



From the Committee

By Robert M. Bodzin

**H**igh-caliber seminars and publications, speaking and writing opportunities, and networking benefits are reasons to value your connection to DRI.

# Reap the Rewards of Passionate, Active Membership



■ Robert M. Bodzin is a trial attorney and shareholder in the law firm of Burnham Brown in Oakland, California. He is one of the chairs of the firm's business and commercial litigation practice group. He is 2013–2014 chair of the Litigation Section of the California State Bar. Mr. Bodzin is a past member of the DRI Publications Board, past publications chair of the DRI Commercial Litigation Committee, and outgoing publications chair of the DRI Retail and Hospitality Law Committee. Mr. Bodzin is admitted to practice law in California, New York, and New Jersey and has been practicing law since 1992.

2014 is turning into a great year for the Retail and Hospitality Committee. Under the leadership of Jacey Kapps and Jennifer Hoffman, our committee is hosting the Retail and Hospitality Litigation and Claims Management Seminar in Chicago between May 14–16, 2014.



At this year's seminar there will be a strong new leader for publications, as Edward G. Guedes takes over as publications chair.

So it is official—for the first time in almost a decade, I will not be part of *any* DRI publications leadership. As was announced a few months ago, I am stepping away from DRI to focus on my current term as chair of the Litigation Section of the California State Bar. Pulling back from DRI is something I have done very reluctantly. I learned a great deal from my publications colleagues on the DRI Commercial Litigation Committee, including Joe Fortner, Vickie Henry, Bill Ireland, and Russ Jones. It was exciting to be one of the early members of the Retail and Hospitality Committee along with my law partner and past committee chair Paul Caleo, and to serve as publications chair for both the latter committee and the Commercial Litigation Committee. Being able to write, edit, and speak on topics in the law that I feel passionate about is one of the greatest aspects of DRI. The fact that I formed real networking relationships that lead to referrals of significant business is another reason I value my connection to DRI. But first and foremost, it is the high caliber of DRI's seminars and publications that mean the most to me.

This month's articles from our committee provide an interesting mix of the diverse practice areas that populate the Retail and Hospitality Committee. Christopher Abatemarco's article, *Surveying the Ever-Changing Landscape: Commercial Landlord and Tenant Liability for Third-Party Injuries*, provides in-depth analysis of leasing and contract issues that impact players in the retail and hospitality arena on a daily basis. John Cattie and Katie Hosty's article, *Medicare Reimbursement in 2014: A Risk Management Roadmap for Attorneys*, serves as an important reminder that all defense attorneys need to be kept current on emerging developments involving Medicare reimbursement and we are pleased that our committee has such strong knowledge and depth of expertise in this area. The article penned by Mark Love and Christopher Ranck, *Strict Liability—Competing Policy Concerns: Caught Between a Rock and a Hard Law*, addresses the important issues relating to how actors in the manufacturing chain of distribution deal with settlements which do not resolve a lawsuit in its entirety.

It has been a pleasure editing this issue and I look forward to working with all of you again soon.

