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TRAILBLAZERS

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL

WILLIAM S. SCHERMAN

GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP

PIONEER SPIRIT While he was in college, a friend of William Scherman offered him a job as a legal assistant at a boutique firm that was doing FERC work. "That's how I got started. I went to my first FERC meeting in 1979."

TRAILS BLAZED Scherman's years in government included a stint as general counsel of FERC. "I helped three different FERC chairmen open up markets to further competition. For example, we used to regulate the price of natural gas in this country; now we have the most competitive market in the world." Scherman focused his government service on promoting competition. "The government's role was to police the market and allow competition to benefit consumers." In private practice, much of Scherman's work has involved litigation and enforcement. "Lately the focus has been on enforcement and the EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan, but my practice has had a nice variety and I get to do different things every day."

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS Scherman believes the Clean Power Plan would be the most significant and dramatic restructuring of the electric power industry since the 1930s, as the goal of the plan is to close as many coal plants as possible. "It's so dramatic because the proposal will alter the way power is generated, delivered and consumed. Soon, everything will be different. This will be a large part of people's focus for the next two years and beyond." As a consequence, Scherman also expects new regulatory burdens on nontraditional generators. "And that's fundamentally different from the way we've regulated historically."

