



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?:

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How long, in years, have you been a member of DRI?: 13

Areas of Practice: Insurance Coverage, Litigation

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

I am deeply grateful for the professional journey that has shaped my career as an attorney specializing in insurance law. I am proud to list and discuss the three (3) law firms that have helped me grow as a professional and no doubt, as a person. Each firm has provided with opportunities and lifelong relationships that surpass dates of employment. Below is my employment history in chronological order, beginning with my current position:

Partner: Gerber Ciano Kelly Brady LLP
I joined GCKB because it was an opportunity. I was offered equity partnership which was a lifelong aspiration. I lead initiatives and my opinion is not only solicited but it is heard. I am part of important decisions, and I play an important role in making business decisions. I was the first female Executive Committee member and the firm's first female equity partner. My voice and presence paved the way for other female equity partners. The firm gave me an opportunity to be intimately involved in decisions which impact the lives and families of over 100 employees. In this position, I have gained an understanding and appreciation for how a business works. My partners are my friends and family. My work-family has supported and encouraged my involvement in DRI. Each milestone I take is celebrated by my partners and all of colleagues at every level.

Partner: Goldberg Segalla LLP
I was very fortunate to work at Goldberg

Segalla. When I joined the Buffalo, New York based firm, I was asked to help open the Long Island office along with another colleague. I was involved in collaboration, exchange of ideas and management of the Long Island office. The firm selflessly introduced me to clients and transferred relationships. I was surrounded by intelligent entrepreneurs and subject matter experts who always found time to listen and mentor. Even as the firm was expanding, the support for investing in myself as a professional was limitless. GS was the first firm to introduce me to DRI.

Intern, Associate and Partner: Pino & Associates

I started with Pino & Associates when I was 22 years old, and while in law school. Because of my familial situation, I worked during law school to assist with the financial obligations of law school. The firm taught me how to become a professional. I was able to use my multilingual abilities to communicate with the firm's clients. After law school, I was hired as an associate and then graduated to partner. I made lifelong friendships and was entrusted with some of the most challenging assignments and trials. I was asked to travel the world to meet with clients, take depositions, learn the client's business and spend days at a time at the client's facilities to learn about their work and the products manufactured. Pino & Associates provided me with my first chance, and it is where I grew from a student to a professional.

Each firm has and continues to shape who I am as an attorney, a leader, and as a person. I have been fortunate to learn from exceptional mentors, colleagues, and clients. I look forward to continuing to grow, contribute, and support the legal profession with humility, dedication, and gratitude —

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.:

and to bringing that same spirit of service to the DRI Board of Directors.

Positions:

- Chair, Insurance Law Committee ("ILC")
- ILC Chair for Annual Meeting (San Antonio, TX)
- ILC Expert Database Chair
- ILC, DRI For Life Chair
- SLG Chair, Directors & Officers for ILC
- Chair, Northeast Regional Claims Conference (Hartford, CT)
- ILC Steering Committee Member

Presenter:

- Insurance Coverage and Practice Symposium (NY) December 9, 2016
"Deep Dive into Defending"
- Northeast Regional Claims Conference (CT), September 27, 2018
"Coverage Issues Arising From Partially Covered Claims"
- Insurance Coverage and Practice Symposium (NY) December 5, 2019
"Additional Insured Endorsements and Their Thorny Issues"
- Insurance Coverage and Practice Symposium (NY), December 10, 2021
"Strategies for Navigating Covered and Non-Covered Claims While Avoiding Bad Faith Failure to Settle Exposure"
- Sexual Torts Seminar (IN), March 13, 2023
"Strategies for Evaluation of Damages, Mediation & Settlement"
- Annual Meeting (IL) October 15, 2025
"Privilege Under Pressure - Shielding The Claims Files"

Articles:

- "Til Death Do Us Part:" Coverage and Contractual Obligations, For The Defense,

December 2020

- "In Front and Behind the Scenes with Fronting Insurance Programs," In-House Defense Quarterly, Fall 2020
- "Estoppel: The Reason Why Coverage Ends or, Really, Begins," Covered Events, December 23, 2016
- "The Rise of Global Insurance Policies," For The Defense, May 2016
- "Advertising Offenses," Coverage B: Personal and Advertising Injury Compendium, May 2014
- "Professional Liability Insurance: A Compendium of State Law," December 20, 2012
- DRI articles Quoted by La Voce Degli Indipendenti, La voce degli indipendenti, I programmi assicurativi per la protezione dei Directors & Officers in ambito internazionale published 26/09/2019
- DRI articles Quoted by La Voce Degli Indipendenti, La voce degli indipendenti, Disciplina della copertura assicurativa delle spese legali nelle polizze D&O: inquadramento e problematiche published 26/3/2019
- Quoted by University of Buckingham, School of Law, 1301644 PROTECTIONISM AND LIBERALISATION IN THE NIGERIAN INSURANCE SECTOR.pdf, March 2019
- DRI articles Quoted by Kobe University <https://da.lib.kobe-u.ac.jp/da/kernel/0100482301/D1008553.pdf>

Non-DRI Publications

- Commentator, "Top Property Insurance Decisions So Far In 2025," Law360, August 1,

2025

- Author, "NY Insurance Ruling Reveals Limits Of Contra Proferentem," Law360, August 5, 2022
- Commentator, "Property Insurance Cases Of Note From The 1st Half of 2022," Law360, August 5, 2022
- Commentator, "2nd Cir. Delivers Another Virus Coverage Win For Insurers," Law360, January 4, 2022
- Commentator, "NY Gun Law May Create Opioidlike Litigation For Insurers," Law360, July 16, 2021
- Commentator, "Insurance Companies Not Forced to Defend Malicious Defamation Claims," The Insurance & Reinsurance Report, March 25, 2015
- Author, "NY Insurers May Benefit From Lower Disclaimer Standard," Law360 July 17, 2014

Special Accomplishments:

For over 10 years, I have organized the Women's Dinner for ILC which is a very well attended networking event. My involvement with the Women's Dinner predates my position as Chair of ILC. Each year I plan a dinner that is open to all who want to celebrate women in the law and women in the insurance industry. It is more than a meal. It is an off-site networking event and at the same time, a social gathering intended to make friendships that last beyond the event. Because of the size of the restaurant, we usually limit the event to 65 people and have a waitlist. Because it is not a DRI sponsored event, I personally handle the logistics, invites and the financial responsibilities along with the planning. I plan the event so that it is equally enticing to industry members and in doing so I work with attorneys to help sponsor dinners for industry attendees. This is a tradition that many attendees look forward to attending. I also make a concerted effort to reach out to first time attendees of the dinner and invite

them to sit with me at the dinner.

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

President and Treasurer, Coalition of Women's Initiative In Law, NY Chapter
This organization celebrates women attorneys regardless of their area of employment. I have held two position (Treasurer and President) and have continued as a Board Member. As Treasurer, I was tasked with handling the finances for the entire New York Chapter and dealt intimately with our vendors, management services company and external accountants which was truly a learning experience for me. As President, I organized numerous educational, networking and charitable events. In this position, I certainly found my voice as a leader and learned how to lead with objectivity and input from people I respect. The events I organized included speakers such authors, life coaches, instructors, physicians and judges who provided educational material and inspirational content. The organization supports women's professional development whose members range from law school students to retired members. I have made great friends through this organization, and many are now members of DRI and also frequenters of the DRI ILC Women's Dinner.

Chair of Insurance Coverage Committee,
TICL Section, NYSBA

Chair of CLE, TICL Section, NYSBA

Member, Task Force On Autonomous
Vehicles, NYSBA

I am an active member of the NYS Bar Association and in particular, the Torts, Insurance, Compensation Law Section. As Chair of the Insurance Coverage Committee, not only did I plan numerous CLE programs both within and outside of the State of New York which includes the State's Annual Meeting, Fall Meetings in conjunction with

other NYSBA Committees and programs for the TICL section as well.

I also planned several educational events titled "Law School for Insurance Professionals" which was a one-day seminar followed by a networking event. The Law School Program was designed to provide education to insurance professionals about claims, claims handling, coverage and substantive topics impacting the insurance industry.

I was the recipient of the John E. Leach Memorial Award which recognized my services to the NYS Bar Association. I was also a key member of the Task Force on Autonomous Vehicles. As part of this Task Force in 2020, I was charged with examining how the law and legal profession should adapt to the development of autonomous vehicles which resulted in a publication of a 44 page Report. Being on the Task Force underscores my ability to participate in bipartisan discussions, problem-solve and share expertise.

Board Member, New York Claims Association

I became involved in NYCA so that I could help the organization grow into the general liability arena. The NYCA was primarily a workers compensation organization, but we are approaching programming and networking events with a view on growing general liability membership. I have chaired CLE/CE programs, golf outings, and participated in planning holiday galas which has had nearly 900 attendees. As a Board Member, I am involved in discussions and planning for the Association's success and future.

Board Member, CLM Long Island Chapter
I have been on the Board for over 5 years and in doing so, I am involved in planning

networking events, interacting with vendors and sponsorship and creating CLE programs that benefit the entire membership.

Member and Speaker, FDCC

I am active member of FDCC and in particular, the insurance law committee and I have also presented at FDCC.

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 be honored to join the DRI Board of Directors because DRI has been an important professional home for me, and I truly value the organization's commitment to its members, leadership, and the legal community. I welcome the opportunity to give back in a more meaningful way by helping support DRI's continued growth and success. For me, this role is not only about service, but also about contributing to an organization that I respect and believe in.

DRI's ethos drives my loyalty. I have supported this organization since I became a member because I am inspired by its message. I have encouraged my colleagues to join and be equally active. My firm has been a consistent sponsor of DRI programs, and my partner Dan Gerber has been a strong leader within the organization at different levels which has not only intrigued me but underscored my desire to continue the trail. I care deeply about the organization and the role it plays in supporting and advancing our profession. DRI's dedication to National Foundation for Judicial Excellence ("NFJE") is special and personal to me. If given the opportunity, I would like to be more involved in leading the path to making DRI intricately involved in the defense bar in terms of being a voice for litigators, the industry and an educator for the judiciary. DRI should be viewed as the organization that leads by way of example. We have the highest level of decision-makers and thinkers as our

members. We should use this to support the industry.

DRI has given me opportunities to grow, connect, and contribute, and I would welcome the chance to give back by helping shape its future. I see board service as both an honor and a responsibility, and one I would approach with sincerity, dedication, and respect.

I would bring a combination of legal experience, leadership, and a collaborative spirit to the role. My background in insurance has strengthened my ability to analyze issues carefully, communicate clearly, and work through challenges with sound judgment. I also value being a good listener and a dependable team member. I enjoy contributing in settings where thoughtful discussion and shared purpose matter. I would bring those qualities, along with a genuine commitment to DRI's continued success, to board service. I believe my commitment, and enthusiasm for service would allow me to contribute positively to the Board and to DRI's mission.

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

As Chair of the Insurance Law Committee, I suggest DRI continue to build on the strengths that make it such a valuable organization: its excellent educational programming, strong professional community, and commitment to supporting the defense bar and insurance industry. In particular, I think DRI can keep moving forward by finding even more ways to engage members across different practice areas and career levels, so that both newer and more experienced members feel connected, supported, and invested in the organization. I also believe DRI can exist and thrive on a larger scale internationally. There are other legal and industry organizations that DRI can partner with among Europe, Asia and more to get higher visibility so that

it can share its message and pledge to the legal profession.

As Chair of the ILC, we have planned some of the most successful seminars within DRI with attendance at or near 800 for our New York, Insurance Coverage and Practice Symposium. This success arises out of hard work and also by understanding what concerns the industry has at the forefront of their businesses. I am confident I can bring my experience in understanding the work involved in creating successful seminars and roundtables to the Board so that I can contribute ideas and thoughts for future programming within DRI overall.

I would also challenge DRI to consider creating a task force to address emerging issues confronting the defense bar. This task force would join with the industry so that strategies can be addressed. The defense bar is constantly reacting to changes and attacks on the legal system and hardly initiating and developing.

DRI also needs to consider its current demographics so that is appeal to younger lawyers. In my opinion, DRI needs to find a different level of creativity so that it becomes source for its members and so that it distinguishes itself from other organizations. There needs to be a distinguishing factor.

I would also encourage DRI to continue expanding opportunities for leadership development, mentorship, and meaningful participation in committees and section work within DRI and outside. One of DRI's greatest strengths is the depth of talent and experience within its membership, and creating clear pathways for involvement helps ensure that expertise is shared and future leaders are developed. I believe DRI's continued growth depends not only on

providing high-quality programs, but also on making sure members feel a true sense of belonging and purpose within the organization.

As the Chair of ILC, I was personally involved in the ILC's Membership Committee. I felt personally responsible for the metrics of our membership and in doing so, I assisted with coordinating with individuals within the Membership Committee to think of new ways to engage current members and how to create opportunities for new members. What makes the ILC different in one aspect is that our Membership Committee does personal outreach to all new members. The outreach includes telephone calls, emails and organized coffees as part of our engagement efforts. We create buddy systems for those new members who attend a seminar for the first time so that they can be integrated in a comfortable environment which would otherwise be overwhelming.

I believe we increased membership in part by doing specific outreach and offering opportunities that very few committees and organizations can offer. We have publication opportunities and place members on various steering committees, planning committees, and subcommittees so that leadership positions are provided to all who want to participate. We encourage the participation.

I also believe in leading with enthusiasm which is an intentional technique that has proven successful. For instance, the ILC and its members contribute to the NFJE more than other organizations. As a Board member, I believe I can bring this same type of success to the broader DRI community. I and the ILC believe the NFJE is one of the most important organizations created and supported by the defense bar. This is because it reaches directly to the judiciary, without passing "go". It demonstrates the

strength, vitality, and independence of those who defend civil litigation, and our desire to provide the right kind of educational programming for the state judiciary, free of bias, free of propaganda. I have been passionate about the NFJE, and I would like the message to continue.

Finally, I think DRI can keep strengthening its impact by remaining responsive to the evolving needs of the defense bar, including changes in litigation practice, technology, and the business of law. DRI is well positioned to lead by offering practical education, fostering professional relationships, and creating space for thoughtful conversation about the issues that matter most to our members. I would welcome the opportunity to help advance that mission in a way that is collaborative, thoughtful, and member focused.

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

One transformational experience in my professional life came early in my career, when I was asked to help defend a manufacturer client located in another country in a highly publicized United States lawsuit involving multiple fatalities. The matter was especially challenging because effective communication to clients located outside of the United States required not only explaining the U.S. legal system clearly but also doing so in another language and in a way that would build trust and loyalty with individuals who were understandably cautious and concerned about the consequences of U.S. litigation.

What made that experience so defining was that it humbled me. It gave me a much deeper understanding of what it truly means to be an advocate and what it takes to genuinely defend a client in litigation. I learned that advocacy is not simply about legal argument or technical knowledge; it is about earning trust, listening carefully,

communicating with clarity and respect, and understanding the human realities and cultural differences that shape every client relationship. In this matter, I had to work through cultural distrust, navigate sensitive issues, and obtain information and documents that could expose professionals to personal liability in their own country. That required patience, discretion, and a deep respect for the people I was representing.

That experience helped define me both as a person and as an attorney. Personally, it taught me humility, empathy, and the importance of understanding perspectives beyond my own. Professionally, it shaped the way I practice law by reminding me that the best advocacy is grounded in preparation, trust, and a genuine commitment to serving the client's interests. It reinforced my belief that to be an effective lawyer, especially in litigation, one must do more than know the law — one must understand the client, the stakes, and the broader context in which the matter exists. That lesson has stayed with me throughout my career and continues to influence how I approach every client and every case.

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

Over the next five years, I believe one of DRI's greatest challenges will be helping the defense bar remain effective, unified, and forward-looking in a legal environment that continues to change in meaningful ways. As litigation trends evolve and social pressures rise, there is an ongoing need for the defense bar to remain engaged, informed, and proactive in addressing issues that affect not only attorneys, but also clients, businesses, and the integrity of the civil justice system. I believe DRI has an important opportunity to help shape that response in a thoughtful and strategic way. I would welcome the opportunity to be a thought leader on this end. DRI has the

means and audience to lend guidance to the insurance industry for instance, on collaborating on issues that impact the defense bar such as fighting fraud, commenting and leading legislation and working with insurers to respond to the public's sentiments about the industry and the imploding verdicts and bias plaguing the defense bar.

One of DRI's greatest strengths is its ability to bring together experienced defense lawyers who are committed to excellence, collaboration, and advocacy. Over the next several years, I think DRI can continue to build on that strength by serving as a leading voice for the defense bar, promoting high-quality education, and helping ensure that judges, practitioners, and policymakers have access to balanced, practical, and well-informed perspectives. I really believe there is a broader opportunity to be had with the NFJE. The message needs to be sent; it is corporate America and the insurance industry that really get the benefit of the work being undertaken by the NFJE. DRI and NFJE have a shared mission which is to strengthen the judiciary and the legal profession. Only with a high-quality judicial education can we secure a better network of attorneys and a better civil system. The ethos of the NFJE should be part of every committee and not just at the fund-raising level. We should have members of each committee be part of this endeavor to a greater degree. To be a strong defense bar we need everyone to contribute and it's up to leadership to make that happen. In that way, DRI can play a meaningful role in advancing fairness, professionalism, and confidence in the litigation process.

I also believe DRI needs to continue strengthening its influence by being a convener of ideas and a source of leadership for defense community. Organizations like

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 are essential because they bring purpose to important conversations affecting our profession. To this end, membership must continue to be a priority, and new incentives need to be constantly evolving. I would be proud to contribute to that effort by supporting DRI's mission in a way that is collaborative and focused on long-term impact.

I have long believed that diversity, equity, and inclusion are not only important values, but essential to building effective organizations and professional communities. Throughout my career, I have been intentional about supporting women professionals and those who are first-generation attorneys and professionals, because I understand how meaningful it is to have access to opportunity, mentorship, and a seat at the table. As a first-generation female in the legal profession, I have seen firsthand the value of creating spaces where different voices are heard, respected, and encouraged to lead.

Professionally, I have demonstrated this commitment by mentoring and encouraging women and first-generation professionals to pursue leadership opportunities, speak with confidence, and recognize the value of their perspectives. I take great pride in supporting friends, family and colleagues who ask or want guidance with their professional paths.

I was the first female equity partner at Gerber Ciano Kelly Brady and the first female member on the firm's Executive Committee. I am proud that both the equity partnership and Executive Committee members of my firm fully support DRI, my involvement and my Declaration for a board position. I have had the privilege of helping shape a workplace culture that values and welcomes diverse perspectives, inclusive leadership, and meaningful opportunity. I

have taken that responsibility seriously, not only by serving in a visible leadership role, but by working to ensure that women and other underrepresented professionals have access to mentorship and a real voice in decision-making. As a member of our Women's Initiatives, I am involved in creating opportunities and discussions pertinent to our community such as ensuring maternity leave is fair and consistent and that women who have responsibilities beyond the workplace are heard and understood. I am also a member of the firm's Healthcare Committee and involved in making decisions that directly involve the future of our community and their families.

In my practice and leadership roles, I appreciate that DE&I is not a standalone initiative; it must be reflected in hiring, advancement, leadership development, committee participation, and the day-to-day culture of an organization.

My experience would inform my contributions as a Board member by bringing both a practical and strategic perspective to DRI's goals. As someone who has advanced within a traditionally male-dominated profession, I understand the importance of building pathways for leadership that are inclusive, and transparent. I would bring that perspective to Board discussions with the goal of helping DRI continue to attract, engage, and elevate talented members from all backgrounds. I also value collaboration and would welcome the opportunity to work with other Board members to advance DRI's mission through thoughtful, inclusive leadership.

I have tried to lead by example through my own professional conduct, by showing that excellence and inclusion are not competing

goals, but mutually reinforcing ones. I believe it is important to create environments where people feel seen, supported, and empowered to contribute fully. As a daughter of immigrants, the bandwidth of educational advice and professional guidance was obviously limited based on the lack of access and lack of cultural integration. Because of this, I value building relationships and sharing experiences because this is what defines us as humans.

The Women's Dinner that I organize each December is another example for the Board to understand my beliefs and contributions to DE&I. The planning starts 6 months in advance of the dinner. The outreach is perhaps the most important part of the event. I specifically reach out to people who are first time attendees with personal invitations, and I create seating with purpose and intent while taking into account geographics, personal backgrounds, professional accomplishments and personalities so that each person will create a lasting friendship that evening and beyond. This event is then carried over, admittedly, on a smaller scale to Chicago during the Insurance Coverage and Claims Institute. I perform the same outreach to those who attended the New York dinner to plan an evening for women. The event is an opportunity to create an experience for female professionals to come together to not only network but celebrate their professional selves. Recently, at the Bad Faith seminar in Louisville, we made a concerted effort to include a women's breakfast that was hosted by a firm. The event marked a continued representation of women's initiatives. Even with the planning of programs for ILC, we are keenly aware of recognizing women as key participants in the planning and programming phases and strategic about the implementation so that

talent is celebrated.

My DE&I experience will inform my contributions as a Board member by helping me bring an inclusive, collaborative, and thoughtful perspective to governance and decision-making. I understand how important it is for organizations like DRI to reflect the diversity of the profession and to ensure that members from every single background feels welcomed and represented. If selected, I would bring a deep commitment to advancing opportunities for women, first-generation professionals, skilled, newly admitted and those who are just interested in learning more to help DRI continue to grow as an organization that values both excellence and inclusion.

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

I was personally overwhelmed by the support I felt from the current Board and past Officers. If it were not for the friendships that I created in DRI, I would not be submitting this Declaration. These relationships and this type of encouragement confirmed for me that I want to rise further in DRI. Throughout the years, while being involved in DRI, I have come to understand and appreciate the hard work, obligations and responsibilities of a DRI Board Member. If given the opportunity, I am confident I have the commitment, energy, and dedication to be a successful board member and to bring a unique perspective to the organization.

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