



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 **Dessi N. Day**

---

Firm/Company **Greene & Roberts LLP**

---

Address: 402 West Broadway, Suite 1025, San Diego CA 92101

---

Telephone: 619-398-3411 (direct line)

---

E-mail: dday@greeneroberts.com

---

## Education

---

UNC- Chapel Hill, School of Law – JD 1999

Editorial Board of International Law Journal; Moot Court Trial Law Academy Team;  
Dean's List

Guilford College, Greensboro NC – B.A. 1995

Business Administration/Political Science; with honors

## Awards and achievements:

---

- Chair, DRI Employment Law Committee, 2020 to present
  - Vice Chair, DRI Employment Law Committee, 2018- 2020
  - FDCC Member (2021 to present)
  - Former Chair of the Litigation Section of San Diego County Bar Association
  - Top 50 Women Leaders in San Diego for 2022
  - Honored as Outstanding Mothers of 2022
  - DRI Employment Law Annual Seminar, Program Chair/Vice Chair, 2015-2016
  - DRI Employment and Labor Committee, Steering Committee Member, 2007 forward
- 

## Areas of practice:

Class Actions and Representative Actions; Employment Law Litigation,  
Employment Law Advice and Counsel

---

## Previously practiced:

---

- Product Liability
  - Drug and Medical Device and Automotive
  - General Business Litigation
  - Long-term care
- 

## Employment history (Please do not include years)

---

- Greene & Roberts, Partner
  - Wilson, Turner Kosmo, Senior Counsel
  - Lucas Mullay & Haverkamp, Associate
-

## Noteworthy defense work

---

Have practiced law in California for 22 years. Responsible for handling and successfully defending 750+ litigation and administrative agency matters in the areas of employment law, long-term care and elder abuse law, product liability, toxic torts, and general business litigation; Handled and successfully resolved numerous class actions and representative actions; Handled hundreds of depositions; Briefed and argued thousands of motions in judicial and arbitration proceedings; Handled writs and appeals in state and federal courts; Obtained favorable outcomes in over 100 agency matters involving federal and state agencies, with no adverse findings.

Representative clients have included Fortune 50, and 100 companies, non-profit organizations, education, retail, manufacturing, construction, transportation, healthcare, and financial institutions.

---

## Professional affiliations

---

DRI  
FDCC  
San Diego County Bar Association  
Lawyers Club of San Diego (former member)  
ABTL (former member)

---

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

Yes. I have been a member since 2005 and have attended DRI events and seminars since about 2003/4

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, DRI Employment and Labor Law Committee (2020 to present)
- Member, DRI Membership Committee (2021 to present)
- Vice-Chair, DRI Employment and Labor Law Committee (2018 to 2020)
- Seminar Chair and Vice Chair, DRI Employment and Labor Law Committee (2014-2016)
- Steering Committee Member, DRI Employment and Labor Law Committee (2006 to present)

- Seminar Planning Member, DRI Employment and Labor Law Committee (2006 to present)
  - DRI Employment and Labor Law Committee, Member since 2005
  - Assisted with the first Employment and Labor Law Boot Camp (February 2022)
  - Founded and hosted Employment and Labor Law monthly gatherings on first Saturday of the month, “Run, Walk, Bike, Sip Coffee, and Visit with Us” to promote community connection and engagement especially when our members were feeling isolated during the pandemic and needed support
  - Attended annually ELL, Women in the Law, Product Liability, Young Lawyers, Drug and Medical Device seminars, and DRI Annual Meeting for over 15 years
  - Authored leadership notes for DRI ELL Job Description
  - Authored Article: “California Ups the Ante on Independent Contractor Arrangements” (2020 Job Description)
  - Presented at the DRI Employment and Labor Law seminar on FMLA/leaves of absence (2011)
  - Assisted with planning and hosting numerous DRI joint committee events between DRI ELL, Diversity and Inclusion, Commercial Litigation, Aviation, and other committees
- 

List any leadership roles in other defense organizations.

---

FDCC – Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee Member;  
San Diego County Bar, Chair of Litigation Section

---

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

---

- **Diversity and Inclusion Efforts** are near and dear to my heart. I am a first-generation immigrant to this country, moving here as a young adult to attend college. As a young lawyer, I followed a colleague’s recommendation and attended a DRI event. I felt immediately welcomed and found a deep sense of belonging and inclusion that continues nearly 20 years later. This is one of the many things our long-time members have grown to love and appreciate about DRI. I believe the reason we all feel so welcomed and accepted is because of the culture that DRI has created promoting diversity and inclusion for both members and faculty alike. As a first-generation immigrant, community matters to me, and I am thrilled to continue to promote initiatives and efforts to engage members from diverse backgrounds, and to work with our affinity groups to expand those efforts. I would like to see DRI expand internationally

and to actively promote membership to legal communities of defense lawyers outside of the United States.

- **Serve as an active member of the DRI Membership Committee.** The legal profession can be challenging and stressful, and law school does not always prepare lawyers for the challenges they face navigating the high stress and demands of the practice of law and the business aspects of it. This presents a unique opportunity for organizations like DRI to create places and spaces for newer lawyers to find mentors, to connect with one another, to support each other, and utilize the DRI network not only as a tool to obtain CLE credits, and gain professional experience, but to find resources and support on how to handle the high demands and challenges of their new careers. I hope to be able to work with the young lawyer community and the career development centers at the law schools to communicate the benefits and value of being part of DRI and emphasize not only top-notch legal education offerings but all the resources available for newer lawyers to connect, find mentors across the DRI community, and learn about coping skills, collaboration, and leadership opportunities.
  - **Lead DRI initiatives on promoting member engagement.** We have found that growing our organization is challenging not only on the recruitment level but also in terms of retaining members, and that more work needs to be done to keep our members engaged and to make sure that DRI delivers the value that members are looking for in a professional legal organization. On the retention level, I would like to work more with the substantive law committees on increasing collaboration among the different communities by offering joint-CLE sessions, roundtable discussions, and social events (virtual and in person) in an effort to increase networking opportunities and promote a more engaging and supportive culture throughout the DRI family. I would also like to develop creative ways for collaboration among the DRI substantive/affinity committees by organizing regional events to promote member engagement and relationship-building opportunities
  - **Assist with developing and planning top-notch CLE programming.** Over the past 17 years, I have been inspired by the opportunities to identify and engage quality speakers for our DRI programming and have always enjoyed being part of the seminar and events planning teams of the Employment Law Committee. I look forward to continuing to do so at a macro level, across the DRI organization.
-

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

---

Overburdened court system

Law Firm Talent Retention and Acquisition

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts

Work Life Balance

Maintaining Profitability in the era of alternative fee/flat fee arrangements

---

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

---

For me, DRI is belonging and inspiration. It is the opportunity to connect, learn, lead, and grow professionally and personally, and serve goals that are bigger than me.

DRI is not just a place to obtain top-notch quality CLE (which is great), but a community that means much more than that. DRI's key role is to create a collaborative, inclusive, diverse, and welcoming environment for defense lawyers to connect, engage, learn from one another, and help each other thrive.

DRI's community pages (previously known as listservs) are priceless. I have experienced that first-hand as part of the Employment Law, Women in the Law, Diversity and Inclusion and Young Lawyers communities. The benefit of hiring DRI lawyers is that DRI provides a platform to connect and brainstorm with talent throughout the United States, Mexico and Canada, and these connections and knowledge serve not only our individual goals but those of our law firms and our clients. Encouraging that free flow and exchange of ideas, knowledge, referrals, and experience among DRI members plays a key role in enhancing the skills and effectiveness of defense bar.

Because the practice of law by its nature is challenging and stressful, DRI has a unique role in helping lawyers to support one another, inspire each other, and focus on improving our civil justice system.

---