

# TRAILBLAZERS

## ELITE BOUTIQUE

### NEIL LIEBERMAN HOLWELL SHUSTER & GOLDBERG LLP



**PIONEER SPIRIT** Neil Lieberman began his career at Paul Weiss. “I had a very good experience there. But as I started to think longer term about my career, I began to look for different experiences and opportunities. At the time, HSG was about one and a half years old with 12 lawyers; a tight-knit group already executing on a plan to grow. It seemed like a great opportunity that wouldn’t be the same if I waited.”

**TRAILS BLAZED** Lieberman’s matters include representing Freddie Mac in a dispute over the proceeds of the sale of Stuyvesant Town/Peter Cooper Village. “It sold for about \$5.5 billion in 2015. There was a dispute in how the proceeds should be distributed among the investors. We decided to remove the case to federal court and took the calculated risk to try to overcome some less-than-favorable precedents, and were able to achieve a great precedent as a result. We were creative and not afraid to advocate zealously on behalf of our client.” In another matter, Lieberman “quarterbacked” the HSG team that was brought in on the eve of trial to represent trustees such as US Bank, Wilmington Trust, DBMT and TMI to hold Lehman Brothers responsible for mortgage-backed securities losses. “The trial lasted several weeks and resulted in a \$2.4 billion recovery.”

**FUTURE EXPLORATIONS** “We’ve grown a lot in eight years. There is no huge appetite to become a big firm, but hopefully, we can continue to recruit a diverse and talented team of lawyers. For me as administrative partner, we have choices to make as we manage growth. Sometimes I can look at peer firms. But I always need to think about whether we are doing something in a way that maintains the tight-knit culture that attracted me to the firm in the first place.”