

TRAILBLAZERS

REAL ESTATE | CONSTRUCTION LAW

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

From early on in my career, I've worked on real estate disputes involving large properties in NYC and around the country and revolving around the intricacies of real estate contracts and the commercial implications of my clients' agreements. I have long been intrigued by how that legal work has a tangible impact on communities and city skylines. The complexities of my clients' businesses also keep the work enjoyable and challenging. In my hotel-related matters, after taking the court through the hotel management agreement and license agreement and the law supporting the enforcement of long-term agreements, the court agreed with us and granted injunctive relief prohibiting unilateral termination of the agreements, upheld on appeal. In my matter against WeWork, my client, Parkmerced Investors, was significantly economically damaged when WeWork abandoned its investment in Parkmerced's San Francisco apartment complex, one of the U.S.'s largest residential developments. Seeking to enforce its contractual rights and compensation for the significant damage caused by the termination of the investment, my client is pursuing claims against WeWork for over \$100 million. For 111 West 57th Property Owner, we won before the trial court and on appeal, enabling construction of the 90-story condominium on West 57 Street to proceed.

What sort of change has resulted from the concept?

The predictable enforceability of contracts is crucial for real estate development and hotel ownership and management. For example, the rulings we've obtained for our hotel-related clients preserved, among other things, the enforcement of long-term hotel-related contracts, and those we've obtained for our developer clients, have helped keep their projects moving forward.

What bearing will this have on the future?

The cases we've handled will help real estate and hospitality clients enforce their contractual rights going forward.