



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

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How long have you been a member of DRI?

10 years

Areas of practice: Transportation, Retail and Hospitality, Insurance Coverage, Product Liability

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

Goldberg Segalla, LLP- Partner (2021 - present)
Franklin & Prokopik, P.C. - Partner (2017 - 2021)
Franklin & Prokopik, P.C. - Counsel (2015- 2017)
Franklin & Prokopik, P.C. -Associate (2011 - 2015)
Meyers, Rodbell & Rosenbaum, P.A. -Associate (2008- 2011)
District of Columbia Court of Appeals -Judicial Law Clerk (2007-2008) Circuit
Court for Baltimore City-Judicial Law Clerk (2006-2007)

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.

Committee Memberships

Chair, DRI Diversity & Inclusion Committee (2024-present)
Vice Chair, DRI Diversity & Inclusion Committee (2023-2024)
Program-Chair, DRI Diversity for Success Seminar (2022)
Member, DRI Diversity & Inclusion Steering Committee (2018-present)
Member, DRI Retail and Hospitality Steering/Planning Committee (2019-2020)
Member, DRI Membership Committee (2021)

Member, DRI Annual Meeting Steering Committee (2021)
Member, DRI Product Liability Steering Committee (2025- present)

DRI Presentations

"DEi Policies in the Crosshairs: A Discussion of Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard and its Impact on DEi Initiatives in the Private Sector," Co-Presenter, FDCC Annual Meeting (July 30, 2024)

Speed Clerkship Interviewing Session with Law Students from The Appellate Project (TAP) - A roundtable discussion about the benefits of state appellate clerkships, Co-Presenter, NFJE Annual Symposium (July 26, 2024)

"Managing and Mitigating Manufacturing Risk from Contracts to Consumer/Customer Education," Moderator, DRI Product Liability Conference (February 9, 2024)

"Seeds of Success: Developing Talent and Clients in and for a Diverse Workforce," Co-Presenter, FDCC Annual Meeting (February 22, 2023)

"Don't Say Daubert! Status of the Proposed Amendment to Rule 702," Co-Presenter, FDCC Annual Meeting (February 21, 2023)

"Post-Pandemic Juries - How Things Have Changed," Moderator, DRI Product Liability Conference (February 2, 2023)

"On Cybersecurity ... Cybersecurity Trends," Moderator, FDCC Annual Meeting (July 28, 2022)

"A Virtual Quagmire: Weighing the Risks and Benefits of Remote Work in a Post-Covid World," Co-Presenter, FDCC Annual Meeting (July 27, 2022)

"Continuing the Conversation: Racial Justice and Equity in State Courts," Moderator, NFJE Annual Symposium (July 16, 2022)

"Remote Work & Diversity," Moderator, DRI Diversity for Success Seminar (May 12, 2022) "Taking Mediation to the Next Level: Using Virtual Mediation Effectively for Your Client," Co-Presenter, FDCC Winter Meeting (March 7, 2022)

"How Science Can Help You Understand and Reduce Bias in Eyewitness Testimony," (Co-Presenter), FDCC Annual Meeting (August 3, 2021)

"Unringing the Cybersecurity Bell: The Court's Role in Mitigating Cybersecurity Risks Invited During the Discovery Process," Moderator, NFJE Annual Symposium (July 10, 2021)

"The Nuts and Bolts of Cybersecurity," Moderator, NFJE Virtual Symposium (October 15, 2020)

Law Student Forum: Panelist (2019)

DRI Publications

"The End of Affirmative Action: How the Supreme Court's Upcoming Decisions Will Affect Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Efforts," FDCC Insights, Spring 2022

"[We Have a Responsibility Too](#)," *DRI Voices*, Vol. 19, Issue 31, August 5, 2020

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

Goldberg Segalla, LLP

Managing Attorney, Baltimore Office (2021 - present)

Member, Diversity Task Force (2021 - present)

Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel

Member (2019 - present)

Member, Admissions Committee (2020 - 2024)

Co-Chair, Diversity Committee, (2019-2023)

Vice-Chair, Membership Recruitment Committee (2020- 2021)

Chair, Premises Liability Substantive Law Section (2020- 2021)

Member, FDCC Nominating Committee (2021)

National Foundation for Judicial Excellence

Member, Program Committee (2020, 2021)

Member, Board of Directors (2023- present)

National African American Insurance Association

Member, National African American Insurance Association (2018-2021)

Legal Counsel, National Capitol-Central Maryland Chapter (2018-2020)

University of Baltimore School of Law

Program Chair, Fannie Angelos Program for Academic Excellence, Annual Gala
(2017 - 2020)

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?

Why DRI?

I want to serve on the board of directors to pay forward what DRI has meant to me both personally and professionally. I would not be where I am today without DRI.

I joined DRI in 2015, after I was elevated from an associate to counsel at my prior firm. I did not have a true mentor and was considering whether private law firm practice and partnership was what I wanted to do longterm. Prior to joining DRI, I was not involved in bar associations, had never served in a leadership capacity and knew nothing about marketing or business development. My first DRI conference was the 2016 Diversity for Success Seminar in Chicago. The Seminar was fantastic, and I met so many great people. What I remember most was the welcoming atmosphere and leaders of the Diversity Committee speaking very highly about DRI and the benefits of getting involved. I attended the Diversity for Success Seminar in 2017 and joined the Steering Committee for Diversity in 2018 and for Retail & Hospitality in 2019.

Service on the Steering Committees of Retail and Diversity taught me leadership skills, including communication, collaboration, strategic planning, project management and relationship building. I also had the opportunity to meet and learn from a number of DRI leaders, including Toyja Kelley, Ricardo Woods, Rosary Hernandez, Stacy Douglass, Douglass Burrell, Sara Turner, Jill Rice, Gary Carter, Jr., Tillman Breckenridge, Brian Couch and Christian Stegmaier. All of these individuals exemplified what "servant leadership" truly means. I also developed a passion for volunteerism and got more involved with my alma mater, University of Baltimore School of Law, and the Federation for Defense & Corporate Counsel (FDCC).

A consistent refrain from past and present DRI leaders is how they developed long-standing personal friendships through this organization. This truism applies

to me. My father, who was an immigration lawyer, passed away in May 2020. I shared my father's passing with members of the Diversity Steering Committee and a small group of FDCC members. I will never forget the outpouring of support I received.

Skills

Relationship Building/Networking/Membership. The life blood of any organization is its members and, in particular, encouraging its newest members to get more involved. I know how important it was to have access to and feel comfortable reaching out to Toyja Kelley, Stacy Douglass and Ricardo Woods, who were always great ambassadors for DRI. Having examples, mentors and role models to follow was integral to my decision to get more involved with DRI. Relationship building is one of my strengths. I am not shy and feel very comfortable initiating conversations and sharing the positive impact DRI has had on my professional career. I do it now as a leader on the Diversity Committee and would be honored to continue doing so as a National Director.

Volunteerism. I have never shied away from getting more involved or taking on a new challenge/responsibility. It is very important to me to pay forward what I have received. From my first DRI Diversity fly-in meeting, I have always said "yes" when asked to take on a new role or new project. I was appointed the Vice-Chair of the Diversity Committee in 2023. Gary Howard was appointed as Chair. In April 2024, Gary took an in-house position and had to step down as the Committee Chair. When asked to step up and take over for as Chair, I gladly said "yes" and was proud of the seamless transition the Steering Committee was able to make on the fly. If elected to the Board, I look forward to saying "yes" to special projects and executing the other national director responsibilities.

Vision & Adaptability. I served two years as the Expo Chair for the Diversity for Success Seminar. My first year as Chair was 2020 and the Seminar was cancelled due to COVID-19. As we began planning for the 2021 Seminar, we were faced with how we would execute an Expo only a few months after the in-person conferences had resumed. Many of our corporate partners were restricted from traveling and expressed concerns attending an in-person event. We had to

adapt on the fly and plan an in-person Seminar with a virtual Expo. I am proud to have led the effort to pull off the first virtual Expo and the Committee now offers that option to our corporate partners as an alternative to maintain their involvement and support for the Seminar.

During my time as Co-Chair of FDCC's Diversity Committee (2020-2021), we began a conversation about increasing FDCC's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and collaborating with affinity bar associations to increase the diversity in FDCC's membership. I encouraged the FDCC officers and board members to attend the Diversity of Success Seminar on a regular basis. Over the last two years, Frank Ramos, Heidi Goebbel, Sean Griffin and Marc Harwell have attended the Diversity for Success Seminar.

I was also part of a small group, including Sean Griffin and Frank Ramos, who came up with an idea to increase engagement and attendance of newly accepted FDCC members, especially those who were younger, non-equity partners at their firms. While the number of younger members increased, their attendance at meetings did not. The regular attendees of FDCC meetings are typically established equity partners at their firms. We suspected that the lack of attendance from newer members was related to cost of attending the FDCC meetings. Eventually, we came up with an add-on to the FDCC meeting for new members. For a reduced registration fee, the new members would attend a two-day meeting. The first day was an introduction to FDCC, including presentations from the FDCC officers and the board. The second day would coincide with the first day of the larger FDCC meeting.

What suggestions would you make to move the organization forward?

Content Creation & Asynchronous CLE. The post-pandemic legal landscape is becoming more and more virtual. Creating more content, including CLE, which members can consume on their own time and/or "a la carte" is the future.

Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives. What makes DRI special is its ability to bring together attorneys from different backgrounds and parts of the country with diverse perspectives, and different areas of practice all for the common goal of

representing and defending our clients in the best way possible. The business case for diversity is well-established and DRI must continue to support diversity and inclusion efforts within DRI and with our sister organizations FDCC, IADC and ADTA.

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

When I agreed to join Goldberg Segalla, LLP in January 2021, I was joining an office of 7 to 8 lawyers in the workers compensation practice group. The strategic vision/plan was for my law partner, Calvin Awkward, and I to lead the development of the firm's general liability practice in Maryland and the District of Columbia. Three days before I started, the firm's worker's compensation practice group left to start their own firm and I was faced with a new challenge: managing attorney of the Baltimore Office. I started recruiting attorneys to join me at Goldberg Segalla before my first day.

Before joining Goldberg Segalla, I did not have any prior leadership experience or training other than my committee involvement in DRI. Serving as the managing attorney for Goldberg Segalla's Baltimore Office has been the biggest challenge of my professional career. From recruiting and retaining staff, mentoring and training young associates, coordinating with the home office, implementing remote/hybrid work policies, guiding younger non-equity partners, developing business and practicing law, I have learned so much about myself and the importance of servant leadership and relationship building. I am proud of the development of our Baltimore Office, as we have expanded to twelve lawyers and eight staff members over the last four years.

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

Member Engagement. As noted above, the pandemic accelerated the decline of in-person conference attendance and overall membership engagement. DRI must find new ways to engage its members, who may prefer to "attend" and

"engage" virtually, including through on-demand content and virtual networking or engagement opportunities, which provide the same value as in-person meetings.

Wellness. Lawyer wellness will continue to be a challenge as the demands of civil defense practice increase. We need more wellness programming and resources available for our membership.

Artificial Intelligence. The use of AI technology in law practice is increasing rapidly. It is important that our firms, clients and attorneys are well-versed in the ethical, economic, privacy, productivity and social justice issues impacted by the expanding use of AI technology in law practice.

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?

DRI Diversity represents many firsts in my career. The Diversity for Success Seminar was my first bar association conference and my first DRI Seminar. The Diversity Steering Committee was my first bar association committee and I have served many roles with the Committee from Dine-A-Round Chair to Committee Chair.

My experience with the Diversity Committee has taught me the importance of diverse ideas, beliefs and experiences and encouraging full expression of same. As leaders, we must be open-minded and consider others ideas as we strive to come up with answers to problems we are trying to solve. My experience with the Diversity Committee has also shown me the importance of the next generation of lawyers. The Committee is consistently focused on engaging and providing opportunities for the next generation of lawyers. Over the last three years, I have had the opportunity to participate as a mentor in the Mentorship Program, which is a collaboration between the Diversity and Corporate

Counsel committees. The Mentorship Program has helped our Committee identify new leaders for our Committee and DRI.

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

I would be honored to serve as a National Director for DRI. I am thankful to DRI for all that it has given to me and believe my background and skillset can help move this organization forward.