

2022

THE AMERICAN LAWYER

# TRAILBLAZERS

NORTHEAST

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**What was the genesis of the idea/path that has made you a trailblazer?**

I've always had an entrepreneurial spirit and a drive to improve the way things work. Before law school, I worked at Millennium Pharmaceuticals, a fast-growing biopharmaceutical startup. As I watched the company's meteoric growth, I saw how lawyers played a critical role in being problem solvers and helping the business navigate opportunities and challenges. From the start of my legal career, I've kept that early experience in mind and focused on giving practical, business-minded advice.

**What sort of change has resulted from the concept?**

Having a shared sense of commitment to what a client is trying to achieve really changes the dynamic of the relationship. Taking the time to understand the client's business goals allows me to provide more useful legal advice. And there is no greater compliment from a client than being relied on as a trusted advisor during the most important stages of a company's lifecycle. I think for a lawyer to be treated as part of the business team, you need to act like part of the business team and really be invested in the company's success.

**What bearing will this have on the future?**

The supply of motivated founders and innovative ideas seems to be limitless so I expect to be part of many more exciting growth stories. But my dedication to helping businesses grow extends beyond my client work. I serve as a mentor to entrepreneurs and small businesses in underserved communities, including through Lawyers for Civil Rights where I sit on the Board of Directors and host pro bono business law workshops throughout the year. Promoting equality by supporting economic growth with free legal support is one way I've contributed to improving the way things work.