

TRAILBLAZERS

LITIGATION

DAVID BOWKER

WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE AND DORR LLP



PIONEER SPIRIT In college, Dave Bowker took some political science and international relations courses that included debate components. "I was really energized by immersing oneself in a topic, analyzing and developing arguments and testing the merits of the decisions in a process that felt like a courtroom. I worked for a civil rights litigator and enrolled in law school soon thereafter."

TRAILS BLAZED Bowker now chairs the firm's international litigation group, and his practice includes sovereign disputes. "Sovereign cases take teamwork and creativity to overcome challenging circumstances." Among his clients, Bowker helped obtain the release of Washington Post correspondent Jason Rezaian, who was taken hostage by the Iranians. "We pursued a litigation strategy and argued in the Human Rights Council in Geneva in front of more than 140 UN member states. It was a combination of politics, law and strategy. There was a lot of room to be creative in the gray area between international law and politics." Bowker also successfully argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in a First Amendment case on behalf of dozens of not-for-profit organizations fighting HIV overseas. "Losing would have required our clients to pledge allegiance to a particular government policy to get funding." Bowker is currently representing a U.S. company that had its business seized by the Venezuelan government. "It was taken in a way that was discriminatory and violated international law. We've been overseeing litigation, but we understand they don't have fair and transparent courts. So we filed in the U.S. under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FISA)."

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS Ever-accelerating change and interconnectedness will lead to larger and more complex disputes and less certainty about where and how those disputes should be resolved. "That leaves room and creates demand for creative dispute resolution and thoughtful lawyers."