

2021

THE AMERICAN LAWYER

TRAILBLAZERS

NORTHEAST

DANIEL S. CONNOLLY
BRACEWELL



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

Like so many in our profession, I was drawn to the practice of law by a desire to help others and play a consequential role in our society. Serving first as a prosecutor in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office and later in the administration of a New York City Mayor, I saw firsthand the positive effects of integrity and passion for service on the communities we served.

What sort of change has resulted from the concept?

The notion of trying to make a difference and playing a role in significant matters requires relentless work and discipline and a commitment to integrity and the interests of those you serve. Every matter you work on – whether large or small - is vitally important to your client and to our profession. Whether working on a matter of public policy importance or devising strategies to open an office of an international law firm in New York City, bringing your full capabilities to bear has been my goal. Along the way, you develop the trust of your clients, colleagues and adversaries and that reputation becomes your legacy to our profession.

What bearing will this have on the future?

Building the New York Office of Bracewell from the ground up over the past 15 years has been an extraordinarily rewarding experience which continues to provide new challenges and opportunities for me personally and professionally. I especially enjoy working with the next generation of lawyers who bring their own perspectives and energy to our profession. As people who grew up surrounded by rapidly advancing technology, the innovations that this generation will bring to our profession will be a wonder to behold. My goal is to ensure that the underlying principles that make a lawyer great at what they do – integrate seamlessly with the increasing role technology plays in our profession.

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BARBARA S. JONES
BRACEWELL



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

Inspired by an uncle who was an undercover ATF agent, Judge Barbara Jones decided that she too wanted to pursue a career in the law. She spent more than 20 years of her career working as a prosecutor. First she was a special attorney in the Honors Program of the US Department of Justice, working in the organized crime unit of the Criminal Division. She later served as an Assistant US Attorney in the Southern District of New York, where she was the first woman ever appointed as chief of a Department of Justice Organized Crime Strike Force. She went on to serve as the Chief Assistant to the late New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau.

Jones was nominated by President Bill Clinton in 1995 to serve as a district court judge in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York. During her 16 years on the bench, she presided over a range of high-profile cases, including ruling in *Edith Windsor v. The United States of America* that the Defense of Marriage Act was unconstitutional.

What sort of change has resulted from the concept?

In September 2018 the Catholic Archdiocese of New York engaged Judge Jones and a Bracewell team to review its procedures and protocols related to how it deals with accusations of abuse. She was granted complete access to records, personnel and to senior Church officials.

After reviewing materials Judge Jones recommended that the Archdiocese better its technology by enhancing its electronic systems to more efficiently track complaints and digitize priest personnel files.

What bearing will this have on the future?

Over the course of her career Jones has watched the practice of law evolve. The professional satisfaction she feels for assisting her clients in their most high-profile matters continues to energize her in her practice.