

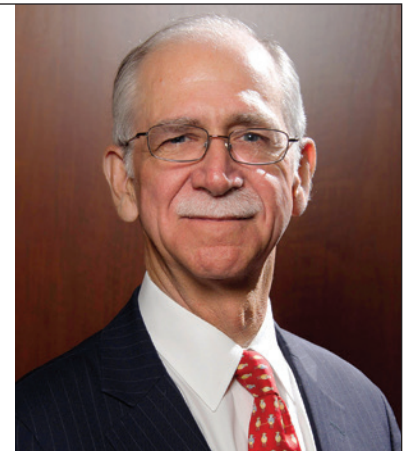
2021

THE AMERICAN LAWYER

TRAILBLAZERS

NORTHEAST

RICHARD J. HOLWELL HOLWELL SHUSTER & GOLDBERG



What was the genesis of the idea/path that has made you a trailblazer?

I did not set out with a grand design to have such distinct phases in my career—first as head of the disputes practice at White & Case, second as a federal judge, and third as the co-founder of Holwell Shuster & Goldberg—much less three phrases that have been so rewarding. Maybe it's the sailor in me, but if there are two qualities of mine responsible for my career path, they would be my taste for adventure and a true affection for the lawyers I've been lucky to work alongside, including the former colleagues from White & Case with whom I founded HSG.

What sort of change has resulted from the concept?

I can't say I inspired a stampede of judges to leave the bench and start their own boutiques—nor would I have wanted to. But I can't deny that my status as a former judge in the Southern District of New York has opened the door to certain unique engagements for myself and my firm, such as my retention to act as the monitor of one of the world's largest financial institutions. More broadly, I think HSG is part of a trend in which career destinations for the most talented litigators are diversifying. I have great admiration for many larger, more leveraged firms, which have been wonderful training grounds for generations of lawyers (myself included). But as the profession continues to evolve, I think more and more options will present themselves.

What bearing will this have on the future?

The future is what my decision to create HSG was all about. My partners and I wanted to leave something lasting. At this point, almost 10 years in, it feels safe to say that we have.