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TRAILBLAZERS

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS and ANTITRUST

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PIONEER SPIRIT Lee Van Voorhis worked as a paralegal before law school. “My first paralegal job didn’t go so great. So, I traveled the world, and when I ran out of money, I came back to D.C. and took another paralegal job. I landed with Anne Bingaman, who was working a plaintiff side antitrust case, prior to heading the Antitrust Division. When I went to law school, I decided that antitrust was what I wanted to pursue. And I did.”

TRAILS BLAZED Van Voorhis, who is co-chair of the firm’s antitrust and competition law practice, has litigated a merger in federal district court, appeals court and the Federal Trade Commission administrative proceeding. “Not many mergers get litigated, and not many that do get litigated are appealed. And very few take place in the FTC administrative proceedings. I’m one of at most a very few attorneys who have led litigation in all three forums.”

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS The eight years of the Obama administration marked some fairly aggressive antitrust enforcement. “One wonders what it will be like under the current administration. We are already starting to see a significant increase in the number of transactions and the number that are reported to the government for review. And the government is not getting more resources. One implication is that some deals will get approved that might not have. The flip side, though, is that second requests may be a kind of safety valve for the government. One wonders if there won’t be more second requests.” For transactional antitrust issues, there has long been a strong preference for structural remedies, such as divestitures, rather than behavioral remedies. “There will be an even stronger preference or a nearly absolute one, for structural remedies rather than behavioral ones.”