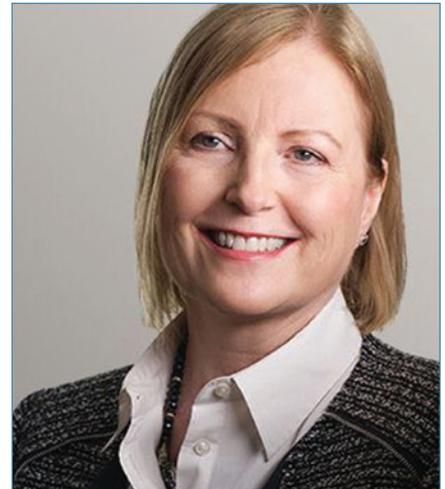


TRAILBLAZERS

WHITE COLLAR, REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE

DIXIE JOHNSON

KING & SPALDING LLP



PIONEER SPIRIT Dixie Johnson was working as a schoolteacher while getting her MBA at night. “A professor suggested law school, and I liked it a lot.” After law school, she went to work for a firm in Washington, D.C. Among her first enforcement cases, Johnson served as the lead lawyer in representing the New York Stock Exchange against SEC charges. “It was pretty unusual at the time. In the first case, the SEC actually didn’t charge our client—they brought a case along with ‘agreed-to undertakings.’ In the next case they did charge my client, but it was a cease-and-desist order with no penalties.” Among her transactional work, she also counseled individuals with enforcement matters. “The more work I did representing individuals investigated by the government, the more I felt like it really mattered. I’ve been doing civil enforcement and white-collar defense ever since.”

TRAILS BLAZED Johnson’s clients aren’t interested in making new law, so the best outcome is avoiding charges. “If they are charged, they don’t like to be reminded of it.” Johnson currently co-leads her firm’s Securities Enforcement and Regulation practice and has served in leadership roles within the American Bar Association, including as Business Law Section chair and chair of the Federal Regulation of Securities Committee. She is also a mother. “That shouldn’t be groundbreaking, yet people wonder why women aren’t doing it more. But I’m still standing.”

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS Facility with technology will become as important as facility with the law, the written word and persuasive advocacy. “We will see a lot more sophisticated work for young lawyers in the next few years, because technology will increasingly take over the boring, repetitive work. That’s very exciting and bodes well for lawyers at the top of their game.”