

# TRAILBLAZERS

## HEALTHCARE LAW

### DANIEL MERON LATHAM & WATKINS LLP



**PIONEER SPIRIT** Dan Meron practiced communications law before joining the Justice Department where he served as deputy to Peter Keisler, then assistant attorney general and head of the civil division. “While at DOJ, I represented the Department of Health and Human Services on a series of high-profile, confidential matters.” Eventually, the White House invited him to apply to become general counsel of HHS, which he did. “Now, 90 percent of what I do is health care.”

**TRAILS BLAZED** Meron is Global Co-Chair of the firm’s Healthcare & Life Sciences Practice. His cases include *Willette v. UMass Medical School*. “I was appointed a special attorney general for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in order to represent UMass Medical School in a False Claims Act case brought by a whistleblower. It was the first case of its kind. We argued that the medical school is the arm of the state under the 11th Amendment, so it couldn’t be sued in federal court. We won at the district court level and the Court of Appeals.” Meron also successfully represented UnitedHealthcare in a challenge to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ methodology for calculating whether a private insurance plan was overpaid by Medicare. “The government is likely to appeal. But if the holding is upheld on appeal, it will have a tremendous impact on the manner in which CMS calculates overpayments and on the industry as a whole.”

**FUTURE EXPLORATIONS** Health care is a very busy industry for legal issues. “There will be a set of different regulatory and legislative initiatives designed to reduce health care costs. Attendant to that, we will see enforcement by government agencies using tools like the False Claims Act in areas where there are significant pricing concerns. It’s going to be a major area of focus over the next few years.”