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# TRAILBLAZERS

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## BARBARA S. JONES BRACEWELL LLP



**PIONEER SPIRIT** Barbara Jones is a former judge in the Southern District of New York whose recent high-profile assignments include serving as special master in the federal government's investigation of the president's former lawyer Michael Cohen. Responsibility fell to Jones to determine which documents seized from Cohen's office and home were protected by attorney-client privilege. Jones was a member of a three-person independent panel selected to study the New York City Police Department's disciplinary procedures. In early 2019, Police Commissioner James O'Neill accepted the panel's recommendations in full.

Inspired by an uncle — whose undercover work as an Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent led to Department of Justice prosecutions — Jones interned in law school with the Philadelphia Strike Force and the U.S. Attorney's Office. She was hired into the DOJ Honors program, assigned to the Organized Crime Section, and becoming the first woman in the Manhattan Organized Crime Strike Force.

**TRAILS BLAZED** Appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1995, Jones served 16 years as a federal judge. Toward the end of her tenure on the bench, Jones' ruled in *Edith Windsor v. The United States of America* that the Defense of Marriage Act was unconstitutional. "That likely was my most significant decision."

In 2012 Jones took senior status. In 2013 she entered private practice for the first time. Jones was appointed by the Secretary of Defense to chair the Response Systems Panel tasked with investigating sexual assault in the military and to make recommendations. She served as the arbitrator in the NFL's case against former running back Ray Rice.

**FUTURE EXPLORATIONS** The Catholic Archdiocese of New York has engaged Jones to review its procedures, protocols and how it deals with abuse accusations. She has been granted complete access to records, personnel and senior Church officials, including Archbishop Timothy Dolan.