

TRAILBLAZERS

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS and ANTITRUST

HEATHER TEWKSBURY WILMERHALE

PIONEER SPIRIT Heather Tewksbury joined the Justice Department as a paralegal after college. “I was immediately staffed on the ‘trial of the century’—the case against Microsoft. That experience inspired me to go on to law school.” After spending four years in private practice, she returned to the DOJ, where she spent eight years. “I prosecuted some significant cases for the Antitrust Division.”

TRAILS BLAZED Among her DOJ trials, Tewksbury led a case against makers of LCD panels. “It was a significant case for the Antitrust Division where nearly all the companies involved pleaded guilty, and we took the last one, AU Optronics, to trial. It was the first-ever case where the government had to prove overcharge beyond a reasonable doubt. We were successful and secured a criminal fine of \$500 million, which was tied for the highest criminal fine at the time, plus the first-ever appointment of a corporate monitor. We also tried five executives. Two were convicted, and the jury hung on one. I led the retrial where he was convicted. That case took about six years of my life.” In private practice, Tewksbury has defended clients in antitrust and securities cases against the government, including a successful trial against the SEC in a securities fraud case. She is currently serving as lead trial lawyer representing Rohan Ramchandani, a former Citigroup trader, in a case in the Southern District of New York alleging manipulation of foreign exchange benchmarks.

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS There is a movement in the Antitrust Division to criminalize conduct that had been treated civilly in the past. “It may be a sea change toward overreach. I have a niche fighting these cases and taking them to trial.”

