



Meet Your State Rep

DRI Resources a Draw for Delaware Defense Community

Lou Rizzo recently commenced his first term as Delaware's DRI State Representative. Lou is a partner in the Wilmington office of Reger Rizzo Kavulich & Darnall LLP.

From the time of Caesar Rodney's famous ride in 1776, from Delaware's state capital in Dover to Philadelphia, to cast his vote for independence and break the delegation's deadlock, tiny Delaware has been a powerful, influential force in our country's political and legal landscape. That tradition continues today as Delaware's courts influence commercial, corporate and bankruptcy law on a national, and indeed international, level. Lou considers it a great privilege to practice in a legal community so rich in tradition and so far-reaching in its influence. Delaware's courts are consistently ranked the top in many surveys, including *The Harris Poll*, which ranked Delaware's courts as number one in the nation for the last three years. According to Lou, in addition to the tradition of professionalism, "the bar places a great emphasis on civility, which makes it

a wonderful place to practice."

Lou's practice focuses on the areas of construction litigation, commercial litigation, professional liability and insurance coverage. Lou is a member of the Board of Directors of Defense Counsel of Delaware, the state's defense organization. "Given the small size of the bar and judiciary, our defense organization affords us the opportunity to draw on each other's experiences in a very practical way and glean insights that may not be apparent from reading a decision or transcript," Lou said.

Lou sees the benefits of membership in DRI as an "easy sell" to Delaware bar members. "The intimate nature of the practice here in Delaware can be both a blessing and a curse. We face the risk of becoming too insular in our approach to litigation and DRI provides a broader, more diverse resource for practitioners to tap into," he said. Lou pointed to the Expert Witness Database and the ability of DRI to identify and retain nationally prominent speakers for SLDO meetings and functions as two prime examples of membership benefits for

Delaware practitioners. "Despite its size, our state has remained influential on a national level; our state defense organization can follow that model and flourish by drawing on the resources of DRI," Lou said.

Lou is quick to point out the tremendous opportunities for networking and socializing through both the SLDO and DRI. "It's been great developing friendships with members and DRI staff through attending regional and annual meetings," he said. Of course, the meeting locations are usually conducive to socializing and having fun. Lou has especially enjoyed the DRI Annual Meeting with its powerhouse speakers and terrific venues. "They are not to be missed."

Lou and his wife, Michele, live in Wilmington with their four young children. While Lou has always enjoyed jazz music, historical novels and Phillies baseball, he finds himself spending much of his time these days listening to Radio Disney, reading Dr. Seuss and rooting for a certain team in the Talleyville Girls Softball league. He wouldn't have it any other way.