

DRI 2024 FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT



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A WELCOME FROM THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

Lori O'Tool is a partner with Preg O'Donnell & Gillett, and has over 25 years of significant experience in defending clients in trial, arbitration, and mediation in civil litigation matters. Lori thrives in a collaborative atmosphere with clients, claims representatives, experts, associates, and paralegals, working to develop strategic and creative approaches in resolving litigation.



We're excited to share with you the DRI Foundation's inaugural annual report. This report showcases the dedication, resilience, and teamwork that have helped the Foundation grow in 2024 and brought us to where we are today.

Over the past year, we have achieved significant milestones that will help shape the future of the DRI Foundation. This report is not only a celebration of what we've accomplished, but a roadmap for where we are headed next. Each success included in this report represents the passion and hard work of all those involved with the Foundation and the unwavering trust and support of our DRI community.

As we look ahead, **we remain committed to fostering meaningful progress and making positive changes for our community and the communities we serve.** Thank you for joining us on this journey—we are excited to continue building a brighter future together.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori O'Tool". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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

Lori K. O'Tool

*Lori is a partner with **Preg O'Donnell & Gillett** and has over 25 years of significant experience in defending clients in trial, arbitration, and mediation in civil litigation matters.*



VICE PRESIDENT

Catherine C. Dugan

*Cate is a partner with **Peterson White, LLP**. She has been defending employers in workers' compensation matters in Tennessee and Kentucky for more than twenty years.*

THE FOUNDATION BOARD



ACTING PRESIDENT

Jeffrey Lowe

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



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

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.



SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Sara M. Turner

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



SECRETARY TREASURER

Ricardo A. Woods

Ricardo, of **Burr & Forman**, serves as general counsel to the second largest municipality in the State of Alabama.



DRI CARES CHAIR

Catherine Ava Leatherwood

Catherine, of **Rogers Townsend**, focuses her practice on civil litigation, including product liability, construction defect litigation, and general insurance defense.



DRI FOR LIFE CHAIR

Christopher J. Pyles

Chris is a Member and former Managing Director at **Sulloway & Hollis**. He has been helping clients protect their companies and improve their workplace culture for more than twenty years.

THE FOUNDATION BOARD



AT-LARGE MEMBER

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.*

EX-OFFICIO

Dean Martinez

*DRI Chief
Executive Officer*



AT-LARGE MEMBER

Carolyn M. Husmann

*Carolyn, a partner at **Sinars Slowikowski Tomaska's** St. Louis office, has 20 years' experience defending companies in Illinois and Missouri courts.*

DRI LIAISON

Thomas Foley

*Vice President,
Engagement*



AT-LARGE MEMBER

Grace Marie Kulkoski

*Grace is legal counsel for **Wisconsin Mutual Insurance Company** and the Committee Third Vice Chair of DRI's Corporate Counsel Committee.*

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.

55 DRI for Life events this year

INSTITUTE FOR WELL-BEING IN LAW PARTNERSHIP

DRI announced a two-year partnership 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 will 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.

6,000+

people were helped through DRI Cares efforts

During the 2023 Annual Meeting, DRI announced 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 has committed to supporting 10 packing events a year, providing weekend meals to thousands of children in need. These events are hosted during key DRI events, including the Annual Meeting and seminars. DRI believes that, through this partnership, it can make a meaningful difference in the lives of children facing food insecurity and contribute positively to the communities we serve. Together with Blessings in a Backpack, DRI is committed to ensuring a brighter, more nourished future for America's youth.

22,000

meals were provided this year through DRI's partnership with Blessings in a Backpack.

ORGANIZATIONS WE HAVE SUPPORTED

Blessings in a Backpack
Camillus House
Cardz for Kidz
Tennessee Justice For Our Neighbors
St. Vincent De Paul
Veterans Cannabis Group



Your Impact This School Year!

5,500
HUNGER-FREE
WEEKENDS

10 PACKING
EVENTS

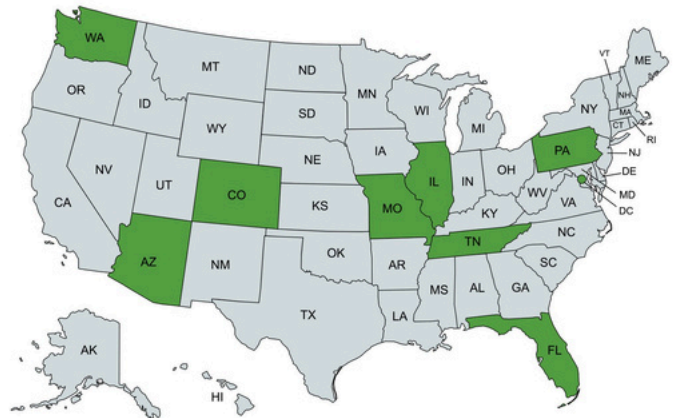


DRI Foundation provided 5,500 bags full of ready-to-eat food for children living with food insecurity. These kids depend on school to eat breakfast and lunch during the week and struggle with hunger on the weekends.

DRI seminar attendees engaged in meaningful, hands-on volunteer opportunities by assembling bags of weekend food for children in their communities.

9 CITIES AND STATES

There is not a single school zip code in the United States free from hunger. During the 2023/24 school year, the DRI Foundation's efforts have made a significant impact, providing essential weekend nutrition to children nationwide.



THANK YOU

from the bottom
of our backpacks!
blessingsinabackpack.org





Douglas Burrell and Matt Keris
award scholarship recipient
Sarah Jane M. Longalong

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 Diversity for Success Seminar.

\$20,000

provided annually
through scholarships.

***“I am grateful for DRI’s generosity
as it allowed me to focus on my
studies and create lasting
connections.”***

Sarah Jane Longalong

Southwestern Law School

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 2024 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 2024 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE.

- Alabama Defense Lawyers Association
- Association of Defense Counsel of N. California/Nevada
- Association of Southern California Defense Counsel
- Colorado Defense Lawyers Association
- Connecticut Defense Lawyers Association
- Georgia Defense Lawyers Association
- Idaho Association of Defense Counsel
- Illinois Defense Counsel
- Defense Trial Counsel of Indiana
- Iowa Defense Counsel Association
- Kansas Association of Defense Counsel
- Kentucky Defense Counsel
- Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel
- Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association
- 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
- Utah 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