

# TRAILBLAZERS

## PLAINTIFFS' LAWYERS

**RACHEL BLACK**  
SUSMAN GODFREY LLP



**PIONEER SPIRIT** Rachel Black always knew she wanted to become a trial attorney and solidified that decision during her multiple clerkships. “After moving to Seattle, I learned Susman Godfrey—the top litigation boutique in the country—had an office here. After joining the firm nearly 20 years ago, I never looked back. I represent both plaintiffs and defendants in complex commercial litigation, but what I enjoy most is taking a complex set of facts, zeroing in on what matters and translating that into comprehensible facts for the fact-finder.”

**TRAILS BLAZED** Black represented some of the largest political subdivisions in California, including the University of California system, the California State University system and the county of Los Angeles, in a lawsuit alleging overbilling by the four major wireless carriers. “The ‘big four’ carriers were fraudulently overbilling the government by failing to offer contractually required lowest-cost available service. We settled for \$138 million at a time when those funds were really needed to be rightly returned to California taxpayers.” Black also represented the former members of the ‘60s music group The Turtles against Sirius XM in a class action seeking royalties for broadcasted pre-1972 songs, resulting in a settlement valued at up to \$62 million. She currently represents clients against national and global companies, including media conglomerates, commercial real estate development companies and major automobile manufacturers. “My practice is extremely diverse. I handle all types of complex commercial litigation. With each case, there is a new subject to master, which keeps my work interesting and challenging.”

**FUTURE EXPLORATIONS** Black anticipates many changes becoming permanent after the COVID-19 pandemic wanes, including the continued use of virtual proceedings. “Judges, juries and attorneys are recognizing the efficiency gains of the virtual world, which will reduce costs for clients and make aspects of the judicial process easier for court and juries.”