

# TRAILBLAZERS

## TECHNOLOGY LAW

### MELODY DRUMMOND HANSEN O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP

**PIONEER SPIRIT** Melody Drummond Hansen visited the Patent Office when she was about five years old with her uncle, a patent examiner. "That sort of put tech in my veins." As a patent lawyer, she immediately started working on mobile telecom cases. "I take special pleasure in my work in mobile telecom and networking, which are highly relevant to a lot of emerging tech areas."



**TRAILS BLAZED** Drummond Hansen was a catalyst for establishing the firm's automated and connected vehicles industry group. "I was interested in how these emerging technologies would be enabled and encouraged by laws, or not. I also feel that I'm a facilitator who could bring together resources from around the firm such as privacy, security and IP." She leverages research and works to connect stakeholders. "We're not just litigators waiting for a lawsuit to be filed. We are helping companies look ahead." For example, several years ago, she became involved in discussions between the California Department of Motor Vehicles and the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration around safety standards for automated technologies such as Comma.ai, which is open source. "It was an interesting opportunity to meet head-on some of the questions about the limits of the existing regulatory structure and educate regulators on how open source will impact autonomous vehicles." She also advises companies on how regulators will address new technology and engages with researchers like Rand Institute for Justice. "They bring together regulators and other stakeholders in the tech community."

**FUTURE EXPLORATIONS** Drummond Hansen foresees four trends: the continued convergence of technology and industries, which will lead to regulatory concerns; data security and privacy; education, advertising and the consumer piece; and international competition, particularly with China. "We are in a technology race, and it's a race we would like to win."