

TRAILBLAZERS

WHITE COLLAR, REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE

PAUL H. SCHOEMAN

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PIONEER SPIRIT Paul Schoeman gravitated toward criminal matters in law school. “Even during my clerkship in the Eastern District of New York, my favorite thing was to watch criminal trials.” Eventually he returned to work for the U.S. attorney’s office there, then spent some time in private practice at Kramer Levin before returning to the EDNY as chief assistant U.S. attorney. In 2009, he came back to the firm, where he now co-chairs the firm’s white-collar defense and investigations group.

TRAILS BLAZED In private practice, Schoeman has been successful in a variety of courtrooms, including defending Clarence Norman Jr. in Brooklyn state court, trying cases in federal court in the Southern District of New York and representing Michael Eisner in Delaware Chancery Court in a civil case. “There are not a lot of former prosecutors who have gotten acquittals in those three very different jurisdictions.” Another significant victory included successfully defending Craig Brubaker and David Parse. The former Deutsche Bank employees were accused of participating in a \$1.5 billion tax shelter case, one of the largest tax frauds in U.S. history. “What was neat was there were two defendants in one case, and one got an acquittal while the other had all charges dismissed.”

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS There’s uncertainty with the current administration about what direction it wants to go regarding white-collar crime. “I’m concerned with the current trend of holding individuals responsible for bad corporate behavior. I’d like to see a better set of principles laid down about when people who are just doing their job should be criminally prosecuted in order to hold the corporation accountable. It’s troubling that prosecutors are trying to come up with ever more aggressive theories about why someone who is not acting for personal gain should be criminally liable.”

