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TRAILBLAZERS

INSURANCE LAW

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PIONEER SPIRIT As a litigator and trial attorney, John Mathias quickly discovered the similarities of insurance cases and contract cases. “Unlike a lot of litigators who think an insurance policy is arcane and never read or try to understand it, I actually read them. Since then, I have been working with these essential products, which have brought me into so many interesting situations.”

TRAILS BLAZED In the early 1990s, Mathias served as the co-chair of the American Bar Association’s Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee and helped create task forces to foster increased cooperation between policyholders and insurer-side lawyers. “We organized the task forces into two types—insurance company counsel and policyholders—and at the time there was a lot of contentiousness between the two groups and much hostility.” Membership in the groups grew into the thousands and included annual meetings and the publication of treatises and protocols. “We helped establish mutually respectful civility lasting to this day.” Mathias has also represented policyholders in numerous cases, including D&O, environmental and cyber-based matters. He currently serves as lead counsel in a cyber insurance coverage case seeking \$100 million for damages caused by NotPetya malware and cases involving consortiums and restaurant owners in Chicago and New York. “We are pro-policyholders, pro-restaurant owners, and we are working hard to try to get them recoveries under business interruption and policy coverage.”

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS Mathias believes the insurance industry and its lawyers provide essential services needed in any capitalist society. “If you amassed all your capital into an enterprise, and something happened, you would be broke. Insurance provides that bridge. But once the risk occurs, there will be claims and disputes. It’s a gamble on all sides, but I predict the future to be just like the present—unpredictable.”