

Cynthia D. Vreeland

Partner, WilmerHale, Boston | University of Chicago Law School

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When Cynthia D. Vreeland moved to Boston in 1996 and began working for what was then Hale & Dorr (today known as WilmerHale), her first case involved patent law. Since then, her practice has focused almost exclusively on patent and trade secret litigation. She has an enviable trial record over the last 19 years: Of the 18 trials she has first or second chaired, Vreeland has won 15 cases for her clients, and one settled midway through trial.

"Having the opportunity to do a lot of trials is my proudest professional achievement," she says.

Tackling the extremely technical nature of the issues involved in her cases — from LED chips to grape varieties to high-temperature superconducting materials — keeps Vreeland's practice interesting.

"Part of the fun is taking something complicated and figuring out how to explain it to a jury," she says. "I have to translate the case into a story not just about the technology but about the dispute between these two companies."

Vreeland uses her extensive trial experience to balance out her practice with some "very mean-

ingful" pro bono cases. She has represented Granada House, a group home for people in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse, in a case against the City of Boston and the Zoning Board of Appeals, obtaining a summary judgment decision confirming Granada House's right to locate its new home in Allston, as well as a group of disabled students and parents in a case against the Richmond City Council and School Board that resulted in a five-year plan to remediate structural defects in the schools to permit access to persons with disabilities.

She has also taken on multiple cases involving individuals trafficked into the United States, helping them seek compensation under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

"I'm so happy to be able to work in this area and help these amazing young women," Vreeland says. **MLW**

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