



Declaration of Candidacy

Candidates for election as Second Vice President or Director Elected Nationally must complete this form and submit it to the Executive Director at the principal headquarters of DRI by 5:00 PM (CDT) on July 1st of the year in which the election is held.

National Director Requirements - Directors Elected Nationally or by Region must be Individual Members of the Corporation admitted to the practice of law. Each such director must meet the following qualifications at the time of election: (a) The candidate shall have been a DRI member for a total of at least five (5) years, and (b) The candidate shall have been a member of at least one DRI substantive law committee for at least three (3) years, and (c) The candidate must have registered for and attended at least one (1) DRI Annual Meeting within the previous three (3) years, and, within the three (3) years prior to the final day of the Annual Meeting, the candidate must have 1) registered for and attended at least two (2) DRI seminars, or 2) registered for and attended one (1) DRI seminar and one (1) DRI Regional Meeting.

Position sought

Second Vice President* Secretary- Treasurer 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?

Yes No

Name Edward Perdue

Firm/Company Dickinson Wright PLLC

Address 200 Ottawa Ave, NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Telephone 616-336-1038

Cell Phone 616-516-6284

E-mail eperdue@dickinsonwright.com

Born (location) Rockville Center, NY

Education B.A. *cum laude*, Villanova University (1989); JD, University of Notre Dame Law School (1996)

Awards and achievements: 2014 DRI State Leadership Award; 2015 DRI Veteran's Network Meritorious Service Award; Navy Achievement Medal for service as forward observer in Northern Iraq and in Mediterranean Sea (1993); New York State Conspicuous Service Cross for service in Operations Desert Shield and Provide Comfort (1994)

Areas of practice: Commercial & Business Litigation; Healthcare Litigation; Real Estate Litigation; Automotive Litigation; Class Action; Bankruptcy, Restructuring & Insolvency Litigation; Product Liability & Personal Injury

Years as a defense attorney: 21

Employment history: Dickinson Wright PLLC, Grand Rapids, MI (21 years)

Noteworthy defense work: Represented a national retail client in handling significant portions of a trademark action pending in federal court in New Mexico; Obtained \$3 million judgment on counterclaim after 2012 trial in commercial case involving extended automotive warranty industry; lead Michigan counsel for national retail pharmacy in class action litigation pending in Kent County, Michigan - dismissal upheld by Michigan Supreme Court in 2014; defended numerous railroad accident cases including death, disability and extensive destruction of personal property; tried extensive number of civil trials as assistant city/township attorney for cities of Lowell, Rockford, Hudsonville and multiple townships in Southwestern Michigan; defended wide and varied array of insurance defense actions in medical, ERISA, automotive and industrial contexts; caused dismissal of civil rights class action brought against national auto rental company in Wayne County Circuit Court (Detroit) based upon failure of class counsel to serve proper class notice to her own clients; forced extremely favorable settlement in \$67 million automotive sales dispute involving frame assembly system productivity, computer production modeling and nationwide discovery.

Professional affiliations:

Founder and Acting President, Grand Rapids Veterans Bar Association
Defense Research Institute (DRI) Board - Central Region Director
DRI, Founder and ex-officio of Veterans' Network Committee
DRI, Center for Law & Public Policy - Artificial Intelligence Group
Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel
Grand Rapids Bar Association (GRBA) Board of Trustees, Former Member
Former Firm Management Representative to GRBA Diversity Initiative

DRI member since 5/1/02

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:

Founder and former chair of DRI Veterans' Network Committee
Former DRI Michigan State Representative
DRI Central Region Chair from October 2014 to October 2017

Former active member of Commercial Litigation Committee
Formerly active in Diversity Committee
Formerly active in Young Lawyers Committee
Former Board Liaison to DRI Insurance Law Committee
Current Board Liaison to Commercial Litigation Committee
DRI Speaker for Central Region Meeting 2014
DRI Speaker for SW Regional Meeting 2016
DRI Speaker for Wisconsin Defense Counsel 2017 Spring Conference
Scheduled as DRI Speaker for New Mexico Defense Lawyers Association annual Meeting (9/17)
Scheduled as DRI Speaker for MDTC (Michigan SLDO) Winter Meeting (11/17)

List any leadership roles in other defense organizations:

Michigan Defense Trial Council (MDTC), former regional representative (West Region) and current board member as DRI Central Region Director

Describe your goals if you are elected to the above position:

If elected I would have three initial goals. First, I would focus on understanding where support was needed to further DRI's immediate operational and membership goals, and to lend a hand where I could in those areas upon appointment; second, I would attempt to identify growth areas for DRI and to assist existing leaders in those areas in the development and execution of growth plans; and third, I would seek to help DRI leadership to communicate and heighten DRI's relevance and importance to its members.

What do you believe is the most important issue confronting the defense bar?

I believe the impact of market forces and financial pressures are having a deleterious impact on the ability of defense counsel to properly defend cases. It is my impression that DRI could be of some assistance in this area moving forward by providing advice and mentoring on cost structuring for particular types of cases and Alternative Fee Arrangements, firm management in light of these pressures, and enhanced brief and research sharing to minimize costs.

Define the appropriate role for DRI as the national defense bar organization:

I think DRI is well positioned in its current space as the preeminent national defense bar organization. In my view, DRI should continue its primary role as a source of CLE and helpful legal information, and as an outlet for members to publish and exercise thought leadership in various legal areas. DRI will also be well served to continue its current pivot to serving more of its members needs for formalized networking, assistance in the area of business development

and originations, and forward thinking in the area of law firm management in these changing times.

Hobbies and/or interests: In my spare time I enjoy reading history (mostly military history), running, travel, and some golf. I also spend quite a bit of time watching my children play sports and in years past served as a middle school football, basketball and baseball coach. Now I just yell a lot (without the coaching part).

Family:

I have been happily married to Rachel Perdue for twenty years at the end of June 2017. We met at the Linebacker Lounge in South Bend, Indiana. We have four wonderful children: Liam (17) who is attending Arizona State School of Business as a freshman starting in August; Finnegan (16) who is a high school junior this year and helped win a Michigan state football championship and lacrosse conference championship last year; Maeve (11) who loves volleyball, design, art and all things Japanese; and Maguire (9) who is quite the character and who loves Minecraft, golf and MacGyver type YouTube videos.
