



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: Jennifer Foulk Nutter

Firm/Company: Hood Law Firm

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

19

Areas of Practice:

Professional Liability, Medical Malpractice, Healthcare, Insurance Law, Product Liability, Trucking, Hospitality

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

Partner at Hood Law Firm 2008-present
Associate at Hood Law Firm 2001-2008

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 chaired DRI's first post-pandemic, in-person WITL seminar in Austin, TX in February 2022, which was a success. As an active WITL member and current Chair, I continue to help advance new initiatives and programming while meeting emerging challenges.

- Current State Representative for South Carolina

- All below for Women in the Law Committee (since 2014):
Current Chair and Former Vice Chair of WITL

Program Vice Chair/Chair
Activities Vice Chair/Chair
Marketing Vice Chair/Chair
Membership Vice Chair/Chair
Publications
Mentorship

- Women in the Law Committee Outstanding Leader 2022

- Committee Memberships:
Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs
Diversity and Inclusion
DRI Hub
Medical Liability
Professional Liability

State Representatives
Women in the Law

•Presentations:

Power of Persuasive Writing DRI WITL
Annual Seminar Miami
Panel DRI WITL Annual Seminar Austin
Fly-in on Leadership and Engagement
at the DRI WITL Annual Seminar in
Orlando
Podcast DRI WITL Committee, Say
Hello to my WITL Friends: Episode 4

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

- South Carolina Defense Trial
Attorneys' Association
Board
- Southeastern Women Litigators
Chair of Annual Conference
Past Vice Chair, Speaker
- Lawyers Fund for Client Protection
Committee (Past)
- Charleston County Bar Association
- South Carolina Bar
Lawyer Mentoring Program (Past)
- American Bar Association
- South Carolina Women's Lawyer
Association

**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 a strong leader and an attentive listener. Through my work with the DRI WITL committee, state board service, and leadership roles in other organizations, I have seen a clear shift not only within DRI, but across many professional groups. These experiences have helped me understand the changes needed to succeed in an increasingly virtual profession and the importance of continuing to evolve engagement and leadership in response to changing dynamics. Through these experiences and keeping options for change open, we can better recognize and

incorporate the perspectives of newer generations of lawyers, who are eager to engage, contribute, and help organizations grow and adapt. DRI should draw on these perspectives to better serve newer lawyers, and I would welcome the opportunity to help advance this evolution and support the organization's continued growth and development.

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

DRI's continued growth should focus not only on expanding membership, but also on deepening engagement. Through my WITL committee service and leadership experience, I have seen that long-term success depends on more than recruiting new members; it requires helping them become active in committees and leadership roles so they can develop within the organization. One way to support that goal would be to host happy hours around WITL annual meetings and DRI meetings, organized by local WITL members and open to nearby communities. These events would offer law students and newer lawyers—especially those who may be hesitant to participate or lack financial support for membership—a welcoming opportunity to build connections and get involved. This approach would strengthen membership, engagement, and leadership within DRI, particularly as those efforts have become more challenging in the post-COVID environment. In addition, involving more SLDO members in local DRI seminars could further engage individuals who already serve as local leaders.

I also believe DRI can benefit from refreshing existing programs and

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

initiatives that have become stagnant. For example, WITL's May fly-in leadership program was no longer consistently workable as an in-person event because of timing and other constraints. I revised the program by incorporating it into the WITL annual meeting, which increased current leadership involvement, encouraged newer members to participate, and helped promote in-person attendance. The revised fly-in concept succeeded because it offered a fresh, practical format. Next year, it could be expanded with an agenda that encourages volunteers to take ownership of specific initiatives throughout the year, including SLDO and local priorities.

My trial experience has taught me that some difficult defense counsel act from personal motives rather than a spirit of leadership and support, which can be especially harmful to a young lawyer. I also learned that, while areas for improvement must be addressed, feedback is most effective when it is constructive and growth-oriented rather than critical after the fact. As a result, I strive to create an environment in which lawyers feel supported as they learn, mistakes are addressed constructively and in real time when possible, and feedback is used as a teaching tool to build confidence and skill. I have worked to model that approach for other lawyers so they can likewise help develop and encourage their colleagues.

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

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?:

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

Membership, engagement, and leadership—especially efforts to retain and reengage members while supporting young lawyers as they start and build their careers.

As a lawyer practicing in South Carolina since 2001, I have faced many gender-related challenges throughout my career. The most significant challenge has not been overt discrimination, but rather discrimination by omission—specifically, a lack of mentorship and meaningful discussion about leadership and how to stay engaged in the profession beyond daily practice. DRI, and particularly WITL, has been especially fulfilling in that regard. Through those organizations, I have learned how to pay that support forward and to grow through service on other committees and boards, both within my practice and in my community. That experience has also enabled me to support other female lawyers as they navigate similar challenges while building families and seeking to remain active in the legal community beyond their day-to-day work. I have mentored them both personally and through the South Carolina Bar mentorship program for new lawyers. This model is equally effective for supporting individuals from diverse backgrounds and creating opportunities for others to grow, regardless of who they are.

I appreciate the consideration for a board position. Should I not be selected at this time, I would like to still serve DRI in whatever capacity is helpful and continue to give back to

the organization that has given so much to me.

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