

# TRAILBLAZERS

## ELITE BOUTIQUE

### DANIEL SULLIVAN

HOLWELL SHUSTER & GOLDBERG LLP



**PIONEER SPIRIT** Daniel Sullivan is a former clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and worked for three years as an associate for a big firm before moving to a boutique firm. “I wanted something entrepreneurial that would still allow me to work on sophisticated cases with a level of challenge that I have been accustomed to, which I found rewarding.”

**TRAILS BLAZED** Sullivan led Holwell Shuster & Goldberg’s appellate team in representing Caterpillar in a case that refined the law of specific causation for asbestos cases. “Our client had lost at trial, but wanted the law to develop in the right direction. We took a fresh look, made a new argument and received a reversal.” He also represented a major insurance company in a successful appeal involving insurance coverage resulting from the SEC’s market-timing investigation of Bear Stearns in the mid-2000s. “We designed a novel argument based on a U.S. Supreme Court decision that a large firm that had been there from day one may not have been able to see. The appellate court held it as a matter of law that the \$140 million in a disgorgement the SEC imposed on Bear Stearns was a penalty and therefore not subject to insurance coverage.” Sullivan has also worked on cases in other areas, including matrimonial law and significant art collections. “One of the things I like about a boutique is that I get to work on cases I wouldn’t get at a big firm due to the cost structure.”

**FUTURE EXPLORATIONS** Sullivan plans to grow the practice and enter the U.S. Supreme Court practice area. “Our bread and butter will always be New York, but we are looking to expand as we offer not only sensitivity to what commercial litigation is like, but also the scholarship to handle the appellate level.”