

2019

THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

TRAILBLAZERS

LITIGATION

AELISH MARIE BAIG ROBBINS GELLER RUDMAN & DOWD LLP



PIONEER SPIRIT Aelish Baig has some lawyers in her family but hadn't necessarily always planned to go to law school. "My grandfather is a judge, so it was very familiar to me." Once she decided to become a lawyer, Baig knew that she wanted to do plaintiffs' work. "I started in family law on the plaintiffs' side, then transitioned to Robbins Geller, where we can achieve some measure of justice that makes a difference in people's lives."

TRAILS BLAZED Baig has worked nearly full-time for three years on opioid litigation. "We represent city, county and state governments around the country. It's a daunting story of capitalism gone terribly wrong. There was extreme pressure at these pharmaceutical companies to drive sales from the top down. It revolutionized medical marketing and false promotion of these drugs as panaceas. From that flowed unfettered prescribing, and now overdosing has increased in lockstep with opiates prescribed. I don't think the companies will be able to stand against the governments. We filed the first cases on false claims, as well as RICO, and the motions to dismiss have failed." She and her team have taken over 400 fact depositions and 100 expert depositions. "We go to trial in October. The courts have put it on the fast track because more than 100 people die every day of overdoses and the judge wants these cases resolved to get money out to communities."

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS Baig is always amazed at how fraud continues to present itself. "I feel honored to work in this field to create change that impacts people's lives. I'm fortunate to be where I can continue to learn. I have no doubt that the next round of cases will present themselves as soon as we have a moment."