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TRAILBLAZERS

WHITE COLLAR CRIME

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PIONEER SPIRIT Dan Webb always knew he wanted to be a trial lawyer. His high school guidance counselor even suggested it because he was good at debate. After law school, he took a job as a federal prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney's office in Chicago and personally tried a lot of the larger cases in the corruption and financial fraud unit. He served as chief or co-chief trial counsel in dozens of major cases involving allegations of fraud, embezzlement, corruption, and a host of other assorted malfeasance. When he segued into private practice, white collar defense and investigations was a natural transition.

TRAILS BLAZED Webb has been fortunate to handle a number of high-profile matters during his career. Some of his biggest accomplishments can be attributed to staying true to the core foundation of a successful trial lawyer: always be unrelenting; aggressively advocate your clients' positions from the moment you're retained to the moment an investigation or litigation has officially concluded; and use creativity and innovation when strategies out of an old playbook simply won't suffice.

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS It's always tricky to predict what the future holds, particularly in an area like white collar law. It will be interesting to see what, if any, effect the Yates memo has on individual prosecutions and, in particular, issues of privilege in internal investigations. Some believe that much of what was in that memo is not new but rather a repackaging of existing policy. However, if it's a sign that the Department of Justice intends to dedicate more resources to individual prosecutions, it might be more impactful than we expect. Webb thinks we may also see greater information sharing and cooperation between the Justice Department's civil and criminal divisions, particularly in securities cases, false claims cases, and whistleblower cases, which is likely to lead to increase in criminal investigations and charges. In the anticorruption arena, he thinks we are likely to continue to see increased compliance challenges brought about by the proliferation of foreign-based enforcement.