



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: Juan M. Marquez

Firm/Company: Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb, P.A.

Address: 201 Third St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Telephone: (505) 768-7243 Cell Phone: (505) 933-3110

E-mail: jmarquez@rodey.com

How long have you been a member of DRI? 11 years

Areas of practice: Medical Malpractice, Premises Liability, Professional Liability, General Tort Litigation

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

- Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb, P.A. 05/2016-Present
- Archibeque Law Firm 08/2014-05/2016
- Atkinson, Thal & Baker, P.C. 02/2010-08/2014
- Guebert Bruckner, P.C. 05/2008-01/2010

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 am currently the DRI State Representative for the State of New Mexico. My term will end at the 2024 Annual Meeting. In addition to this, I am also actively involved in the Litigation Skills Committee and am a member of their steering committee. I am also a member of the Social Inflation Taskforce. In February 2023, I gave a presentation at the Litigation Skills Seminar entitled "Jury Selection in the Post-Pandemic Era: Trends and Tools."

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

I am on the Board of Directors for the New Mexico Defense Lawyers Association (NMDLA). I previously served in various executive committee positions with the NMDLA, including treasurer, president-elect, and president. I have been actively involved with the NMDLA since February 2016.

In addition to my involvement with the NMDLA, I am also the practice group leader for the professional liability group at my law firm. In this position, I oversee sixteen other lawyers. This includes ensuring the lawyers in my practice group have sufficient work, are meeting billing requirements, and resolving any issues that may come up involving the lawyers in my practice group. I also work closely with the other practice group leaders in my law firm to ensure the entire firm is meeting the executive committee expectations of our lawyers.

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 have held various leadership positions in my state defense organization (NMDLA) and with DRI. Unfortunately, my role as DRI State Representative will be ending this year. While I will continue being actively involved with the Litigation Skills Committee and Social Inflation Task Force, I believe the leadership skills I have gained with my involvement in the NMDLA, DRI, and in my position as a practice group leader with my law firm can benefit DRI at the national level.

In particular, I believe that my roles have helped me develop strong management skills with the ability to lead others and resolve conflicts or issues that are certain to arise within any organization. I am also a very committed individual that strives to promote any organization that I personally believe in, which includes DRI. By attending several leadership conferences over the years, I have gained substantial knowledge on how to collaborate with others for the benefit of DRI. While collaboration and strategizing with your leadership colleagues is important, I feel that my leadership roles have given me the ability to also implement those ideas, which is the important part of moving any organization forward.

What suggestions would you make to move the organization forward?

Membership involvement is always an important topic of discussion for any organization, including the discussions I have been involved with at the DRI leadership conferences. While DRI has many active members across the country, I believe there are many untapped resources in the form of DRI members who are not actively involved in the organization. This is evident from the many networking events that occur during DRI meetings and seminars where I have personally engaged with individuals who have good ideas and suggestion but who are not ever really seen in leadership or committees.

One suggestion I have that could potentially improve this would be to bring DRI to those members. This could be accomplished by having more DRI presence at local and state defense organization events, whether at their annual meetings or other events that they may have. I know from attending my local events that some of this does happen. However, I think more can be done to help those individuals recognize that DRI is an organization that could benefit them individually. Gaining the perspectives and ideas of these members would certainly only help DRI move forward and expand.

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

One experience in my professional life that always sticks in my mind is my first jury trial. Not only was it educational with regard to my professional

development as a lawyer, but I was also fortunate enough to try the case with a senior partner who is also my mentor. Throughout the trial, he directed me on various legal issues, but he also provided me with the insight on how to work and collaborate with other lawyers involved in the trial (including lawyers from other law firms representing other defendants). Ultimately, he was the most senior and led the defense team. However, our nightly meetings involved input from the entire defense team. This gave us the ability to discuss many issues and exchange ideas that could be implemented as the trial progressed.

While I learned many things about collaborating and working with the other lawyers, I also learned that it was my senior partner's leadership among the defense team that was the driving force in ensuring that we were all united and pursuing the same goal. I have not only used many of the tools I learned from my first jury trial in my subsequent trials, but I have also attempted to develop and grow into that same type of leader that everybody wants to work with and follow to benefit the goal of the team.

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

As stated above, I believe membership recruitment, retention, and involvement is both the greatest challenge and opportunity for DRI. I have not yet been involved with DRI at the national level so I cannot say what resources are specifically allocated for this aspect of the organization. However, in addition to those non-involved individuals I have met during networking events at seminars and meetings, I believe there is a wealth of other lawyers across the country that could benefit DRI but may not have an idea about our organization or the resources and benefits that it could provide to them.

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?

I am Hispanic and have been fortunate to live in New Mexico my entire life where diversity is in our everyday lives, whether at work, school, sports, or in just in general life. My law firm is diverse and also focuses on DE&I initiatives. Our DE&I committee meets regularly and keeps all of our lawyers updated on DE&I issues and events. In fact, many of our lawyers attend DE&I events together as representatives of our law firm. I believe my own personal background, where I live, and my law firm's involvement with DE&I initiatives

have given me a great understanding and perspective of DE&I issues that could help inform the DRI Board to assist in advancing DRI's goals.

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

With my DRI State Representative role coming to an end, I am excited about the potential opportunity of moving into a National Board position. I am a true believer in DRI and what it offers to our members and our clients. As stated throughout this declaration, I also believe that I have the leadership and other skills that could help DRI on its path moving forward. I welcome the opportunity to discuss any issues and look forward to this process.