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TRAILBLAZERS

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



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PIONEER SPIRIT Tom Perrelli is a litigator, along with serving two different periods with the Department of Justice. "I worked on complicated matters with legislation, litigation, regulatory and media components. So I tend to do work that bridges those areas."

TRAILS BLAZED Perrelli rejoined the firm in 2012 after serving as associate attorney general. "While at the DOJ, I worked settlements that involved ending litigation as well as getting things through Congress." For example, he negotiated the Cobell settlement and black farmers settlement, which involved large class-action solutions. "Congress had to pass a law or laws to implement them. I had to advocate and testify to Congress." He also served as lead federal negotiator as part of the DOJ's National Mortgage Settlement. "It involved 49 states, 12 federal agencies and five banks. Those were large, complex negotiations with lots of legislative and media interest." He also led the U.S. response as part of the DOJ's negotiations with BP on the legal side for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. "It involved a fascinating set of issues. I learned that you needed to show a commitment that the company was going to be there to pay its obligations of \$20 billion. We had to give them the space and time to deal with the daily crises."

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS Increasingly when companies are in crisis, attacks come from multiple agencies. "The plaintiffs' bar has become more sophisticated in using the legislative process, media and other outlets to ramp up pressure on a company. Whenever a company is facing a signature brand issue, problem or investigation, it will be facing not just class actions, but also members of Congress demanding answers, sometimes through investigations, as well as media scrutiny. The modern crisis is a multifront battle that will accelerate."