

# TRAILBLAZERS

## PLAINTIFFS' LAWYERS

### JESSICA T. SHINNEFIELD ROBBINS GELLER RUDMAN & DOWD LLP



**PIONEER SPIRIT** Jessica Shinnefield credits happenstance for becoming a plaintiffs' lawyer after she enrolled in a securities regulation class during law school simply because it fit her schedule. "I ended up loving it and sent my resume to the only firm in San Diego that did that kind of law, which was Robbins Geller. And I have been working there since I clerked in my third year of law school."

**TRAILS BLAZED** Shinnefield led Robbins Geller's litigation team in claims against American Realty Capital Properties, Inc. and its auditor resulting in a \$1.15 billion settlement. "It involved accounting fraud in which the company, a REIT, based its biggest metric for growth not on EBITDA, but on adjusted funds from operation, which it was manipulating and inflating." The ongoing fraud spanned a multiyear period and involved ARCP's affiliated private entities as well as companies run by the same defendants as ARCP. "The CEO was prosecuted and indicted, and the verdict is one of the top 10 securities recoveries of all time, with \$235 million paid in individual contributions by executives." Shinnefield also served as one of the lead trial attorneys in a case against First Solar, Inc., which sold defective solar panels and engaged in insider trading, which resulted in a \$350 million settlement. "We settled the day before we were supposed to empanel a jury. Our firm is successful because we are willing to, excited to and financially able to bring our cases to trial."

**FUTURE EXPLORATIONS** Shinnefield sees an increasing number of medical-based cases involving hospital systems, retired care systems, medical products and more. "When we had the financial crisis, companies were put under stress, and we began seeing shenanigans. These infrastructures are under tremendous stress now, and I expect that we will be uncovering fraud."