

TRAILBLAZERS

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

Building a successful tech law practice in the privacy and cyber space – enabling me to clear a path for my clients to innovate – required blending my litigation and regulatory defense skills. Also critical: honing a knack for forecasting outcomes and calibrating risk based on long-term client relationships, and a deep understanding of the wider industry and underlying technology. These capabilities allow me to see around corners even with constantly evolving laws and increasingly aggressive plaintiffs and regulators in jurisdictions around the globe.

What sort of change has resulted from this path/idea?

With the era of tech having the wind at its back over, and new technologies like generative AI spurring another cycle of novel efforts to apply laws written decades ago, the need to take a broad view is vital. By its very nature, this work is about protecting innovation by carving clear pathways, and we're seeing a demand for lawyers that are comfortable wearing all kinds of hats – litigator, regulatory counselor, tech advisor, technology user – because all these perspectives are needed to anticipate where the next challenges will arise, to design to avoid it, and to craft the strategies to defend against it.

What bearing will this have on the future?

With the pace of change only accelerating in tech and in the law, we'll see increased need for lawyers with the depth of experience to understand the issues, and to predict outcomes – knowing when and where to fight, and how long to stay in versus when to negotiate. Clients will demand these intangibles because protecting the space to innovate will depend on it.