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TRAILBLAZERS

NORTHEAST

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

My practice is a hybrid of appellate law and professional defense and risk management to lawyers and law firms. While seemingly different, each involves attention to detail, critical thinking and strong analytical and writing skills, all of which I appreciate. My practice lets me solve puzzles and then creatively express why my solution is the proper one. Developing these skills has been essential to successfully representing my clients in matters that have resulted in new case law.

What sort of change has resulted from the concept?

My experience has been beneficial to my role in shaping the professional defense and risk management practice, throughout the industry. As a planning committee member for the Legal Malpractice & Risk Management seminar, I have worked closely with attorneys and in-house counsel to develop panels and topics each year. Regarded as the preeminent conference on legal risk management, this annual conference addresses the most pressing current risk and malpractice topics impacting our industry.

What bearing will this have on the future?

In *Turra v. Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas*, 476 Mass. 1020 (2017), the Supreme Judicial Court held that a mortgagee's failure to strictly comply with a provision contained in G.L. c. 244, ss 11-17C, will only render a foreclosure void if the provision pertains to preforeclosure requirements that are a part of the foreclosure process. This decision is important because the Court clarified language used in its landmark decision in *U.S. Bank Nat'l Ass'n v. Ibanez*, 458 Mass. 37 (2011), thereby providing necessary guidance to banks and consumers still reeling from the Great recession. This case is an example of how one decision can provide a better understanding and lasting effect on the application of certain laws and individual rights.