

2021

THE AMERICAN LAWYER

TRAILBLAZERS

WEST

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

I always knew I would be a trial lawyer. Connecting with people comes naturally, and fighting for a real person, no matter the odds, not only inspires me on a daily basis, but brings real joy. With that passion comes (often unjustified) confidence, even when everyone else says you shouldn't (or can't) win.

I put my faith in juries and their ability to understand and connect with my client—even in complicated science-driven products cases. And that faith informs every decision I make in trial. If you don't believe in the jury, they will never believe in you. And at the age of 35 and 36, with only two trials under my belt, my firm and co-counsel put their faith in me to be the leading force in the first and second Roundup cancer state trials, resulting in \$289M and \$2B verdicts.

What sort of change has resulted from the concept?

We have brought one of the largest bio-chemical companies in the world (Bayer) to the brink of bankruptcy and forced billions of dollars to go to cancer victims in thousands of settlements. More importantly, we have shown every pharmaceutical and chemical company around the world, that no matter how many regulators or scientists they buy off, when the raw unvarnished truth is displayed in a courtroom, we win.

What bearing will this have on the future?

Hopefully, our work holding Monsanto accountable will help convince other companies, who see what we have done, that doing the right thing—i.e., warning consumers of the risks of their products—is worth it, not just from a moral perspective, but a financial one.