

LESLEY E. WEAVER

BLEICHMAR FONTI & AUDL LLP



PIONEER SPIRIT Lesley Weaver's father represented RV companies as permanent outside counsel, and he told her that plaintiffs' work was a mistake. "But I wanted to be connected to my work. I also wanted to go to trial immediately." Her first trial involved a woman who was held by customs agents on the false suspicion of drug smuggling. "I never looked back."

TRAILS BLAZED Weaver believes in finding the story in every case and understanding what matters to clients. That has led to a great deal of antitrust work. "Consumers need to compete on an even playing field." Among Weaver's antitrust cases, she recently recovered \$19.7 billion from Volkswagen for emissions fraud. "I led the investigations against Bosch, which created the software that controls a defeat device. As a result, I've now been appointed to the emissions case against Fiat and was also the first to file a complaint in the German Autos case. We claim that German auto manufacturers have conspired over a 20-year period to limit technology, which leverages artificially high pricing." In another case, she represented plaintiffs who had signed up for an online dating website for people with STDs. The website was hacked, and their confidentiality was breached. "They were betrayed, and it ended up being a total civil rights case. We got 100 percent damages and \$15 million in punitive damages."

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS The private bar has many opportunities and challenges ahead. "We see what happens with the role of government as an advocate when it steps forward on matters such as antitrust or plays less of a role as with environmental regulation. All these moves allow private attorneys to figure out the role of private enforcement, where government is shifting in ways that might not have been predicted even a year ago."

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