

TRAILBLAZERS

GENERAL LITIGATION 2023

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

I had a career in the business world before becoming an attorney working closely with in-house and outside counsel. That experience showed me there was a need to be more strategic and candid when confronted with mass tort litigation. When I became a litigator and trial attorney, I focused on both the big picture (when do you file the case-defining motion, in what court do you file it, etc.) as well as the micro issues surrounding how to try the cases. Most importantly, I have always been candid with opposing counsel on the merits of the pending litigation while always being prepared to try the case. Many times, these approaches have resulted in cases being dismissed simply because opposing counsel has recognized they were not viable or settlements were reached on favorable terms for my clients.

What sort of change has resulted from the concept?

The approach, with the support of amazing teams, resulted in hundreds of cases being dismissed or resolved in various states with little to no new claims filed.

What bearing will this have on the future?

I continue to employ this approach and endeavor to pass it along to the younger partners and associates I work with. I am hopeful that even as relationships between opposing sides seem to be becoming more hostile, there will be a group that can have candid, respectful conversations about cases that benefit both sides.