

TRAILBLAZERS

CRYPTOCURRENCY | BLOCKCHAIN | FINTECH

VIVIAN MAESE
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PIONEER SPIRIT Before entering law school, Vivian Maese worked as a systems analyst. So when she started her first job as a lawyer with Salomon Brothers focusing on technology law and noticed the “back office moving into the front office,” she found it became essential to increase her knowledge of all regulatory issues. “It’s regulations that put the ‘fin’ in ‘fintech.’ After law school, I didn’t want to do something that had been done before, and I knew I wanted to be involved in new technologies.”

TRAILS BLAZED “Back in 1988 while I was at Salomon Brothers, we invented the modern trading floor. With advancements from Silicon Valley and the advent of local area networks, today’s trading floors are representative of those first innovations. But trading floors are now ripe for change again.” Maese serves as legal counsel to Thesys CAT in the development and implementation of the SEC’s Consolidated Audit Trail (CAT), as CAT’s plan processor. As one of the largest databases ever created, CAT is designed to track the entire life cycle of orders and transactions in the U.S. equity and options markets. “Back in May 2010, there was a flash crash with the entire market going down, and it took the SEC some time to determine what had happened. So the SEC proposed CAT, which will transform how we supervise trading, understand our markets and make them safer.”

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS As machine learning becomes more sophisticated, Maese sees not only financial services but all industries being affected by the ability of machines to “absorb information, learn from it and predict outcomes.” When combined with blockchain technology’s ability to remove friction, she sees a transformative wave sweeping through the industry. “Sometimes I feel like a bit of a midwife, giving birth to a new industry.”