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TRAILBLAZERS

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LEE S. WOLOSKY
JENNER & BLOCK



What was the genesis of the idea that has made you a trailblazer?

Over a decade ago, I decided to merge my two separate professional identities (a litigator and a national security professional) into a commercial litigation practice. Although I still handle “normal” high-stakes litigation, most of my practice now involves government in some respect, particularly the foreign policy or national security parts of government. I frequently represent clients that either are governments or have big problems with governments.

What sort of change has resulted from the concept?

In the past few years, I have seized billions of dollars belonging to Iran on behalf of terrorism victims; served as a global monitor for a tier-one financial institution under three consent decrees relating to sanctions violations and money laundering; sued a foreign government for hacking into the computer systems of the Vice Chairman of the Republican National Committee; represented a key witness in the impeachment proceedings of President Donald Trump; had the state secrets privilege invoked (and the case dismissed) in a precedent-setting, multibillion dollar private defamation suit; and sued a Chinese bank for allegedly maintaining accounts for terrorist operatives, among other matters.

I am a Democrat who has been particularly grateful to have worked “across the aisle” and represented a number of prominent Republicans such as Hank Greenberg, Fiona Hill and others, in high-stakes legal matters.

What bearing will this have on the future?

I believe I have been able to deliver superior results to clients in my areas of core expertise because of outstanding experiences and training as a high-stakes commercial litigator who also happens to have been a part of decision-making at the highest levels of the U.S. national security and foreign policy apparatus. In today’s globalized world, I expect the market for this expertise to continue to be strong.