

# TRAILBLAZERS

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



### CLARINE NARDI RIDDLE KASOWITZ BENSON TORRES LLP

**PIONEER SPIRIT** Clarine Nardi Riddle's career has been marked by many chapters. "My overwhelming focus has been on public service in local, state and federal government, as well as the executive, legislative and judicial branches. I've also worked extensively in the policy world." That background has led to her current role as chair of the firm's government affairs and strategic counsel group.

**TRAILS BLAZED** Riddle's government work includes serving as Connecticut's Attorney General. "I'm particularly proud to have been the first female Attorney General of Connecticut. During that time, the state had a case in front of the U.S. Supreme Court. I was told I was the first woman Attorney General to argue before the Supreme Court. And we won 5-4." Riddle also served as Senator Joe Lieberman's chief of staff. "We worked to create venues for bipartisan events where we could learn together." She was also a co-founder of No Labels. "It's an organization that has worked very hard to bring together Democrats, Republicans and Independents in Congress to solve national political issues." Riddle continues to do advocacy work in private practice. "We advise on many areas of public policy, with a particular focus on national and homeland security matters."

**FUTURE EXPLORATIONS** More and more business executives are appreciating the need to be involved in educating their federal representatives about their businesses and communities in order to make certain their voices are heard and problems are solved. "More executives are also recognizing that government affairs outreach supports business development. No member of Congress can know everything about every industry. So it's important to be engaged with policymakers." Technology and social media will continue to have an evolving impact on decision-making and how members of Congress do their job. "Executives need to work with their advocates to respond to the fast pace of such media in a transparent and accountable manner."