



Declaration of Candidacy

Candidates for election as Second Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, 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.

Please also see the DRI Board of Director and Officer Competencies, attached.

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 **Kathy J. Maus**

Firm/Company **Butler Weihmuller Katz Craig LLP**

Address **3600 Maclay Blvd., Suite 201, Tallahassee, FL 32312**

Telephone **850-999-4009**

Cell Phone **850-567-1331**

E-mail **kmaus@butler.legal**

How long have you been a member of DRI? 28 years

Areas of practice: **Insurance Coverage; extracontractual insurance defense; liability defense.**

Please provide your employment history in chronological order beginning with the current position.

Butler Weihmuller Katz Craig LLP – Partner (1991 – Present)

Ronald Mowrey, P.A. – Law Clerk (1989 – 1991)

Supreme Court/FSU College of Law Alternate Dispute Resolution Center – Dispute Resolution Fellow (1989)

Aetna Casualty & Surety Co. – Resident Commercial Liability Claims Adjuster (1986 – 1988)

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.

- **Defense Research Institute (DRI): Officer: Secretary/Treasurer Oct. 2022 – Oct. 2023, and officer liaison to The Foundation (DRI Cares and DRI for Life)**
- **Vice-Chair and Chair of the Insurance Law Committee (2018 –2022)**
- **DRI Richard H. Krochock award (2007)**
- **Board of Directors Oct. 2005 - Oct. 2008**
- **Vice Chair of Governance Committee (2008)**
- **Chair of the DRI Young Lawyers Committee (2001 - 2002)**
- **Member of numerous DRI committees including the Public Policy Committee, Insurance Law Committee (Steering Committee 2007 - Present), and Women In The Law Committee 2012 – Present)**
- **Extracontractual Subcommittee member and projects editor**
- **DRI Membership Committee member (1997 - 2008), including project chair for the Large Law Firm Project, the Law School Student Membership Project, the Job Fair, the Committee Membership Chairs Liaison with the Membership Committee Project, as well as assisting on other projects**
- **Past-Chair of the United States Supreme Court Bar Admissions Swearing-In Ceremony Project**
- **Annual Meeting Steering Committee member for four (4) annual meetings**
- **Frequent speaker at various seminars including the Insurance Law Coverage Seminars in Chicago and New York on multiple occasions, and at the Insurance Roundtable**
- **Vice-Chair of DRI's Bad Faith Seminar in 2011**
- **Published multiple articles in DRI's *For the Defense***
- **Editor and contributor for the Bad Faith Law Compendium**
- **Regional editor of Bad Faith Law Compendium/Unfair Claims Practices (update).**

List any significant leadership commitment and involvement within the legal field other than DRI, including but not limited to other legal organizations.

ACCEC (American College of Coverage & Extracontractual Counsel) (2018) – Co-Chair of the Extracontractual Subcommittee (2020 – 2022)

ABOTA (American Board of Trial Advocates) - Tallahassee Board of Directors (2009-present); President (2012-2013)

Bar Admissions: admitted to practice in Florida State Courts; the Northern, Middle and Southern Federal District Courts in Florida; the 11th Circuit Federal Appeals Court; and the United States Supreme Court

Best Lawyers in America - Member (2012-present); Named in 21st Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America –Insurance Law* (2016); *Best Lawyers Magazine – Business Edition* (Spring 2017); 26th Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America – Insurance Law* (2020); 27th Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America – Insurance Law* (2021)

Blue Ribbon Panelist for Florida Super Lawyers (2008 - present)

Florida Defense Lawyers Association (FDLA): serve as committee member of the Amicus Curie, Bad Faith, and Transportation Law Committees

Florida Supreme Court Appointed Bar Admissions Committee (1999 - 2001)

International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC): member (1999 - present); Board of Directors (2011-2014); Chair of the Casualty Committee (2004-2006); Chair of the IADC Diversity Committee (2004-2006); Member of the Membership Committee for the Florida Region; Member of the General Convention Committee; and Member of the Insurance Member Task Force

Litigation Counsel of America (2012 - 2016) – Fellow

National Foundation for Judicial Excellence – Member

Tallahassee Bar Association (1998 - Present); President (2011); Board of Directors (2005-2012)

Tallahassee Women Lawyers (TWL): President and officer (1998 –2003).

The Florida Bar – Board Certified - Civil Trial Law (2005 –2016); Civil Trial Certification Grade Review Panel (2014-2016)

The Florida Council of Bar Association Presidents: Member; Officer (2001 - 2006)

The Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee of the Florida Bar (2000 - 2004); Chair of the Voluntary Bar Leadership Conference Tallahassee (2004)

William H. Stafford American Inn of Court - Master of the Bench (2009-2016)

Why do you wish to join the board of directors or become an officer and what skills, abilities and attributes identified in the Board of Director/Officer Competencies can you bring to the role?

I would like to continue my service as a DRI officer, and step into the role of Second Vice President, because I possess a great deal more to contribute to this fabulous organization. As an attendee of DRI programming for 30 years, as a member and leader within DRI for 28 of those years, and with a perfect attendance record to date in my year as Secretary/Treasurer, I have a demonstrated knowledge of, and commitment to, DRI as an organization and, importantly, to its national and international members. My devotion to DRI is as a fiduciary to the organization, and as a steward to push the organization forward. The strategic leadership model adopted by DRI is impressive and I was fortunate to assist the Executive Committee this year in expanding upon that model for the near, mid, and extended terms. I am free of conflict from any other organization or issue, and my dedication to DRI is one of utmost loyalty, care and trust.

Unlike other (expected) candidates, I have the experience in serving on the DRI Board as well as the board of one of our sister organizations, IADC. I also served on numerous other national, state and local organizations. This experience gives me familiarity with complex and sophisticated organizations, the governance thereof, and permitted the development of the leadership skills necessary to effectively, collaboratively and compassionately lead, inspire and encourage the DRI membership into the future.

Based on the breadth and length of service to this organization, I humbly believe I developed the influence and reputation to garner members' trust, respect and support for DRI initiatives. I am deadline focused, accountable and insist upon the accountability of others. My communication style is thoughtful, considering the various points of view from the team, but I am not afraid to make the difficult decisions, when needed. The goal is always to serve the membership and its best interests. One of the best ways to do this is to work effectively and collaboratively with the sisters, SLDOs and NDOs.

As a trial lawyer and frequent public speaker, I have no qualms about leading presentations with a few or a few hundred. DRI's technology and preparedness continues to make it easy to condense significant substance down to easily understandable visuals.

What suggestions would you make to move the organization forward?

My suggestions if elected to this position are "to further the efforts (currently underway) to make DRI an inclusive, diverse and thriving organization which out-performs its competition; to increase membership to pre-pandemic levels and beyond; and to provide value to the membership. DRI needs to be an organization where one cannot afford not to be a member."

The above quoted language was included in my declaration last year and it remains true today. We need to continue providing our top-notch legal and industry education, while also looking for ways to provide unparalleled value to our members. Membership dues and seminar attendance is the life-blood of DRI and we have to continue our efforts to increase the fold. In order to move forward with membership growth, we need to expand on the branding of DRI, whether through the tag line or the name itself. We want people to know who we are, and, when we speak, people will listen. Although we cannot be called EF Hutton, we need a name that rings with truth just by the mere mention of the name. We are seeing evidence of a lack of name recognition but The Center is making great strides to change that result. Our

present public relations plans will help fuel this fire but more is likely needed in the next 5 years to enhance these efforts.

Our diversity efforts have to continue. Enough is never enough. We need to increase the number of diverse members, and increase the number of diverse speakers and leaders throughout DRI committees, steering committees, leadership and even the DRI staff.

The Foundation is another area where DRI can truly shine and promote visibility and accolades. Our partnership with Blessings will certainly help in this regard. More partnerships are encouraged.

Finally, the NFJE, a crown jewel, must be supported and enlarged to attract a greater number of the judiciary to educate them, where needed, against the unleveling tactics of the plaintiff's bar.

Describe one transformational/defining experience in your professional life you have been involved with and what you learned from that experience.

I could describe trial wins or losses, or the birth of my children, each of which had significant impacts on my professional life. However, as it relates to this Declaration of Candidacy, I think the best example to give is the loss of the DRI Second Vice President election in 2008 to Henry Sneath. Henry, one of my dearest friends on the Board, was destined to win, and I was destined to "depart" the Board with the adage of being too young and it was "not my time." It was difficult to face that "loss" because of the passion and dedication with which I directed my efforts as a lawyer and DRI member over the years, but it was also a turning point in my career. I faced the choice of departing DRI in search of other membership and leadership opportunities versus keeping my nose to the grindstone, staying involved with DRI in other ways. I choose path number 2, which was an unexpected victory. It in fact was not my time to serve as officer of DRI and allowed me to eventually be appointed and recognized as a leader of the Insurance Law Committee. My "loss" turned into a blessing in disguise; a recognition that an officer position was not what I needed at that point in my legal career, and that I needed more cultivation in order to serve DRI in the best manner possible. Between 2008 and now, I gained more experience, more gray hairs, and more friends in this wonderful organization which I've called "home" for most of my career, and will continue to do so until my retirement. This situation also demonstrated to me, and to others, that the path to leadership of DRI is not unidirectional; leaders not selected to advance at any one point in time are not dead and forgotten. We have a great deal of such leaders in our organization and we need to continue to keep them active, engaged and utilized for the betterment of DRI into the future.

Describe the greatest challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for DRI over the next five+ years.

Please see the "suggestions" topic above.

DRI strives to be governed by a diverse board of directors—in terms of race, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability, location, and/or professional level, and other facts that enhance diversity and inclusion --- who can and will help advance DRI's goals through the

power of collaboration. In what ways have you demonstrated a commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in your work, and how will your DE&I experience inform your contributions as a Board member?

As a female, I fall within the minority designation, but I do not believe (well, I will not allow myself to believe) that my gender is a barrier to advancement and success. (I have plenty of stories I could share with you to the contrary – but they are merely bumps in the road.) However, I do not believe that other races, ethnicities, and groups can say the same thing as easily. Members want to join organizations that look like them. Moreover, the best leadership decisions are made when ideas are provided by a diverse group of participants. I am committed to diversity, equity and inclusion and am greatly encouraged by DRI’s commitment in this regard. I continually try to participate in discussions on these topics and wish to continue to learn and grow in my knowledge and understanding. In my professional life, my firm is very devoted to DE&I and I participate in our Women’s initiatives, our diversity initiatives, and our firm’s mentoring program. I am also a member of several organizations’ diversity committees.

Is there anything else you would like to add that has not already been previously stated?

I look forward to serving DRI for years to come. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding my qualifications or plans.

Sincerely,

Kathy J. Maus