

# TRAILBLAZERS

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

### JONATHAN WALDROP

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**PIONEER SPIRIT** Jon Waldrop always wanted to be a lawyer. "I majored in mechanical engineering and was good at math and science. But I didn't see the connection until I interned at a nuclear power plant, and the lawyers there told me I should get into patent litigation." At the University of Virginia's law school, he took a patent course taught by Judge Rader, who was then on the Federal Circuit. "That changed my life."

**TRAILS BLAZED** Waldrop focuses on high-stakes patent and trademark litigation cases. "The signature win of my career recently was *Eolas v. Google Technologies*, which was tried in the Eastern District of Texas in 2012. We represented Google and YouTube. We won by invalidating some of the patents that some of the biggest companies in the world refused to litigate. We came up with an innovative strategy, and the record showed that the work that led to the creation of the internet was a collaboration. We convinced some of the luminaries in the technology world to come down to Tyler, Texas, to testify. We think their testimony was the critical piece."

**FUTURE EXPLORATIONS** Society is on the cusp of the most dynamic revolution in technology in 30 years, due to the development of robotics, AI and biotechnology. "We will see a lot of litigation around who owns that space, who shares the profits and who shares the opportunity. There will be a lot of development but also a lot of pushing and shoving. It will be supremely exciting."

