

TRAILBLAZERS

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL

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PIONEER SPIRIT Janice Schneider was a marine biologist before going to law school. “I worked in research, in professional environmental work for the state of Florida and for a consulting firm. I decided to go to law school to get back into consulting, not to practice law. My plan went awry when I had the opportunity to join the solicitor’s office at the Department of Interior.”

TRAILS BLAZED Schneider worked for the Interior Department and the Justice Department’s Wildlife Division for a total of 11 years. While serving as an assistant secretary for land and mineral management, Schneider oversaw the nation’s largest offshore wind lease sale to date. “But perhaps the most critical work was on the fire issues,” She led efforts to develop a new approach to rangeland fires in one of the biggest public lands policy changes in decades. “It shows how the government can work with its partners. One outgrowth I’m proud of is the partnership between the Bureau of Land Management and Team Rubicon, an organization that works with veterans for continued public service, including in disaster areas.” In private practice, Schneider focuses on helping clients achieve win-win solutions with their opponents on projects. Her work includes advising on large scale energy projects and transmission lines, doing environmental reviews for permits and then litigating those permits. “The most challenging ones are transmission, because they cross so many different areas.” Among her projects was the Sunrise Powerlink. “It was one of the first large-scale transmission lines dedicated to moving renewable energy in California.”

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS The energy and environmental spaces are in an extraordinary period of change. “It’s driven in part by a change in administration, but also by technology and the advances we continue to see in all energy sectors. It’s a very exciting time.”

