



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:

Roy D Prather III

Firm/Company:

Beveridge & Diamond P.C.

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

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Areas of Practice:

Toxic Tort, Environmental Law,
Commercial Litigation

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

Principal at Beveridge & Diamond,
PC
(Member of Firm Management
Committee for three years)

Adjunct Professor at Georgetown
University Law Center

Associate at Beveridge & Diamond,
PC

Associate at Reed Smith LLP

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.:

Toxic Tort & Environmental Law
Committee

- Chair 2025-2026: Facilitated increase in diversity of seminar speakers; expanded participation of young lawyers in the committee; rebuilt seminar attendance after significant declines post-COVID; grew Steering Committee participation with new membership; identified and mentored young lawyers to expand future leaders of the committee; spearheaded podcast initiative for committee; coordinated with Center for Law and Policy to plan first ever PFAS seminar

- Vice Chair 2024-2025

- Program/Seminar Chair 2023

- Seminar Vice Chair 2022

- Online programming Co-Chair

2018-2020

- Steering Committee 2018-present

- Member 2015-present

DRI Center for Law and Policy

- Climate Change and Sustainability Task Force 2

Diversity Committee

- Member 2017-present

DRI Presentations

I moderated the DRI Toxic Torts and Environmental Law Seminar panel "Environmental Justice in the Wake of a Disaster: Dissecting the Connection Between Minority Communities and Disasters Through a Legal Lens," and have contributed to DRI programming and committee strategy for environmental and toxic tort defense practitioners.

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

International Association of Defense Counsel

- Energy and Environmental Law Committee (Vice Chair, Webinars)

American Bar Association — Section of Energy, Environment, and Resources

- In-House Counsel Committee (Member)

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee (Chair, Membership Diversity Enhancement Program)

Institute for Energy Law —

(Member, Advisory Board and Executive Committee)

Maryland State Bar Association - Environment & Energy Law Section (Member, Section Council)

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?:

My active involvement in DRI has been one of the most rewarding parts of my professional career. Through my service as Chair of the Toxic Torts and Environmental Law Committee, and previously as Vice Chair and Program Chair for the Committee's annual seminar, I have seen firsthand how DRI delivers exceptional value to its members through practical education, thought leadership, professional development, and meaningful relationships. My work with DRI has also deepened my appreciation for the importance of collaboration among committees, the Law Institute, the Center for Law and Policy, and DRI staff. I am applying for this role because I believe I can help DRI continue to grow as the leading national voice of the defense bar, particularly as our members confront emerging litigation trends, evolving client expectations, environmental and toxic tort challenges, and the need for inclusive leadership pipelines. My DRI leadership experience, combined with my service on my firm's Management Committee and my broader commitments to community, mentorship, and diversity in the profession, have prepared me well to serve on DRI's governing board.

What suggestions would you make to move the organization

If elected, I would prioritize programming and member

forward?:

engagement because they are central to DRI's value proposition. DRI operates in a competitive environment, and our members, clients, and corporate partners have many demands on their time. Members and potential members face increasingly strained budgets and limited time. To continue growing, we must make DRI events special as not only sources of high-quality education and CLE credit, but places where defense lawyers and in-house counsel come together to exchange ideas, build relationships, and address the real-world challenges facing businesses and the defense bar.

My leadership in the Toxic Torts and Environmental Law Committee as well as participation in the Diversity Committee has shown me that strong programming does not happen by accident. Both committees pride themselves on fantastic speaker selection, appropriate formats, and delivery of exceptional content, all while providing valuable opportunities for interaction and relationship building. The most successful programs also create space for meaningful participation by in-house counsel and corporate representatives, both as speakers and as hosts of counsel meetings. Their perspectives make our programs stronger and more relevant, and their increased involvement is critical to DRI's long-term success. Where clients go, outside counsel follow.

Ultimately, the relationship between corporations, in-house counsel, and

the defense bar is fundamental to who DRI is and that has borne out in the value the organization has provided me in my career. We should continue to build programs that reflect that relationship and make DRI indispensable to both outside counsel and the clients they serve. If we do that well, attendees will leave our events glad they came, motivated to return, more connected to the organization, and eager to bring others with them.

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

One defining experience in my professional life was my work defending the City of Newark in high-profile Safe Drinking Water Act litigation involving lead in drinking water. The case arose in an environment of intense public concern following the drinking water disaster in Flint, MI. The stakes were significant legally, financially, and most importantly, for public trust in the City's water system. The plaintiffs sought extraordinary preliminary injunctive relief, including door-to-door bottled water delivery at an estimated cost of tens of millions of dollars. Our team defeated two preliminary injunction efforts and ultimately resolved the case favorably, with the City continuing remediation efforts that were already underway, including its groundbreaking program to replace lead service lines free of charge to residents. Our litigation successes were even recognized by The American Lawyer, which named our team "Litigators of the Week."

That experience was transformational because it

reinforced for me that litigation is rarely just about statutes, regulations, and courtroom strategy. At its best, effective advocacy requires understanding the client's goals, the affected stakeholders, the science at issue, and the public's need for confidence that real problems are being solved. Defending Newark required disciplined litigation strategy, attention to detail, teamwork, and the ability to keep sight of the broader public interest while vigorously representing our client.

I also learned that the most successful defense outcomes are not always measured only by a ruling or settlement term. They are measured by whether the legal strategy helps create space for practical solutions. Newark emerged as a national example for lead service line replacement, and being part of a team that helped the City continue that work while resolving complex litigation was deeply meaningful to me.

The experience continues to shape my practice. It informs how I approach complex litigation disputes, environmental issues, and matters involving sensitive public concerns. It taught me that excellent defense lawyering requires credibility, preparation, collaboration, and judgment to not only win legal arguments, but to help clients navigate difficult moments in ways that serve their legal, business, and public-facing responsibilities.

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

The greatest challenge and opportunity for DRI over the next five years is the same: ensuring that DRI remains indispensable to defense lawyers, in-house counsel, and the businesses and public entities they serve in a rapidly changing legal environment. To that end, deepening the connection between the defense bar and in-house counsel is essential. DRI identifies itself as the voice of the defense bar, and that voice is strongest when it reflects the perspectives of the clients we serve. Over the next five years, DRI has an important opportunity to increase participation by in-house lawyers and corporate representatives in our programming, committees, publications, and policy work. Their involvement makes our content more relevant, strengthens relationships between outside counsel and clients, and helps ensure that DRI is focused on the issues businesses are actually confronting.

DRI also must help members navigate emerging litigation and regulatory trends. In my own practice, I see how quickly matters involving toxic torts, class actions, environmental justice, climate change, sustainability, greenwashing, and citizen suits can combine legal, scientific, business, reputational, and community concerns. Similar complexity exists across many areas of civil defense practice. DRI should continue to be the place where defense lawyers come together to understand those trends, share strategies, develop

best practices, and anticipate what is coming next.

Another major challenge is leadership development. DRI's future depends on building strong, inclusive pipelines for lawyers at every stage of practice. We should be intentional about creating opportunities for young lawyers, diverse lawyers, in-house counsel, government lawyers, and lawyers from firms and communities of all sizes to participate meaningfully in DRI. That includes speaking opportunities, writing opportunities, committee leadership, mentoring, and board service. If members can see a path for themselves within DRI like I have experienced in my own journey with DRI then I am positive they will be more likely to stay engaged and help build the organization.

Technology will also present both challenges and opportunities. Artificial intelligence, data analytics, remote work, and changing client expectations are reshaping how lawyers practice and how professional organizations deliver value. DRI should not simply react to those changes. It should help lead the conversation about how defense lawyers can use new tools ethically, effectively, and in ways that improve client service. At the same time, DRI should use technology to make engagement easier for members who cannot attend every in-person event, while still preserving the relationship-building that makes in-person participation so valuable.

Finally, DRI must continue to elevate its role as a respected voice on civil justice issues. Through the Center for Law and Policy, substantive law committees, and collaboration with in-house counsel and business leaders, DRI can speak credibly about litigation trends, fairness in the civil justice system, transparency, innovation, and the rule of law. That policy voice is one of DRI's most important assets and should become even more central to the organization's value proposition. I have seen firsthand the value of a DRI amicus brief weighing in on issues significant to my clients and the legal profession overall and that must remain a focus of the organization.

In short, DRI's challenge is to remain relevant in a crowded and changing environment. Its opportunity is to become even more essential as a source of excellent education, a platform for meaningful relationships, a home for leadership development, a partner to in-house counsel and corporations, and the leading national voice of the defense bar.

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

My commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion has been reflected in my professional leadership, my practice, and my community involvement. At Beveridge & Diamond, I have served on the firm's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, including as chair from 2020 to 2022, while also serving in firm leadership as a member of the Management Committee. That experience has reinforced for me that DE&I work cannot be separate

and Inclusion in your work, and how will your DE&I experience inform your contributions as a Board member?:

from an institution's core mission. It must be connected to leadership, talent development, mentoring, client service, and the culture of the organization.

I also have demonstrated that commitment through my work outside the firm. I am a founding member and serve on the Advisory Board of the Black BigLaw Pipeline, Inc., a nonprofit focused on promoting positive outcomes for Black attorneys working in large law firms. I have also tried to invest personally in the next generation through youth mentorship, including as a Big Brother through Big Brothers Big Sisters and as a mentor through Bridges Baltimore. Those roles reflect my belief that access, mentorship, sponsorship, and intentional relationship-building are essential to creating more inclusive institutions. I have also applied these values to my role with ABA SEER's DEIB Committee, serving for two years as Chair of the Section's Membership Diversity Enhancement Program which specifically seeks to expand the visibility of opportunities for underrepresented groups to participate in meaningful roles within the Section.

My legal practice has also shaped how I think about equity and inclusion. A significant part of my work involves counseling clients on environmental justice, including sensitive multi-stakeholder interactions involving communities, businesses, regulators, and public-sector entities. I also teach Environmental Justice as an adjunct

professor at Georgetown University Law Center, where my course focuses on applying environmental justice principles to complex issues affecting overburdened communities. That work has taught me that durable solutions require listening, trust, transparency, and an appreciation for perspectives that may not always be represented in traditional legal or institutional decision-making.

If elected to the DRI Board, I would bring these experiences to the organization's ongoing DE&I efforts. DRI is strongest when its leadership reflects the breadth of the defense bar. I would work to help ensure that DRI continues to build inclusive leadership pipelines, expands meaningful opportunities for diverse lawyers to speak, write, lead, and be sponsored within the organization, and strengthens connections among outside counsel, in-house counsel, corporate representatives, and emerging leaders.

I also believe DE&I is directly connected to DRI's long-term relevance. Our members represent businesses, insurers, public entities, and individuals in a society and legal marketplace that are increasingly diverse and complex. To serve those clients effectively, and to remain the leading voice of the defense bar, DRI must continue to draw on the full range of talent and perspectives within the profession. My DE&I experience would inform my contributions as a Board member by keeping me focused on collaboration, intentional leadership

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

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development, practical outcomes, and ensuring that more members can see a meaningful place for themselves in DRI.

DRI has given me so much over the course of my career, including trusted colleagues, valuable insights, good friends, and even my first major client, that I feel it incumbent upon me to continue pouring into the organization that has poured so much into me.

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