

# TRAILBLAZERS

## FINANCE, BANKING & CAPITAL MARKETS



### HILLARY HOLMES

GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP

**PIONEER SPIRIT** Hillary Holmes is a fourth-generation Houstonian. Growing up, her mother was a big firm bond lawyer. “I saw her develop deep relationships with clients. I wanted to work on big financial transactions where I could serve the needs of clients for years. When I came back to Houston to clerk during law school at Penn, I realized that I could work in the booming energy industry on highly sophisticated deals, doing satisfying work for clients in a close-knit community.”

**TRAILS BLAZED** “Oil and gas is a cyclical and evolving industry and oil and gas companies challenge themselves, so we have to challenge ourselves as well to meet their needs.” For example, one of Holmes’ clients wanted to completely revamp itself in ten days. “We had to move jurisdictions, manage conflicts and governance issues, design and launch debt and equity capital markets transactions and complete a bank financing in a very short time. It took detailed planning, teamwork and anticipating all potential issues to make it work.” Holmes says that a complication is that in the oil and gas industry the market window opens and closes quickly. She constantly tracks what is happening at the SEC in order to keep abreast of changes and be ready to inform her clients immediately. She is currently working on several IPOs and builds flexibility into the documents and offering materials to comply with changing regulations.

**FUTURE EXPLORATIONS** “I am proud to be a founding partner of Gibson Dunn’s Houston office. Clients are searching for the best individual lawyers to do their work. When they hire us, they are hiring local lawyers who collectively have a long history of excelling at oil and gas work but have the elite highest-quality resources of a firm like Gibson supporting them.” More broadly, Holmes cautions that the energy capital markets will continue to face challenges in the future. She says that capital markets lawyers must be able to handle more creative, complex structures and deals. She forecasts that, due to recent SEC actions, the number of public companies will increase, although private markets will be equally important.