



The Voice of the
Defense Bar™

The Voice

January 09, 2019

Volume 18, Issue 01

[This Week's Feature
And The Defense
Wins
DRI News](#)

[DRI Cares
LegalPoint
On-Demand
Upcoming Seminars](#)

[Upcoming Webinars
DRI Membership—Did
You Know...](#)

[State Membership
Chair/State
Representative
Spotlight](#)

[New Member
Spotlight
Quote of the Week](#)

This Week's Feature



Psychodrama: The Plaintiff's Technique that Defense Attorneys Aren't Discussing

By Chad M. Sizemore and Tyler M. Jolley

For nearly a decade, we have focused on the “reptile approach” as a method that plaintiffs have used to persuade juries to award large verdicts based on protectionism. Unlike the reptile, psychodrama is used to bring an accident to life in the courtroom and to gain empathy and a sense of corrective action from a jury. Considering recent verdicts in which the plaintiff's attorney has used psychodrama, it deserves attention.

Article continues on page 4.



And The Defense Wins

- Keep The Defense Wins Coming!
- Pauline Will and Peter Cantone
- Patrick L. Deedon
- David M. Tarlow

[MORE](#)

DRI Cares

- WDC Spring Conference Clothing Drive and the WDC Winter Conference Coat Drive
- Lewis Wagner Supports Needy Families

[MORE](#)

On-Demand

- Client Development for Small and Mid-Sized Law Firms

[MORE](#)

DRI News

- Make *For The Defense* Digital Edition Your “Go To” DRI Publication in the New Year
- Laurel Road Student Loan Refinancing for DRI Members—Benefits Extended to Parents
- Let DRI Circles Work for You

[MORE](#)

LegalPoint

- Has Marriott’s Massive Data Breach Left You with a Sudden Interest in Cybersecurity?
- How Has GDPR Compliance Impacted Your Law Firm?

[MORE](#)

Upcoming Seminars

- Women in the Law, January 23–25, 2019
- Civil Rights and Governmental Liability Seminar, January 31–February 2, 2019
- Trial Skills and Damages, March 20–22, 2019
- Retail and Hospitality, May 8–10, 2019
- Employment and Labor Law, May 8–10, 2019

[MORE](#)

laurel road

**DRI Members
get a .25%
rate discount
on student
loan refi.**

[See Your Rates](#)

Subject to eligibility

Member FDIC

Looking for
**Targeted
Contacts?**

**Hit the
Bullseye**
with dri™

Contact Laurie Mokry today at
Imokry@dri.org or at **312.698.6259.**

Upcoming Webinars

- How to Evaluate and Improve Your E-Discovery Process, January 16, 2019, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. CST

[MORE](#)

State Membership Chair/State Representative Spotlight

- Alabama

Gary Howard, Partner, Bradley Arant Boult and Cummings LLP

Allen Estes, Partner, Balch & Bingham LLP

[MORE](#)

DRI Membership—Did You Know...

- Raise Your Profile Through Committee Publications

[MORE](#)

New Member Spotlight

Ashley M. Walker, Sandberg Phoenix & Von Gontard PC

[MORE](#)

Quote of the Week

“When I go onstage, I don’t make history, I am history.”

—Joan Baez (b. Jan. 9, 1944), [Joan Baez on Her Next Chapter](#), N.Y. Times (Mar. 15, 2018)

This Week's Feature

Psychodrama: The Plaintiff's Technique that Defense Attorneys Aren't Discussing

By Chad M. Sizemore and Tyler M. Jolley



For nearly a decade, we have focused on the “reptile approach” as a method that plaintiffs have used to persuade juries to award large verdicts based on protec-

tionism. Unlike the reptile, psychodrama is used to bring an accident to life in the courtroom and to gain empathy and a sense of corrective action from a jury. Considering recent verdicts in which the plaintiff's attorney has used psychodrama, it deserves attention.

Understanding Psychodrama

Developed by Jacob Levy Mareno, psychodrama is a form of group psychotherapy during which participants use dramatization and role play to investigate and gain insight into their lives. With roots in theater, psychology, and sociology, psychodrama uses deep action methods, such as reenactment and role reversal, to explore and correct problems in a group setting.

Psychodrama participants have specific roles: the protagonist and antagonist; auxiliary egos; the audience; and the director, a trained psychodramatist who guides participants through each phase of the session. After setting the stage, participants reenact the event as it happened. The director helps the protagonist paint a mental image and act out the event in the present tense by asking questions such as these: What do you see? What do you hear? What do you smell? How do you feel?

Participants may reenact the event with alternate endings that empower the protagonist or correct the event in some way. Reenacting the event brings the past into the present, allowing the protagonist to process memories and feelings with a counselor's guidance and perhaps the participation of group members who have experienced similar traumas.

How a Plaintiff's Lawyer Uses Psychodrama

With a basic understanding of psychodrama, one can see how the roles translate into the courtroom. The plaintiff is the protagonist. The plaintiff's counsel is the director. As

the director, the plaintiff's attorney leads the audience (the jury) through the story; the plaintiff's testimony brings the story to life; and at the end, the director tells the jurors the corrective action that they should take.

Outside the courtroom, psychodrama is an important preparation technique. In a birth injury case, for example, the lawyer and the parents, with the assistance of a licensed psychodramatist, reenact the day of the birth—the excitement of driving to the hospital, arriving at the hospital, the mother in the hospital bed with her husband by her side, doctors and nurses barking orders, and finally, delivering the baby. Trauma is relived. The reenactment may involve props so that the mother has something to hold as she reenacts the moments after the delivery. The psychodramatist coaches the parents and helps them describe the event by asking questions that elicit the emotions and senses that they experienced at the time of the event, such as sight, smell, and touch.

Psychodrama is not limited to certain types of cases. Through reenactment, the lawyer develops a deeper understanding of what happened to the client, how the client felt, and how the event has affected the client's life. Often, psychodrama sessions occur shortly before a trial. Equipped with a deep understanding of how the client experienced the event, the lawyer can tell the jury not only what happened and why it happened but also how the client experienced it. As Annette Simmons, author of *The Story Factor: Inspiration, Influence, and Persuasion Through the Art of Storytelling*, writes, “You have to awaken the emotions in yourself that you want to awaken in them. Like an actor in a play, to communicate an emotion, you have to feel it first.”

By reliving the event, the plaintiff brings the event to life. The plaintiff may articulate suppressed feelings or feelings that previously lived in the subconscious. This enables the plaintiff to deliver an emotional and powerful story to the jury as if it is happening in real time. This makes the jury part of the story.

Making the jury part of the plaintiff's story is particularly appealing to the plaintiff's lawyer in disputed liability cases. Psychodrama brings the plaintiff's fears, terrors, regrets,

and anxieties to life. The plaintiff's attorney presents the case in a way that shifts the focus from what happened and why it happened to how the plaintiff experienced the event, with the goal of causing jurors to relate to the plaintiff on a deeply emotional level and understand the plaintiff's experience as parallel to their own.

Countering Psychodrama

Obviously, each case requires a different approach. One approach in a disputed liability case may be to remind the audience (the jury) that there are two sides. In a truck accident, for example, if the situation warrants, invite the jury to sit in the "antagonist" truck driver's seat. Make the truck driver relatable by vividly describing how he or she was driving when suddenly encountered by a wrong-way driver, the plaintiff. Put the jury in that truck driver's seat.

Another approach is to use the court to control the use of psychodrama. For instance, a prominent birth injury attorney who promotes psychodrama has described talking to the jury from the perspective of the dead baby. He invites the jury to consider what the infant thought and

how scared he or she was. If we understand psychodrama and how opposing counsel plans to use it, we can address some of these issues before a trial with motion practice.

Conclusion

Ultimately, the use of psychodrama by a plaintiff's attorney presents unique challenges for the defense. However, by understanding this technique, we can anticipate how the plaintiff will present his or her story during a trial, work to mitigate some of the emotional appeal of the story, and incorporate certain techniques into our case as appropriate.

[Chad M. Sizemore](#) is a shareholder at Roetzel & Andress LPA in Cincinnati, where he focuses his practice on the defense of transportation companies and insurers. Mr. Sizemore is a member of the DRI Trucking Law Committee.

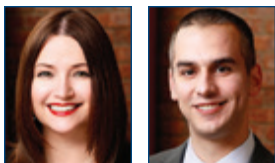
[Tyler M. Jolley](#) is an associate attorney, also at Roetzel & Andress LPA in Cincinnati, where he practices primarily in premises liability, product liability, and transportation litigation. He is a member of the DRI Trucking Law Committee.

And The Defense Wins

Keep The Defense Wins Coming!

Please send 250–500 word summaries of your “wins,” including the case name, your firm name, your firm position, city of practice, and e-mail address, in Word format, along with a recent color photo as an attachment (.jpg or .tiff), highest resolution file possible (*minimum* 300 ppi), to DefenseWins@dri.org. Please note that DRI membership is a prerequisite to be listed in “And the Defense Wins,” and it may take several weeks for *The Voice* to publish your win.

Pauline Will and Peter Cantone



DRI members [Pauline Will](#) and [Peter Cantone](#) of **Bennett Schecter Arcuri & Will LLP** in Buffalo, New York, secured the dismissal of a catastrophic injury claim on

behalf of their client, Third-Party Defendant Swift Transportation Company, in the case of *Victory v. Domino's Pizza LLC*, in Oswego County, New York. The plaintiff, a Swift tractor-trailer driver, had exited his vehicle following a minor rear-end accident to check on the occupants of the rear vehicle, a minivan. As he did so, a second tractor trailer collided into the rear of the stopped minivan, pinning the plaintiff between the minivan and the Swift tractor trailer.

The plaintiff filed a personal injury action against the owners and operators of the minivan and the second tractor trailer, and those defendants commenced a third-party action against Swift under New York's “grave injury” exception to workers’ compensation, alleging negligent training. Ms. Will and Mr. Cantone filed a pre-discovery motion to dismiss on behalf of Swift, contending that any training provided by Swift to the plaintiff was not a proximate cause of the underlying accident or the plaintiff's injuries, and could not form a basis for liability. The court agreed and dismissed the third-party action against Swift.

A settlement was subsequently reached in the underlying case, eliminating the parties’ right to appeal the dismissal.

Patrick L. Deedon



DRI member [Patrick L. Deedon](#), a partner in the firm of **Maire & Deedon**, obtained a defense verdict for his client in a highly contested Section 1983 First Amendment claim. The jury trial lasted two days and after 30 min-

utes of deliberations, the jury returned a unanimous defense verdict.

The plaintiff was an inmate at the Lassen County jail in 2015 (among many other occasions). He claimed to be Jewish and requested a Kosher diet in order to practice his claimed religion. His special diet request was denied by the Jail Commander. The inmate then filed a 42 U.S.C. Section 1983 action against the Lassen County Jail Commander for alleged violation of his First Amendment religious practice rights. The plaintiff claimed emotional distress and anxiety type injuries.

The plaintiff bore the burden of proving a sincerely held religious belief that was substantially burdened by the defendant's conduct. Several witnesses testified, and many documents were reviewed with the jury, including photographs of the plaintiff's swastika tattoo and “SS” lightning bolt tattoos. The jury was shown documents that the plaintiff ate non-kosher food while previously incarcerated at the Lassen County jail and that plaintiff voluntarily went without Kosher food at another county jail about a year later.

The jury unanimously agreed that the plaintiff did not meet his burden of proof and rendered a defense verdict.

David M. Tarlow



DRI member [David M. Tarlow](#), managing partner of the Fort Lauderdale office of **Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A.**, received a defense verdict from the District Court of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on a negligence claim for a defective product installation.

Plaintiff took her pickup truck to a tire retailer for tire service. A new tire was installed. Store video showed that the tire technicians torqued the lug nuts three times and drove the vehicle in a figure “8” in accordance with store policy.

One week later, while driving on a highway, the wheel detached from the truck. Plaintiff claims her truck “tipped to the left” causing her to hit her head and shoulder against the driver's door window. Plaintiff brought the vehicle to a stop on the roadway striking no object. Her daughters looked for the detached wheel, but could not find it because it was dark outside. The following day they found the wheel next to the road.

And The Defense Wins

Plaintiff immediately had the truck towed to the tire retailer to document the wheel off. Later in the evening, Plaintiff began to exhibit signs of a concussion and went to a local emergency room. Plaintiff was diagnosed with a head contusion along with a diagnosis of poor memory, chronic multifactorial headaches, dizziness, vertigo, imbalance, sleep disturbance, fatigue, poor stamina, irritability and altered mood, aggravation of her pre-existing post-traumatic stress disorder, frozen shoulder and neck pain due to aggravation of pre-existing cervical problems. Medical bills were approximately \$60,000. Plaintiff claimed she couldn't work and needed continued Botox injections to alleviate pain associated with chronic headaches.

Plaintiff alleged the retailer was negligent for failing to remove rust and corrosion on the tire rim prior to installing it. The rust and corrosion prevented the lug nuts from properly seating against the rim. The retailer disputed this indicating the detached wheel was not the wheel that it installed.

A retained defense tire expert testified that the wheel produced in the lawsuit is not the wheel the retailer had installed; the tread pattern on the tire produced differs greatly from the tread pattern on the tire seen in the store video.

Plaintiff's explanation was her daughters mistakenly picked up the wrong wheel when they returned to the incident scene the next day to find the wheel.

As to injuries alleged, the defense argued any concussion was mild and would have resolved within a few weeks. Second, the additional symptoms alleged was nothing more than a continuation of a host of pre-existing issues she has had for years.

After two hours of deliberation, the jury returned a defense verdict finding no negligence.

DRI News

Make *For The Defense* Digital Edition Your “Go To” DRI Publication in the New Year

In 2019, make one of your priority New Year’s resolutions to establish *For The Defense* Digital Edition as your “Go To” DRI publication. If you have not had the chance to do so already, **NOW** is the time to take advantage of the opportunity to view DRI’s flagship publication in its online format. Please take a minute to watch this [brief video](#) that provides an overview and outlines the benefits and advantages of making *FTD* Digital Edition your “go to” DRI publication.

Great news! *FTD* Digital Edition is also available as an App (click the following links to download the App on

[Apple](#) or [Google Play](#)). Similar to the *FTD* digital edition that comes to your inbox, the App allows you to search and share content with clients and colleagues. The App also allows you to create a favorite, zoom and pinch to see content, search and connect with advertisers and more! It is important to note that you need your DRI website login and password to download issues in the App, the App will notify you when a new issue is available.

[Click here](#) to access the December issue of *FTD* Digital Edition.

Laurel Road Student Loan Refinancing for DRI Members—Benefits Extended to Parents

One of DRI’s most recently added member benefits is the Laurel Road Student Loan Refinancing Program. Please click [here](#) to review program details in their entirety.

Program-at-a-Glance

The **Laurel Road Student Loan Refinancing Program** offers fixed and variable rate loans in terms of 5, 7, 10, 15, and 20 years. Laurel Road offers qualified DRI members an interest rate discount of 0.25 percent, **contingent on DRI membership**. If a program participant drops their DRI membership, their loan rate increases. Laurel Road currently lends to graduates of 5,345 qualified secondary education institutions. They have lent to borrowers in all 50 states. The

average lawyer graduates with \$84K to \$122K in student debt. The average starting salary is \$135K. Laurel Road can save DRI members on average \$20,000 plus over the life of an average student loan.

Recently Added Bonus for Parents

In addition to the established member benefit, Laurel Road now offers its student loan refinancing program to parents who have taken out loans for their children’s college education. Parents are able to take advantage of the same low rates that graduates can and are eligible to apply as soon as their child has graduated. Specifics on the recently-added bonus for parents can be found [here](#).

Let DRI Circles Work for You



DRI member lawyer-to-lawyer connections have become even easier and even more valuable. The DRI Circles App allows members to connect with each other by establishing personal networks or “circles.” Through DRI Circles, you can create networks based on practice area, geographic region, shared interests, etc. The DRI Circles app allows you to send messages, set up meetings, refer and track business, references and more on your mobile device. Join DRI Circles today or update your app to get even more out of your membership.

Take a look at some of the recently added valuable benefits available through the DRI Circles App:

DRI member lawyer-to-lawyer connections have become even easier and even more valuable. The DRI Circles App allows mem-

- Added chat functionality within a business referral
- Added functionality to broadcast a message within a group
- Increased circles limit to 250 participants
- Videoconferencing

Important Note: If you are already utilizing the DRI Circles app, you will need to delete the current version and download the **newest** version to take advantage of these newly added features. Upon downloading the updated version, you will be notified of any future enhancements via Apple or Google.



<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/dri-circles/id1292016061?mt=8>



https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.dri.circles&hl=en_US

DRI Cares

WDC Spring Conference Clothing Drive and the WDC Winter Conference Coat Drive

Throughout 2018, the Wisconsin Defense Counsel (WDC) held two clothing drives to support those in need. At the 2018 Spring Conference, the Women in the Law Committee coordinated a clothing drive for women's and men's business clothing to help those who are looking to enter, re-enter, or continue to establish themselves in the workforce.

The clothing collected during the Spring Conference was delivered to five organizations throughout the state. During the 2018 WDC Winter Conference, WDC held a coat drive for new and gently used coats. All collected coats were donated to various organizations throughout the state.



DRI Cares

Lewis Wagner Supports Needy Families

Lewis Wagner was pleased to support the Peyton Manning Children's Hospital of Indianapolis with food and toys and clothing for many needy families.



LegalPoint

Has Marriott's Massive Data Breach Left You with a Sudden Interest in Cybersecurity?

Read Ice Miller's Stephen E. Reynolds, CIPP/US, CISSP, and Tiffany S. Kim's article, "Not to Fear, the Feds Are Here: Preserving Attorney-Client Privilege in Data Breach Response," [here](#) on [DRI LegalPoint](#) to learn the latest on these timely and important items.

DRI LegalPoint (formerly DRI Online) is a DRI members-only service that provides exclusive access to a vast online library of DRI articles, books and materials. Members can search thousands of documents and filter them by practice area and resource. **DRI LegalPoint** includes content from:

- *For The Defense*
- *In-House Defense Quarterly*

- Committee Newsletters
- Defense Library Series (DLS) NEW
- Seminar Materials
- DRI Defense Wins Reporter

In addition to having the ability to search all of the valuable **DRI LegalPoint** content, visitors may also access Defense Library Series (DLS) books separately and review the table of contents and individual chapters.

Leverage the expertise of leading defense practitioners and find the on-point articles and resources you need with **DRI LegalPoint**.

How Has GDPR Compliance Impacted Your Law Firm?

Read more about GDPR compliance in [Why We Need to Care: The Effect of the GDPR on American and Canadian Business](#) in DRI LegalPoint.

See for yourself how **DRI LegalPoint** can assist you in leveraging the expertise of leading defense practitioners

and find the on-point articles and resources you need by clicking [here](#). If you have not yet accessed **DRI LegalPoint**, please click [here](#) to view a brief video and find out what you are missing.

On-Demand

Client Development for Small and Mid-Sized Law Firms

Editor's Note: Beginning with this issue of *The Voice*, a new DRI On-Demand item will be featured each week. For a complete list of currently available DRI On-Demand items, [click here](#).

As the business of law is evolving, it is critical for small and mid-sized law firms to use of all the weapons in their arsenals, including associates, to attract and retain clients. Listen to the voice of the customer explain why they hire

these firms, what they look for in these firms, as well as how to obtain, retain and expand (and maybe win back) those relationships. Also discussed is the need to understand your business, techniques to increase your business, and how to engage reluctant marketers at your firm.

Sound interesting? [Click here](#) to take advantage of this On-Demand offering from DRI and check back each week in *The Voice* for a newly featured item.

Upcoming Seminars

Women in the Law, January 23-25, 2019



dri Women in the Law Seminar

January 23-25, 2019
Coronado, CA

REGISTER TODAY

DRI's Women in the Law Committee proudly presents this premier educational and networking event designed to bring together women attorneys within corporate legal departments or law firms to connect and grow. We gather distinguished faculty from around the country, including in-house lawyers from some of the most recognized companies in America, experienced and successful trial lawyers, and nationally prominent business and professional coaches. Our superior programming provides concrete tools, real-world data, and experienced-based advice to invigorate our practice, increase our connections, and rise together in our professions and in our communities. Click [here](#) to view the brochure and register for the program.

Civil Rights and Governmental Liability Seminar, January 31-February 2, 2019



dri Civil Rights and Governmental Tort Liability Seminar

January 31-February 1, 2019
San Antonio, TX

REGISTER TODAY

The seminar program is packed full of presentations on timely topics in many different areas affecting government entities, including school shootings, technology in law enforcement departments, discovery, and trial. Dean Erwin Chemerinsky and Professor Karen Blum are returning with their always insightful presentations on Supreme Court decisions and qualified immunity. Look for networking and community service events to attend both during and right after the seminar. Click [here](#) to register for this program.

Can't Attend in Person? Purchase the Live Stream!

New this Year: Earn CLE and tune-in to the seminar from your home or office! Click [here](#) to purchase the seminar live-stream. If your law firm already has an in-person registration, they can get streaming for 50 percent off the Member registration fee. Click [here](#) to contact DRI Customer Service for more information or call 312.795.1101.

Trial Skills and Damages, March 20-22, 2019



dri Trial Skills and Damages Seminar

March 20-22, 2019
Las Vegas

REGISTER TODAY

The evolution of legal practice over the past several decades has been shaped by technological innovation. Technology simultaneously provides a medium through which we can educate juries on complex matters and provides lawyers with the tools that they need to make better decisions leading up to and during trial. That is not to say that technology dominates the courtroom. Come learn how you can blend proven trial tactics and technology through presentations and demonstrations on effectively navigating the complex damages case, including mock oral arguments and hard-hitting technology-focused presentations from experts and consultants. Join us at the new Park MGM Las Vegas Hotel this March for practice-enhancing education and networking. Click [here](#) to

register for the program.

Upcoming Seminars

Retail and Hospitality, May 8-10, 2019



dri Retail and Hospitality Seminar
 May 8-10, 2019
 Orlando, FL
 REGISTER TODAY

Over two days, you will hear experts in their fields discuss trial tactics, settlement strategies, legal updates, and business trends. Highlights include technology and data privacy topics, in-house perspectives from the biggest hospitality and retail companies, and special breakout sessions for corporate counsel, young lawyers, and workers' compensation practitioners. In addition to top-notch CLE and networking, endless entertainment, beautiful weather, and family fun make Orlando one of the top travel destinations in the world. Discounted tickets to the parks may be available to purchase in advance for attendees, families, and friends. Please email RSVP@BakerDonelson.com no later than April 5, 2019, for details or to be included in the group purchase. We hope to see you in

Orlando! Click [here](#) to register for the program.

Employment and Labor Law, May 8-10, 2019



dri Employment and Labor Law Seminar
 May 8-10, 2019
 Phoenix
 REGISTER TODAY

DRI's 42nd annual Employment and Labor Law Seminar is the preeminent educational and networking event for management-side labor and employment attorneys, in-house counsel, human resources professionals, and EPLI representatives. Always intensely practical and accompanied by superior written materials, this seminar is a must-attend for experienced practitioners, as well as for those who are just getting started in labor and employment law. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from some of the best practitioners and professionals in the labor and employment arena. Click [here](#) to register for the program.

Upcoming Webinars

How to Evaluate and Improve Your E-Discovery Process, January 16, 2019, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. CST



With new privacy requirements (*i.e.*, GDPR, California Privacy Laws) and the growing amount of places and data to review, defense attorneys are facing new obstacles in effectively evaluating and producing documents without private data in their cases. To help alleviate these emerging concerns, attorneys must look into new ways to streamline their e-discovery processes that will get them the data necessary to quickly assess their cases and make try or settle decisions earlier. Watch this upcoming webinar and learn a few key universal principles that will help your legal department evaluate and take steps to improve your e-discovery processes today. Click [here](#) to learn more.

DRI Membership—Did You Know...

Raise Your Profile Through Committee Publications

Recently, a DRI member told us that her firm encouraged her to raise her profile in the legal community because she had significant experience and insight to offer and it would help her professional progress within the firm. She didn't need to hear that twice.

A quick call to DRI and she learned that she should join (*for free*) and participate in one or more of DRI's [Substantive Law Committees](#) and work with her committee leadership to write an article or speak at an upcoming

seminar. In addition to *The Voice*, DRI's national magazines *For The Defense* and *In-House Defense Quarterly* are read by 20,000 members of the legal defense community.

Another DRI member getting it done—making connections, sharing her expertise, and raising her profile with an upcoming article in DRI's national publication *For The Defense*.

Those at the top of the mountain didn't fall there.

State Membership Chair/State Representative Spotlight

Alabama



State Membership Chair

Gary Howard, Partner, Bradley Arant Boult and Cummings LLP

Areas of Practice: Life Health and Disability Litigation, Business Litigation, ERISA, and Class Actions

DRI member for 23 years.

Gary's experience with DRI: "Through my work on various DRI Committees I have worked with amazing people from all over the United States who I otherwise would not have gotten to know. While the professional relationships I have built are rewarding, the deep friendships I have made with many DRI colleagues over the years are what I will always value the most from my time as a DRI member."

Fun Fact: "I am big lover of big dogs and am a proud dog dad of two 10.5 year-old golden retriever sisters named Daisy and Dolly."



State Representative

Allen Estes, Partner, Balch & Bingham LLP

Areas of Practice: Energy Litigation and Commercial Litigation

DRI member for 18 years.

Allen's experience with DRI: "After serving as President of the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association, I have been DRI's Alabama State Representative since October 2017. The most interesting and educational DRI seminar I have attended was the Fire and Science Seminar in Phoenix a few years ago."

Fun Fact: "In 18 years of lawyer league softball I have suffered one concussion, had shoulder and knee surgeries, and drank plenty of beers. And I'm still not the oldest lawyer in the league."

New Member Spotlight

Ashley M. Walker, Sandberg Phoenix & Von Gontard PC



[Ashley M. Walker](#) is an associate with Sandberg Phoenix & Von Gontard PC, focusing in the area of health law litigation particularly defending hospitals, medical personnel, and health-care corporations. Licensed in Missouri, Illinois, and certain federal districts, Ms. Walker has been involved in all areas of litigation, including trial strategy, taking and defending depositions, legal research, motion practice, and courtroom proceedings. Since joining Sandberg Phoenix, she has second chaired two federal jury trials, both resulting in defense verdicts.

Before practicing in the area of civil litigation, Ms. Walker worked as an assistant circuit attorney for the City of St.

Louis. Through her experience as a prosecutor, she had the ability to first chair several bench and jury trials. In addition to her trial experience, Ms. Walker, a graduate of the Saint Louis University School of Law, served in a legal internship with Legal Services of Eastern Missouri during law school.

She was recently elected to the Wyman Board of Trustees and is an active participant in the Missouri Bar, serving on the Young Lawyers' Section Council, and the Mound City Bar, serving the Young Lawyers Division. In her spare time Ms. Walker enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and her best canine companion Oliver.

Quote of the Week

“When I go onstage, I don't make history, I am history.”

—Joan Baez (b. Jan. 9, 1944), [Joan Baez on Her Next Chapter](#),
N.Y. Times (Mar. 15, 2018)