an emphasis on drug and medical device litigation. I also have significant experience defending other product liability cases, including cases involving passenger vehicles, heavy-duty trucks, heavy equipment, industrial equipment, wood products, chemicals, and food and beverages. Additionally, I defend a national health care provider and advise and counsel clients on product labeling.

**Employment history** (Please do not include years) I have spent my entire career at Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, including serving as a summer associate. I am an equity shareholder and Chair of my firm's Healthcare and Life Science Industry Group.

**Noteworthy defense work:** I am frequently retained as regional counsel in pharmaceutical and medical device mass tort litigation, and currently serve as counsel of record in defense of 20% of cases remanded from a medical device MDL across multiple states. Additionally, I often serve on national discovery, expert and trial teams for pharmaceutical and medical device companies, including as co-lead trial counsel in a number of instances. I obtained a defense verdict for a heavy-duty truck manufacturer in a crashworthiness case and a directed verdict for an automotive manufacturer in a restraint defect case. Furthermore, I also defend a national health care provider in numerous catastrophic injury cases, and most recently, I tried a whistleblower case for a pharmaceutical client during COVID and was also just asked to take over as trial counsel for a medical device manufacturer.

**Professional affiliations:**

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Oregon State Bar (1996)  
Washington State Bar (1997)  
IADC (joined 2009)  
Oregon Association of Defense Counsel (joined 2005)  
Multnomah Bar Association (joined 1996)  
Oregon Women Lawyers (joined 2002)

**DRI member since 1997**

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**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.**

- National Director, DRI Board (2017-2020)
  - Secretary/Treasurer (2020-2021)
  - DRI Membership Committee (2017-2020)
    - Chair 2019-2020, Vice-Chair 2018-2019
  - Board Liaison, Cybersecurity and Data Breach Committee (2017-2020)
- Product Liability Committee
  - Committee Chair (2015-2017)
  - Committee Vice Chair (2013-2015)
  - Program Chair 2013
  - Biomechanics SLG Chair/Vice Chair (2008-2012)
- Drug and Medical Device Committee
  - Steering Committee (2001-present)
  - Speaker, Young Lawyers Primer (2016)
  - Publications Chair (2013-2015)
  - Editor, Rx, For the Defense (2009-2013)
  - Young Lawyers Breakout Chair/Vice Chair (2002-2004)
- Corporate Counsel Roundtable Program Planning Committee (2015-2020)
- Center for Law and Public Policy, Issues and Advocacy Committee (2014-2017)
- DRI Nominating Committee (2012)
- DRI Annual Meeting
  - Committee Chair (2011, Washington D.C.)
  - Vice-Chair (2010, San Diego)

Marketing Chair/Vice Chair (2007-2009)

- DRI Diversity Committee  
SLDO Subcommittee Chair (2007-2008)
- DRI Young Lawyers Committee  
Committee Chair (2006-2007)  
Committee 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair (2004-2006)  
Program Chair/Vice Chair (2002-2004)  
Annual Meeting Liaison (2001-2002)  
Pro Bono Subcommittee Chair (2000-2001)  
SLDO Subcommittee Chair/Vice Chair (1999-2000)

### **DRI Presentations**

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- *A Practical Approach to Expert Witnesses in Drug and Device Cases*, Drug and Medical Device Young Lawyers Primer (2016)
- *Third-Party Funding of Class Action Litigation*, Corporate Counsel Roundtable (2015)
- *Legal Concerns for Product Manufacturers involved in Cross-border Litigation*, DRI Europe (2013)
- *Hot Topics in Drug and Medical Device Litigation*, DRI Drug and Medical Device Seminar (2011)
- *Staying Ahead of the Curve—What Every Tort Lawyer Needs to Know About the Shiny New Restatement of Torts* (speaker and moderator), DRI Annual Meeting (2010)
- *Integrated Distraction Liability*, DRI Strictly Automotive Seminar, San Diego, CA (2007)
- *Building and Sustaining a Young Lawyers Committee - Building on DRI's Experience for Your State or Local Defense Organization*, DRI Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. (2007)
- *Defending the Corporate Witness Deposition from a Marketing Perspective*, DRI Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (2005)
- *Top 10 Cases of 2003*, DRI Product Liability Seminar, ACMIE SLG, New Orleans, LA (2004)
- *HIPAA-Taming 50 Ton Beast*, DRI Young Lawyers Seminar, Phoenix, AZ (2003)

- *Deciphering Medical Records*, Drug and Medical Device seminar, Young Lawyers Break-out (2000)

### **DRI Publications**

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- *Invest in Your Story: The Deeper Your Involvement, the Greater Your Reward*, For the Defense (March 2020)
- *Product Liability: Warnings, Instructions, and Recalls*: DRI Defense Library Series, Chapters on Oregon law and Pre-sale Duties (2019)
- *From the Chair: Blockbuster Networking and Education Not to Be Missed*, For the Defense (November 2017)
- *From the Chair: Build Your Practice, Enrich Your Life*, For the Defense (April 2017)
- *From the Chair: An Excellent Time to Get Involved*, For the Defense (November 2016)
- *From the Chair: Come to the Table*, For the Defense (April 2016)
- *From the Chair: Connect with Potential Clients and Referral Sources—and Lifelong Friends*, For the Defense (November 2015)
- *Third-Party Litigation Funding in the United States: An Invitation for Fraud and Increased Litigation or Much Ado About Nothing?*, In-house Defense Quarterly (2015)
- *DRI 2011 Annual Meeting: A Complement of Programs Designed to Aid Your Advancement*, For the Defense (July 2011)
- *The DRI Annual Meeting: A Look at 15 Years of the Defense Bar's Showcase Event*, For the Defense (August 2010)
- *Driving Under the Influence of Electronics*, For the Defense (2007)

*HIPAA and Ex Parte Physician Contact: Procedural Hurdles*, Co-Author, For the Defense, (May 2006)

**List any leadership roles in other defense organizations.** Oregon Association of Defense Counsel, Board of Directors (2015-2018); Co-Chair, Annual Convention (2018)

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

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In order for DRI to stay relevant and deliver on our mission of addressing issues important to defense lawyers and the civil justice system while enhancing the skills, effectiveness, and professionalism of the defense bar, DRI must modernize and enrich the services we provide and more clearly articulate that value to retain and attract new members. Put simply, membership is the core of DRI, so the success of our committees, programs, publications and advocacy is directly tied to recruiting, retaining, and engaging our members.

Like many associations, DRI has faced a steady decrease in membership over the past decade, and while our retention during COVID was admirable, the pandemic made recruitment by our member volunteers very difficult. If I am elected Second Vice President, one of my primary goals would be to work with DRI's professional membership staff to develop a data driven strategy to grow DRI's membership within the civil defense bar. While much discussion over the years has included expanding membership to civil practice areas outside of litigation and even to include other legal professionals, DRI's focus should be on growing its core membership within DRI firms, firms with practices that DRI committees support, and firms active in our SLDOs. Further, membership recruitment efforts should be based on a data driven analysis of why lawyers who would most benefit from DRI have not joined, with a willingness to adapt our message or our services if necessary. Additionally, DRI should continue to explore new membership models for firms and corporations.

Retention of current members is as important as the recruitment of new members, so improving retention of current members would be another primary goal for me if I am elected Second Vice President. DRI's members join and engage with DRI for different reasons, but at the heart is the desire to advance their careers by honing substantive expertise, developing a personal brand (through the publication, speaking, and leadership opportunities DRI offers), and building a network of clients and referral sources. As the COVID-19 shutdown has recently shown, the world can change very quickly and my goal of improving DRI's membership retention would focus on improving how DRI adapts to meet the needs of our members today and into the future as follows:

(1) Harness the creative and strategic energies of our member volunteers in developing programs, publishing articles and treatises, and planning networking events, while allowing DRI's professional staff to direct operations and implementation of this volunteer organization.

(2) Continue to expand and improve DRI's remote education through live virtual seminars, webinars, and on-demand programming. While this space is crowded, and competition includes bar organizations, for-profit companies, and even our DRI member firms, COVID-19 has likely made online programs part of DRI's permanent offerings. As the world opens back up post-COVID, DRI should lean into meeting and creating a demand for remote education, and even remote networking, because while some members will be excited to meet live, other members and their firms may permanently resist travel for CLE. By leaning into remote education, DRI can expand engagement to members who are not willing to travel. Because of the breadth and depth of substantive knowledge of our members, DRI has the opportunity to own the remote education space, but we must become more nimble and be the first to offer education on emerging areas of the law. On-line education also presents opportunities for new membership bundles that DRI should explore.

(3) Increase the involvement of in-house counsel in DRI. The 2019 membership survey proved again that our members want more opportunities to network with clients. My goal is to increase corporate participation through more strategic integration of in-house lawyers in our substantive law committees, exploration of membership options and bundles that are more attractive to companies, and explore industry association partnerships to develop true company/outside lawyer strategic meetings and collaboration.

(4) Continue to diversify DRI's membership and its leaders. While DRI has made great strides and likely has the most diverse executive committee of any legal organization today, our racially diverse leaders outside of the Board continue to focus the bulk of their energy on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. My goal would be to further advance diverse lawyers in all DRI substantive committees and more strategically target membership recruitment efforts to welcome diverse lawyers into DRI by providing the services, support, and community they seek. DRI should partner with SLDOs to recruit new, diverse members to all defense organizations alliances with specialty bar associations to benefit both parties and leverage resources.

(5) Further increase the engagement of members by expanding leadership opportunities and making involvement in DRI easier via remote means for today's lawyers who have less money to spend on out-of-state seminars, less time to volunteer, and want to see benefits of involvement more quickly than ever before. Specifically, greater consideration should be given to opening up leadership opportunities to a broader segment of DRI's membership at large, including tracking applications, appointments, and recruitment efforts by DRI committees.

I have spent virtually my entire career as a DRI member and owe much of my development of substantive legal skills, leadership abilities, and my professional network to my participation in DRI. The organization is on the verge of great change and I am excited by the prospect of serving as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

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

While the COVID-19 shutdown was clearly the largest challenge facing the defense bar (and the world) over the last eighteen months, rapid advances in technology, and the challenges it presents the legal profession, will continue to be the greatest issue facing the defense bar in the years to come. Software has eliminated lower level legal work. Clients are using algorithms to evaluate and settle complex cases. Even jury selection, one of the most artful aspects of trial work, can now be assisted with computer programs recommending strikes. Defense lawyers must recognize that our jobs will continue to change with the advances in artificial intelligence and other technological changes, and our clients will want to reap the financial benefits of advances that decrease the scope of our work and our fees. The defense bar will need to focus on leveraging the newest technology for the benefit of our clients and their cases while simultaneously identifying, honing, and delivering human expertise in the areas where it is irreplaceable. DRI must deliver resources to members to adapt to these technological changes and master the new skills that will be in demand in the future.

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

DRI must be the “go-to” organization for education, policy, and leadership for the defense bar. We must continue to provide the highest quality substantive education at a depth and breadth that SLDOs and sister organizations cannot equal, while complimenting, but not competing with, the programs of these other defense organizations. DRI is uniquely positioned with our substantive law committees to provide the most sophisticated education on specific substantive areas of the law such as defense of nursing homes in the wake of COVID-19, whether this education is in the form of multi-day live programs, virtual seminars/webinars, on-demand programming, or publications. DRI could further position itself as the education leader of the defense bar by partnering with SLDOs or sister organizations in these efforts. For example, during the COVID-19 shutdown, DRI became the go-to resource for many SLDOs, law firms, and even corporations.

DRI is also well positioned to truly become “the voice of the defense bar” through the policy developments pursued by the Center. Our legislative

activities through the Center benefit the defense bar as a whole as well as specific states and industries in many circumstances, and even particular corporations through our amicus briefs. The work done by the Center is impactful to the entire civil defense side of the legal system and should be applauded and promoted more often and more broadly. In the future, DRI should leverage the Center to engage more members in these efforts, thus strengthening our membership base, broadening the involvement of members, and tapping into additional resources, ideas, and opportunities to spread the word more broadly about these efforts.