

TRAILBLAZERS

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL

E. LYNN GRAYSON

JENNER & BLOCK

PIONEER SPIRIT Lynn Grayson always wanted to be a litigator, so she began her legal career as an Illinois assistant attorney general. She needed to spend six months doing environmental matters before she was given the chance to do prisoner pro se cases. "That changed the course of my career."

TRAILS BLAZED Grayson was appointed general counsel for the Illinois Emergency Services and Disaster Agency soon after the agency took over enforcement responsibility for the state's Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. "I mostly focused on that statute, but also was involved with some nuclear issues." When she moved to private practice in Chicago, she became involved in the first REIT case involving environmental issues. "This was around the time that environmental due diligence became an important part of transactions." Soon after, she moved to Jenner & Block, where she has done a great deal of international due diligence. "I've also expanded into food safety and a variety of other environmental-related, transportation, import-export and land use issues, all with an international focus."

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS International transactions represent a growth area, but the future of environmental law will also involve a great deal of domestic work, particularly around energy and renewable energy. Older environmental laws such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Endangered Species Act will also see new life. The topic of water will continue to be important. "It's not what people think in the United States. We always have enough to drink, but there will be more fights in connection with quality. Many say water will be the new oil."

