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JANE H. MACON BRACEWELL



What was the genesis of the idea/path that has made you a trailblazer?

Being blessed with a strong feminist background without knowing it, my Mother, Father and Grandmother were trailblazers in their own right, education as paramount. Further, the knowledge that anything is possible with an education. As citizens of the US, we are in a unique position to be change agents and help others that are less fortunate. As lawyers we have a duty to help pave the way for a better future for the downtrodden with innovative and creative solutions. In short, any problem or project should be looked at as an opportunity to help solve the challenges involved to seek a meaningful result.

What sort of change has resulted from the concept?

For several years I had the pleasure of being a Federal Litigator for the City of San Antonio and tried numerous 1st Amendment cases including “Deep Throat”, “Massage Parlors” and “Nude Dancing”. The cases went on to the 5th Circuit where an “En Banc” Court rendered their decision. The rulings affected the treatment of 1st Amendment matters nationwide.

What bearing will this have on the future?

We know that young lawyers will seize the moment and seek the available opportunities, keeping in mind that in accomplishing and pursuing a goal, one must be vigilant, show up and follow through! In my world, I am always in search of solutions to challenges and obstacles. Always look for the daylight and the best solution possible.

DANIELLE M. VARNELL BRACEWELL



What was the genesis of the idea/path that has made you a trailblazer?

Ensuring that our clients are fully prepared to participate in the energy transition is critical to me. My focus on renewable energy and the energy transition began more than 15 years ago when I first advised a client – one I still work closely with today – on launching its nascent solar business. Little did I know then that one early-stage development solar deal would advance my career in an entirely new and exciting direction. It morphed almost overnight into a power M&A and development practice with a focus on renewable energy.

What sort of change has resulted from the concept?

Changing my career path from a general corporate practice to one with a focus on renewable energy and innovative clean technologies taught me that when you are truly passionate about what you are doing, it makes the difference between a career that is just fine to one that is exciting and constantly evolving. Professionally speaking, when I started focusing on renewable energy, it was driven mainly by tax credits; there was concern that if the tax credits expired, the future of renewable energy might also be in jeopardy. This thinking has certainly evolved such that there is increased focus, both from a policy standpoint and from the energy-consumer standpoint, on the importance of developing a diverse mix of power resources to include solar, onshore and offshore wind, battery storage, hydrogen, natural gas and carbon capture and sequestration.

What bearing will this have on the future?

One of the most rewarding aspects of my career is that the projects I work on are critical to the United States’ energy transition and provide sustainable, energy-efficient solutions to our nation’s power needs.