



Formstack Submission For: 2026 DRI Declaration of Candidacy

Position Sought:

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?:

Name:

Ilana Olman

Firm/Company:

Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney

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How long, in years, have you been a member of DRI?:

13

Areas of Practice:

Insurance Coverage & Bad Faith

I currently serve as the Managing Shareholder of the Fort Lauderdale and Tampa offices of Segal McCambridge, a position I have held since 2022. In this role, I oversee the strategic direction, operations, attorney development, and continued growth of both Florida offices while maintaining an active national insurance coverage and bad faith practice.

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

I joined Segal McCambridge in 2020 through the merger of my predecessor firm, McIntosh Sawran & Cartaya, where I spent my entire legal career. I began with McIntosh as a law clerk from 2011 to 2013 while attending law school, became an Associate upon my admission to the Florida Bar in 2013, and was elevated to Partner in 2019. The firm's merger with Segal McCambridge provided the opportunity to continue building my practice on a national platform while remaining committed to the clients, colleagues, and relationships that have shaped my career.

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

DRI has been my professional home since the beginning of my legal career. I became a member upon my admission to the Florida Bar in 2013, and for more than a decade I have been fortunate to serve the organization in a variety of leadership roles that have allowed me to contribute to its

accomplishments should also be noted.:

mission while also experiencing firsthand the tremendous value DRI provides its members.

I am currently concluding my third year as the DRI State Representative for Florida, a role that has provided the opportunity to strengthen relationship between DRI, our SLDO (FDLA), and its members throughout one of the nation's largest and most diverse legal communities.

Within DRI's Insurance Law Committee, I currently serve as Vice Chair of the Excess, Umbrella and Surplus Lines Subcommittee. I also served as the Insurance Law Committee Chair for the 2022 DRI Annual Meeting.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my DRI involvement has been my leadership with the Insurance Coverage and Practice Symposium. I served as Marketing Chair in 2021 and 2022, Vice Chair in 2023, and Program Chair in 2024. Leading the planning of the Symposium was one of the highlights of my DRI service. The program experienced record attendance, outstanding faculty, and exceptional attendee feedback, and I was deeply honored to receive the 2025 Albert H. Parnell Outstanding Program Chair Award in recognition of those efforts. Receiving that recognition at the DRI Annual Meeting in Chicago was especially meaningful because my husband and young daughter were able to be there to share in that moment with me. Having them witness an

organization that has played such an important role in my professional growth recognize my service made the experience all the more memorable and remains one of my most cherished DRI memories.

I have also enjoyed contributing as a faculty member. My presentations have included:

- Ticking Clocks and Bad Faith Traps: Navigating Time-Limited Demands in a Shifting Legal Landscape (DRI's Insurance Coverage and Practice Symposium, 2025)
- Time-Limit Demands: Update on Statutes and Problem Jurisdictions (DRI's Insurance Bad Faith and Extra-Contractual Liability Seminar, 2024)
- Catastrophic Losses: Insight into the Surfside Condominium Collapse Litigation (DRI's Insurance Coverage and Practice Symposium, 2022)

In addition, I was honored to present at the DRI Southeast Regional Meetings in both 2025, hosted in Miami, and 2026, hosted in Boston. These programs provided another meaningful opportunity to engage with DRI members from across the region, and share practical insights on emerging issues impacting the defense bar and our SLDOs.

I also currently serve as one of three Editors-in-Chief for DRI's 2026 Bad Faith Compendium and am authoring the Florida chapter. Throughout my involvement with

DRI, I have also served on numerous planning, programming, marketing, and subcommittee initiatives supporting the Insurance Coverage and Practice Symposium, the Insurance Coverage and Claims Institute, and the Insurance Bad Faith and Extra-Contractual Liability Seminar.

Collectively, these opportunities have allowed me not only to contribute to DRI's educational programming, but also to collaborate with exceptional leaders across the country, mentor newer members, and help strengthen the organization's national presence and continued growth.

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

In addition to my leadership within DRI, I have been fortunate to serve in a number of leadership positions within my firm and the broader defense bar.

At Segal McCambridge, I serve as Managing Shareholder of the firm's Fort Lauderdale and Tampa offices and as Chair of the firm's National Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith Practice Group. These roles allow me to lead attorneys across multiple jurisdictions, oversee strategic growth, mentor developing lawyers, and help shape the direction of one of the firm's largest practice groups.

Within the firm, I have also served as Marketing Chair on our Marketing Committee, as a member of our Strategic Planning Committee, and currently serve on our Associate Development

Committee, where I mentor several associates as part of our firm's formal mentoring program.

Outside my firm, I currently serve on the Executive Committee of the Florida Defense Lawyers Association (FDLA) as Secretary-Treasurer, following three years as a member of its Board of Directors. Serving simultaneously as both a DRI State Representative and an FDLA Board member has provided a unique perspective regarding the relationship between national and state organizations. Those complementary roles have allowed me to identify opportunities for collaboration, strengthen communication between organizations, encourage cross-membership, and help advance initiatives that benefit defense lawyers at both the state and national levels.

I have also chaired and presented at numerous FDLA seminars and educational programs.

Additionally, I was honored to be appointed to the planning committee for the inaugural Florida Coverage College following the Florida Bar's approval of Insurance Coverage Law as a Board Certification specialty. I continue to serve on the committee for the 2027 program and presented at the inaugural Coverage College on "Defects, Damages, and Dollars: Decoding Coverage and Allocation in Construction Disputes".

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 am also a member of the Association of Defense Trial Attorneys (ADTA).

Each of these roles has reinforced my belief that leadership is ultimately about service: creating opportunities for others, strengthening professional relationships, and helping organizations continue to evolve while remaining true to their core missions.

DRI has had an immeasurable impact on my professional development, leadership journey, and career. I have been fortunate to benefit from extraordinary mentors within this organization who invested in me early, encouraged me to become involved, entrusted me with leadership opportunities, and demonstrated what thoughtful leadership truly looks like. Seeking a position on the Board is, for me, the natural continuation of that journey and an opportunity to give back to an organization that has given me so much.

I believe I bring a unique perspective because I have had the privilege of serving in leadership roles at many levels of our profession. Nationally, I have served DRI through committee leadership, seminar leadership, speaking, authorship, and as Florida State Representative. At the state level, I currently serve on the Executive Committee of FDLA. Professionally, I lead two Florida offices of a national law firm while chairing our national Insurance

Coverage and Bad Faith Practice Group. Those experiences have given me an appreciation for balancing national strategy with local engagement, fostering collaboration across diverse groups, and building strong organizational cultures.

I also care deeply about developing future leaders. Mentorship has been central to my own career, and I have made it a priority to invest in younger attorneys through my firm, DRI, and FDLA. I understand the importance of attracting, engaging, and retaining the next generation of defense lawyers while preserving the professionalism, collegiality, and substantive excellence that have long defined DRI.

Above all, I believe I would bring thoughtful leadership, sound judgment, reliability, responsiveness, collaboration, and a genuine commitment to the organization's mission. I approach every leadership position with the same level of dedication, professionalism, and commitment that I have brought to every role throughout my career, and I would consider it a tremendous privilege to help guide DRI into its next chapter.

What suggestions would you make to move the organization forward?:

DRI has built an extraordinary foundation, and I believe its greatest opportunity over the next several years is to continue strengthening engagement throughout every stage of a member's career.

Mentorship remains the single greatest investment we can make in DRI's future. My own career is a direct reflection of mentors who introduced me to DRI, encouraged my involvement, and taught me not only substantive law, but also leadership, business development, speaking, writing, and relationship-building. Those experiences shaped the attorney and leader I have become.

As the practice of law continues to evolve, including advances in technology, changing client expectations, and generational shifts, we must continue creating meaningful pathways for newer lawyers to become engaged while ensuring they experience the same sense of belonging, professional growth, and lifelong relationships that have distinguished DRI for decades.

Continued collaboration with our SLDO partners, leadership development opportunities, intentional mentorship programs, and innovative educational programming will help ensure DRI remains the premier organization for defense lawyers for generations to come.

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

Without question, my involvement in the Surfside condominium collapse litigation was the most transformative experience of my professional career.

As one of the attorneys representing an insurer for a principal defendant, I was deeply

involved in one of the most significant and complex cases in recent history. Over the course of nearly a year, I attended virtually every hearing and worked through extraordinarily complex liability and insurance coverage issues under unprecedented time pressures. The litigation ultimately resulted in a historic settlement exceeding \$1 billion.

Professionally, the matter challenged every aspect of my legal abilities. Personally, however, it left an even greater impression.

As the wife of a South Florida firefighter and paramedic, the tragedy was especially personal. I heard firsthand accounts from many of the courageous first responders who worked tirelessly at the collapse site. Their dedication and sacrifice served as a powerful reminder that behind every case are real people whose lives have been permanently affected.

The experience reinforced for me that our work as attorneys extends beyond legal analysis. We help facilitate resolution, accountability, and, in many cases, an important measure of closure for those impacted by tragedy. It also reaffirmed the importance of professionalism, collaboration, compassion, and steady leadership during extraordinarily difficult circumstances. Those lessons continue to influence how I practice law and how I strive to lead others.

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

Over the next five years, I believe DRI's greatest opportunity will be continuing to evolve while remaining true to the principles that have made it the premier organization for defense lawyers.

The legal profession is changing rapidly. Artificial intelligence, changing client expectations, evolving business models, and generational shifts are reshaping the practice of law. At the same time, younger attorneys are seeking meaningful mentorship, authentic professional relationships, leadership opportunities, and organizations that provide tangible value throughout their careers.

DRI is uniquely positioned to meet those needs because it already possesses what cannot be replicated through technology, its people, its culture of collegiality, its substantive excellence, and its unparalleled network of outside counsel, in-house counsel, and industry professionals.

I believe both our challenge and our opportunity, is to continue modernizing how we engage members while preserving the relationships, professionalism, and collaborative culture that have always distinguished DRI. If we continue investing in leadership development, mentorship, innovative programming, and strong partnerships with our SLDOs, DRI will remain the preeminent voice of the defense bar for decades to come.

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 shareholder in a management role and in a profession that historically has not always included women in leadership positions in significant numbers, I appreciate both the progress that has been made and the importance of continuing to create pathways for talented lawyers from all backgrounds to lead. My own leadership journey has reinforced how meaningful it is to have mentors and organizations that recognize potential, invest in future leaders, and encourage diverse perspectives at the decision-making table.

Having grown up in South Florida, one of the nation's most diverse communities, I have long appreciated the value that different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives bring to thoughtful decision-making. I believe organizations are strongest when their leadership reflects the diversity of their membership and when every member feels welcomed, valued, and empowered to contribute.

As a Board member, I would continue to support initiatives that promote meaningful engagement, mentorship, leadership development, and inclusive opportunities so that DRI remains an organization where every member has the opportunity to succeed and where the next generation of leaders is as strong and diverse as the profession it represents.

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

If there is one thing I hope this application conveys, it is how deeply I care about DRI.

For more than a decade, DRI has been far more than a professional organization to me. It has been a place where I have found mentors, lifelong friendships, professional growth, leadership opportunities, and a community of extraordinary lawyers who share a genuine commitment to our profession.

Over the past several years, I have devoted my heart and energy to serving DRI, as Florida State Representative, seminar leader, speaker, author, committee member, mentor, and advocate for the organization. At the same time, I have balanced those responsibilities with serving as Managing Shareholder of two Florida offices, overseeing more than a dozen attorneys and more than thirty professional staff, while also leading my firm's national Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith Practice Group and serving in leadership within my SLDO, FDLA.

I have never viewed these roles as obligations; they have been privileges.

DRI has profoundly shaped my career and my professional life. I would welcome the opportunity to continue giving back to an organization that has given me so much, while working alongside its exceptional leadership to ensure that future generations of defense lawyers experience the same opportunities, mentorship, and

sense of community that have
meant so much to me.

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