

# TRAILBLAZERS

## CRIMINAL LAW

### LYN R. AGRE

KASOWITZ BENSON TORRES LLP



**PIONEER SPIRIT** With a master's degree in social work, Lyn Agre realized the best way to effect real change was to combine that work with a law degree. "After graduating from law school, I went to the public defender's office, where I was able to use both degrees to serve defendants. I credit my love of criminal work to my time serving as a deputy public defender in Santa Clara County."

**TRAILS BLAZED** Agre has spearheaded a pro bono initiative, pairing attorneys from Kasowitz Benson Torres with criminal matters at the Marin County Public Defender's Office. The firm has taken on numerous misdemeanor cases and has successfully negotiated favorable sentences for its pro bono clients. The initiative gives Kasowitz associates valuable criminal law experience while also providing a public service. "We typically represent large, well-funded corporate clients and wealthy individuals. These pro bono criminal matters allow our lawyers to represent clients with very few resources, both financial and emotional. We are frequently able to effect life-changing solutions for these clients." Agre regularly takes on challenging and highly complex criminal cases at the state and federal level, including some that other firms might shy away from. "We are zealous in our representation of clients in difficult situations, often involving damaging reputational issues. The firm allows me to represent individuals who need sophisticated litigators to be able to win their challenging cases. It's a great environment in which to practice criminal law."

**FUTURE EXPLORATIONS** Agre sees the continued intersection of criminal law and evolving immigration laws. "When you take on a representation, there are many new issues to consider. With recent regulatory changes, criminal law is rapidly evolving and expanding into many other legal areas."