Robert A. Wyman Jr.
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PIONEER SPIRIT As a summer clerk, Bob Wyman took advice from one of the partners. “Pretty much anyone will get bored by the practice of law after a few years, so it’s important to find an area you are passionate about.” He had grown up in New England and had spent a lot of time outdoors. “Environmental law was just emerging. It seemed perfect.”

TRAILS BLAZED Wyman is known for getting environmental market programs adopted. He was involved in some of the early programs, which were in areas like removing lead from gasoline, but he became much more involved after the passage of the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act, about which he testified before Congress. Wyman designed several innovative, market-based programs, including the South Coast Regional Clean Air Incentives Market. He was a primary architect of markets designed to control emissions from plants, refineries, boats, fuel cells, electric cars—and even rockets. Wyman has also been instrumental in defending these programs, which are often under attack. “There’s no point in getting these programs implemented if they are just going to be overturned in court.”

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS Wyman has been trying to build a carbon dioxide market for the United States and worldwide. Since Congress has not created a carbon market by statute, Wyman has been working with industry groups to make recommendations to the EPA on using the Clean Air Act to build one. “Solving any environmental problem requires very clear market signals involving price and rules in order to get capital investments. We need a national market with clear ground rules. The Clean Air Act was not designed for this, but I think it will happen.”