

2019

THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

TRAILBLAZERS

EQUALITY

KIMBERLY PARKER WILMERHALE



PIONEER SPIRIT Kimberly Parker has been involved with reproductive rights and women's issues since before law school. After graduating, she went to work for the American Civil Liberties Union. "WilmerHale was working with the ACLU on a lot of those issues. I came here because of the firm's deep commitment to community service and pro bono work. They were extremely supportive of my continued work in the reproductive and women's rights area."

TRAILS BLAZED Parker has co-chaired the firm's pro bono and community service committee for 10 years. "I have represented clients, especially physicians with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and Planned Parenthood, on access to reproductive health care, including dozens of matters where there have been laws restricting access to abortion or contraception. Often, the focus is on the needs of low-income women or people of color where the laws represent a high burden. Bringing providers to these types of cases has been rewarding and important. I have done dozens of briefs for ACOG that have been recognized by the courts that these doctors really understand what women deal with day to day, including in the Supreme Court's women's health cases. It countered the argument that Texas passed laws it claimed were necessary to protect women's health. These experts say that's not true."

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS This area will be very challenging in the months and years to come. "States are passing many laws that restrict abortion and reproductive health. We've been committed to bringing a variety of challenges. We are working on a matter now for the AMA and Planned Parenthood to challenge new rules for distribution of federal Title X funds in support of contraception for low-income women. It will continue to be extremely active, and we'll remain very involved."