

Education

B.A. – Brigham Young University, Magna Cum Laude with honors, 1996

J.D. – James E. Rogers College of Law, University of Arizona, 1999 – Senior
Managing Editor Arizona Journal of International and Comparative Law

Awards and achievements

AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell

Co-Presenter: *Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment Claims*, DRI Governmental Liability
Section 1983 Bootcamp (Remote), June 2021

Co-Author of Materials for Presentation at DRI Civil Rights and Governmental Liability
Seminar: *I Saw You . . . But, Did I Really? Eyewitness Identification Issues in Civil
Cases*; Nashville, Tennessee, January 2017

Presenter at Arizona Association of Defense Counsel seminar: *What the Heck? Update
on Common Defenses and Immunities Available to Governmental Entities and
Employees*; Phoenix, Arizona, February 2015

Co-Author of Materials for Presentation at DRI Civil Rights and Governmental Liability
Seminar: *42 U.S.C. § 1983 - - The Basics*; San Diego, California, January 2004

Areas of practice

Governmental liability, constitutional claims, tort defense, road and street design,
general litigation, and appellate advocacy.

Employment history (Please do not include years)

City of Phoenix Law Department (current)

Berke Law Firm, PLLC

Shughart Thomson & Kilroy, PC

Goodwin Raup, PC

Judicial Clerkship with the Honorable William F. Garbarino, Arizona Court of
Appeals

Noteworthy defense work

I have defended clients in several appeals that have resulted in published
appellate opinions in the Arizona Court of Appeals. I successfully obtained
defense verdicts for police officer and public entity clients in two jury trials that
took place during COVID and after the nationwide protests against police in
2020. I have also obtained summary judgment for numerous government entity
and employee clients in both federal and state courts based on statutory and
other immunities and defenses.

Professional affiliations

DRI
Arizona State Bar Association
Arizona Association of Defense Counsel
Arizona Women Lawyers Association
J. Rueben Clark Law Society

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 have been a member of the Governmental Liability Committee for the past twenty years and I am currently the chair of the committee—my two-year term will end in October. Prior to that, I was the vice chair of the committee. I have served in several other leadership positions on the Governmental Liability Committee over the past ten years, including chair and vice chair of the annual seminar, chair of the partnering with industry committee, chair of the trial skills add-on to the seminar, and online community chair. I have attended this committee’s annual seminar and been a member of the seminar planning committee for most of the past 20 years as well. I am also active in the Women in the Law Committee and have attended that committee’s annual seminar for the past two years. As stated above, I have been a co-presenter and co-author of several presentations at DRI seminars and programs over the years.

List any leadership roles in other defense organizations.

Governmental Liability Committee – Arizona Association of Defense Counsel

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

To represent government attorneys and in-house attorneys on the DRI Board and bring that perspective to decisions made by the board. Also, to bring the perspective of my region (Arizona and surrounding states) to the board and my experience in the leadership of my substantive committee to help serve all of the committees and SLDOs.

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

Balancing the economics of practicing law and clients' budgets/business interests with the increasing costs and complexities of providing an excellent defense in litigation matters against the increasingly organized and aggressive plaintiff's bar.

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

To provide its members with education and resources to better represent clients, develop professionally in their careers, and to serve their communities both professionally and personally.
