

TRAILBLAZERS

TECHNOLOGY LAW

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PIONEER SPIRIT Kristin Linsley began representing Facebook many years ago. “Then I started doing work for other tech businesses like Expedia and Salesforce.” Her work often touches on international privacy and exploring the ways in which internet platforms can be accused of causing offline harm. “I also do a lot of testing of the limits of internet privacy in light of the fact that users will always agree to the terms, which are broad.”

TRAILS BLAZED Linsley’s work has included defending Facebook and other internet platforms against terrorism claims. “These cases are a good example of a tragic event that gives rise to claims to impose liability on those who had no involvement.” For example, a victim of attacks in Paris claimed that Facebook was responsible, even though an ISIS organization committed the attacks. “These all gave rise to lawsuits that Facebook facilitated an organization or a radicalized person, who committed the attack. We have litigated many of these cases, and they have all been dismissed. But they raise interesting issues.” She is also part of the team handling allegations against Facebook and Cambridge Analytica in connection with the 2016 presidential campaign. Linsley also works with Expedia on regulatory efforts by local governments, including New York City, to control the home-sharing business. “We have challenged these laws on various grounds. For example, New York was asking for large volumes of customer data. We argued that it violated the company’s Fourth Amendment rights. The judge has preliminarily agreed with us.”

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS There will be a great deal of attention around data privacy. “It will be interesting to watch how it plays out. People like the functionality and getting ads that are relevant. But there will be a focus on what is being shared.”