

TRAILBLAZERS

LITIGATION

MATTHEW MARTENS

WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE AND DORR LLP

PIONEER SPIRIT Matt Martens didn't originally plan to be a litigator, but after doing some transactional and litigation work as a summer associate, "I preferred the battle of litigation, rather than the deal-making of transactional work."

TRAILS BLAZED Since then, Martens has had a versatile career. "I tell young lawyers we are there to tell a client's story." He served as a senior appointee in both the Bush and Obama administrations, including as chief litigation counsel at the Securities and Exchange Commission. While there, Martens worked as lead trial lawyer in a highly publicized case against former Goldman Sachs trader Fabrice Tourre for fraudulent marketing of a \$1 billion mortgage-backed collateralized debt obligation. "The SEC had not had great success litigating matters coming out of the financial crisis until this matter. I decided to try the case myself—I felt it was my responsibility. It was a career-defining case. Ultimately, we prevailed on six of the seven fraud claims." In private practice, Martens has represented plaintiffs and defendants in both criminal and civil cases. "And I've won in all four situations." Recently, Martens successfully defended Texas Attorney General Paxton against securities fraud charges. "I believed the SEC was stretching in its legal theory, since the complaint did not even allege any false statements."

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS Martens views his job as solving clients' problems. "Sometimes that's through litigation, but sometimes it's not. That's what's unique about being a D.C. lawyer—we think more broadly about solving problems."

