

TRAILBLAZERS

CRIMINAL LAW

RONALD MACHEN

WILMERHALE



PIONEER SPIRIT Before clerking for a judge on the Sixth Circuit, Ron Machen had already been at WilmerHale for a yearlong pre-clerkship. Once the judge suggested that he should join the U.S. attorney's office to get the best learning experience as a litigator, Machen spent four months as an assistant U.S. attorney before returning to WilmerHale. "After that, I went back as a U.S. attorney under President Obama before returning again to the firm."

TRAILS BLAZED As the longest-serving U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, Machen led the nation's largest U.S. attorney's office and secured more than 160 public corruption convictions. He brought charges against those responsible for attacks on U.S. diplomats in Benghazi, secured convictions of members of Congress and corrupt politicians and prosecuted the largest domestic bribery and bid-rigging scheme in federal contracting. A community-oriented prosecutor, Machen also spearheaded the first cyber laundering and money laundering units in D.C. "We brought a holistic approach—similar to anti-violence initiatives—to educate people not to become victims of crimes we saw in the community." As co-chair of WilmerHale's white-collar practice, he helped bring seven minority equity partners into the firm in the last year—for a total of more than 30 in the firm—and continues to mentor minority and female lawyers. "Diversity is critical in presenting a different perspective and approach. So I'm proud that the firm and our group have laid a foundation for generations to come."

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS In his practice Machen still sees cross-border enforcement as very active with the DOJ. He also sees the growth of sanctions enforcement cases and health care fraud allegations. "Compliance has also been a big focus by the DOJ, so a lot of corporations have spent a lot more time making sure their compliance programs are effectively implemented."