

Education

Bowdoin College, BA, 1997
George Mason School of Law, JD, 2000

Awards and achievements

Super Lawyers 2021
Super Lawyers Rising Star 2013-2015
Washingtonian Top Civil Defense Lawyer 2017-2018, 2020-2021

Areas of practice

My practice concentrates on litigating medical malpractice cases on behalf of physicians, hospitals, managed care organizations, ambulatory surgery centers, urgent care centers, nursing homes and long-term care facilities. I also represents allied health care professionals, including psychologists, nurse midwives, physicians' assistants, nurse practitioners and medical assistants. I am the co-chair of Wilson Elser's Medical Malpractice & Health Care Practice.

Employment history (Please do not include years)

I am a partner at Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker, LLP, where I have worked in the Washington, D.C. office for 15 years. I worked at Hudgins Law Firm in Alexandria, Virginia for the first 5 years of my legal career. I am licensed to practice law in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia, and New Jersey.

Noteworthy defense work

I took two cases to trial in 2019. I obtained a defense verdict for my client in Howard County, Maryland on the first. On the seventh day of my second trial in the District of Columbia, we settled the case at the value my client wanted to settle the case at mediation. I have also obtained a defense verdict on the issue of contributory negligence of the Plaintiff, and found on behalf of my physician client. Finally, I have obtained a defense verdict on a case where the jury found that there was a superseding/intervening cause on the part of a co-defendant surgeon, resulting in a defense verdict for my physician client.

Professional affiliations

International Association of Defense Counsel ("IADC")

Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel (“FDCC”)
D.C. Defense Lawyers Association (“DCDLA”)
Maryland Defense Counsel (“MDC”)
Virginia Defense Attorneys Association (“VADA”)
Association of Health Care Risk Managers (“ASHRM”)
DC/Maryland local chapter of ASHRM

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.

1. National Director, Board of Directors (2018-2021)
 - a. Board Liaison to Employment and Labor Law Committee (2018-2021)
 - b. 2021 Leadership Conclave Planning Committee
 - c. Membership Committee (Chair 2021, Co-Vice Chair 2020), at large member/SMC Liaison 2019
2. D.C. State Membership Chair 2017-2019
3. D.C. State Representative 2013-2016
4. SLDO Relationship Committee (2014-2017)
5. Medical Liability and Healthcare Law Committee - Medical Liability and Healthcare Law Seminar Steering Committee:
 - a. 2018 Seminar Program Chair
 - b. 2017 Seminar Program Vice Chair
 - c. 2016 Publications
 - d. 2015 Seminar Marketing Chair
 - e. 2014 Seminar Sponsorship Chair
 - f. 2014 Speaker at Young Lawyer’s Breakout
 - g. 2020 Seminar Speaker – COVID Immunity, Part 1
 - h. 2021 Seminar Speaker – COVID Immunity, Part 2
6. Annual Meeting Steering Committee 2018, 2019, 2020
7. Women in the Law Committee

8. Litigation Skills Committee
9. Cybersecurity and Data Privacy Committee
10. Law Practice Management Committee
11. Publications include Voice Articles October 7, 2020 & May 2021

List any leadership roles in other defense organizations.

While I am a member of other organizations, and value their impact on my practice and leadership positions, my leadership time has been devoted to DRI.

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

My goal is to continue to focus on advancing DRI's mission to provide members with education, business development, advocacy, and leadership development to its members. I will use my knowledge and understanding of the history of DRI and apply it to the changing practice of law and changing needs of DRI members. I will continue to work with professional staff and DRI members to emphasize to the public the exceptional value of a DRI membership. My goals related to membership, engagement, young lawyers, education, and diversity are set forth below:

Membership:

As Membership Chair during this very challenging year, I worked effectively with the Membership Committee and DRI Staff to increase membership recruitment, including during May Membership Month. I will continue to work to increase DRI membership in the second half of 2021. I look forward to continuing these efforts as an Officer. In that capacity, I will continue to grow DRI membership by working to expand the national profile of DRI through our exceptional online and in person programming and through The Center. I will continue to work, in conjunction with staff and members, on developing alternative membership offerings and seek to increase DRI's corporate membership, as well as continue to recruit young lawyers and diverse lawyers to DRI.

Engagement:

It is my understanding that many members of DRI are not members of Substantive Law Committees (“SLC”). As an Officer, I will work on programs to increase the engagement of DRI members in SLCs. This includes updating membership applications and developing a program to reach out to members to integrate them into the SLCs. I will also work to expand the offerings of DRI Cares and DRI for Life to increase member engagement and show the public the tremendous impact of DRI members in the community.

Young Lawyers:

As an Officer, I will continue to create leadership and networking opportunities for young lawyers. I will listen and respond to their needs especially due to the post-Covid changing legal market. I will continue the work done by DRI’s Young Lawyers Committee and Litigation Skills Committee to train young lawyers. I will also work to involve young lawyers in the substantive SLCs by creating alternative paths to leadership. I will continue to share my passion for DRI with young lawyers, to ensure they understand the impact that DRI will have their careers.

Education:

As an Officer, I will work with the Law Institute and DRI Staff to ensure DRI will remain at the forefront of legal programming in both in person and online offerings. This includes creating more opportunities for Substantive Law Committee integration on cutting edge legal issues.

Diversity:

Diversity is critical to the success of DRI’s future. As an Officer, I will encourage SLCs to create a Diversity Chair within their committee to create programing, initiatives and increase diverse involvement in their SLCs. Finally, I will work with the Membership Committee to create unique diversity membership initiatives.

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

The most important issue confronting the defense bar is that newer lawyers are not investing in their future. While many newer lawyers do not see beyond the billable hour requirement, there are fewer opportunities for them to have access to jury trials. Consequently, there are fewer opportunities for newer lawyers to learn how to try cases. DRI can provide programing opportunities for these

lawyers to teach them how to litigate and meet their client's needs. DRI can also provide them leadership opportunities for professional and personal growth.

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

DRI's role is to serve the national defense bar by providing education, networking opportunities, leadership training, and advocacy for its members. DRI should use its large membership to demonstrate to clients and potential clients the benefit of hiring a DRI lawyer.