



DRI FOUNDATION YEAR IN REVIEW 2025

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

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A WELCOME FROM THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT



As we close out another impactful year, I am incredibly proud of what the DRI Foundation and our members accomplished together in 2025. Your generosity, your commitment to community, and your dedication to well-being continue to extend DRI's mission far beyond the courtroom. As the 2025-2026 President of the DRI Foundation, I want to thank every member who engaged, volunteered, donated, and showed up for others this year.

I would also like to share a special thank you to our Foundation Board, committee leaders, and every volunteer who gave their time and passion this past year, particularly my friend and outgoing President Lori O'Tool. I feel fortunate to have served alongside you all!

Looking ahead, we are energized by what's possible. We will continue championing community impact, wellness, diversity in the profession, and meaningful experiences for our members to connect and serve. **Together, we are building a future where the civil defense bar is not only strong in advocacy but strong in heart.**

Warm regards,

Catherine C. Pagan

FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

The DRI Foundation



THE DRI FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP

The DRI Foundation is committed to giving back to DRI members, their communities, and the cities that host DRI events. Proceeds raised by the DRI Foundation go directly toward funding and fostering initiatives that make a difference, including diversity programs, healthy living programs, and more. Members engage with local communities through fundraising and volunteer activities, as well as wellness activities, support programs, and mentoring to help lead healthy, balanced, and productive lives.



PRESIDENT

Catherine C. Dugan

*Cate is a Partner with **Peterson White**. For most of her career, Cate's focus has been on defending employers and insurance carriers in workers' compensation claims, assisting her clients as they navigate necessary administrative procedures, and defending claims through litigation.*



VICE PRESIDENT

James O. Craven

*Jim is Counsel in **Wiggin and Dana's** New Haven office and is involved in all areas of the firm's Litigation Practice. His practice includes representing clients in commercial disputes, product liability claims, and more.*

THE FOUNDATION BOARD



DRI PRESIDENT

R. Jeffrey Lowe

*Jeff is a Partner with **Kightlinger & Gray**. His practice includes the defense of governmental entities and their employees in cases involving constitutional and state law torts throughout Indiana and Kentucky.*



DRI PRESIDENT-ELECT

Jill Cranston Rice

*Jill, of **Dinsmore**, is the Chair of the Government Relations and Health Law practice group and a member of the firm's Board of Directors. She focuses her practice on government relations, insurance and health care law.*



DRI FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Sara M. Turner

*Sara is a Shareholder with **Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz**. She has extensive experience representing corporations in Federal, State and Administrative Courts.*



DRI SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Ricardo A. Woods

*Ricardo, a Partner with **Burr & Forman**, serves as general counsel to the second largest municipality in the State of Alabama. His practice features an emphasis on product and toxic tort liability, insurance litigation and government liability.*



DRI IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

John Parker Sweeney

*John Parker Sweeney is a Partner with **Bradley Arant Boult Cummings** and has more than 30 years of experience defending major class action and mass torts involving product liability and warranty, consumer protection, environmental, and toxic tort cases*



DRI SECRETARY/TREASURER

Michael D. Carter

*Michael Carter is a Partner in the Oklahoma City office of **Hall Booth Smith**, where he focuses his practice on asbestos, talc, and silica defense, products liability, labor and employment, and workers' compensation matters.*

THE FOUNDATION BOARD



DRI CARES CHAIR

Stacy Lynne Douglas

Stacy is a Partner and Director of Diversity & Inclusion with **Everett Dorey**. She has extensive experience working in many areas, successfully defending transportation companies, major retailers, and more.



DRI FOR LIFE CHAIR

Matthew J. Lavisky

Matthew is a Partner with **Butler Weihmuller Katz Craig**. He focuses the majority of his practice on the defense of bad faith and other extra-contractual matters, first-party property claims, class actions and insurance coverage disputes.



AT-LARGE MEMBER

C. Meade Hartfield

Meade is a Partner with **Bradley Arant Boult Cummings** and represents clients nationwide in a variety of industries, including mortgage servicing, auto finance, farm credit, and automotive.



AT-LARGE MEMBER

Carolyn M. Husmann

Carolyn, Of Counsel at **Wilson Elser** in St. Louis, has 20 years' experience defending companies in Illinois and Missouri courts.



AT-LARGE MEMBER

David L. Jones

David is a Partner with **Wright Lindsey Jennings** and focuses his practice in the areas of business law and litigation, commercial litigation and construction law.



CORPORATE LIAISON

Michael T. Goodin

Michael is the Managing Attorney of **Zurich Insurance Company's** Tennessee and Georgia Staff Legal Offices.

EX-OFFICIO

Dean Martinez

DRI Chief Executive Officer

DRI LIAISON

Thomas Foley

Vice President, Engagement

DRI LIAISON

Denise Eichhorn

Director, Community Engagement

VOLUNTEER-LED COMMUNITIES

DRI FOR LIFE

DRI for Life helps members lead healthy, balanced, and productive lives through wellness activities, support programs, and mentoring. The DRI Annual Meeting and seminars hold DRI for Life events that focus on health and well-being. Look for these events in the program agendas and meet other DRI members who are interested in activities that promote wellness and community.

DRI's members have their own stories to tell and DRI for Life is the forum for that discussion. The DRI for Life section of the website provides easy access to resources and articles that address mental health, wellness, and work-life balance issues.

69 DRI for Life events this year

INSTITUTE FOR WELL-BEING IN LAW PARTNERSHIP

DRI has partnered with the Institute for Well-Being in Law (IWIL) to further enable healthy high performance for DRI lawyers. IWIL establishes behavioral health as an integral part of how the legal profession defines success. Through this partnership, DRI members receive a 25% discount on all training, programs, or services that IWIL offers, as well as a 15% discount if they join IWIL as a Partner.



DRI CARES

DRI Cares helps members engage and support local communities through fundraising and volunteer activities.

11,000 bags of food provided to school-aged children

This year, DRI completed its two-year partnership with Blessings in a Backpack, a national organization dedicated to ensuring that no child goes hungry on the weekends. Over the course of the two-year partnership, the DRI Foundation supported 20 packing events, providing weekend meals to thousands of children in need.

During the 2025 Annual Meeting, DRI Cares supported Open Books. Open Books is a nonprofit literacy organization in Chicago that helps transform lives through reading, writing, and the unlimited power of books.

44,000

meals provided over the course of our two-year partnership with Blessings in a Backpack

ORGANIZATIONS WE HAVE SUPPORTED

Blessings in a Backpack
Cardz for Kidz
Community Resource Center
Haven For Hope
Helping Hands Foundation
Open Books
Soldiers' Angels
Special Olympics





Lori O'Tool and Atoyia Scott Harris award 2025 scholarship recipients Carolyn Vaca, Quiana Snowden, and Nico Bethea.

LAW STUDENT DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

To increase diversity in the legal profession in a constructive and tangible way, DRI awards three law student scholarships annually – one for \$10,000 and two for \$5,000. The goal of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to three worthy law students from ABA accredited law schools to promote the DRI Diversity Statement in Principle. Recipients of the scholarship are announced at the DRI Annual Meeting.

\$20,000

provided annually through scholarships.

“As a first-generation law student, I am incredibly thankful to be selected as a recipient of DRI’s 2025 Law Student Diversity Scholarship. Because of DRI’s generosity, a significant barrier to my success has been removed, enabling me to concentrate on my future and the betterment of my community.”

Quiana Snowden
University of Maryland, Francis King Carey School of Law
DRI Law Student Diversity Scholarship Recipient

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

The DRI Foundation, along with participating state, local and national defense organizations (SLDO/NDOs), held its 2025 International Day of Service in September. The DRI Foundation asked SLDO/NDOs to hold a service project of their choice during the month of September. The SLDO/NDOs have an opportunity to give back to their communities and strengthen relationships with DRI members and SLDO/NDOs across the nation.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE 2025 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE.

- Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California/Nevada
- Association of Southern California Defense Counsel
- Colorado Defense Lawyers Association
- Idaho Association of Defense Counsel
- Illinois Defense Counsel
- Iowa Defense Counsel
- Kansas Association of Defense Counsel
- Kentucky Defense Counsel
- Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel
- Mississippi Defense Lawyers Association
- Nebraska Defense Counsel Association
- New Jersey Defense Association
- North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys
- Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys
- South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys' Association
- Tennessee Defense Lawyers Association
- Virginia Association of Defense Lawyers
- Washington Defense Trial Lawyers
- Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia
- Wisconsin Defense Counsel



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FOUNDATION