

TRAILBLAZERS

TECHNOLOGY LAW

MICHAEL (MICK) BAIN WILMERHALE



PIONEER SPIRIT Mick Bain began practicing law in the mid to late 1990s. “It was the first wave of the internet. I found it super-interesting and began doing more and more work in the telecom, software and internet space.” He went in-house for CMGi, which owned Lycos, AltaVista and other original internet companies. “I went back to the same firm and realized I liked working with early stage people in the tech space. It’s where I had the most experience and could add the most value.”

TRAILS BLAZED Bain believes in adding value by thinking as a business advisor. “Most entrepreneurs have only worked with one or two or maybe three companies, but I’ve worked with hundreds. And I’ve seen the movie played over and over again. I can see how they should be building their business—not just on the legal side, but on issues like choosing the right type of investor to raise capital. Early stage companies need to be able to pivot. I’ve had that discussion many times.” He also brings experience from working with many different technologies. “Having seen so many different things across industries allows you to help people who are sometimes myopic. I can leverage things from one area to another.”

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS The way companies are built has changed. “The cost of capital is still very high, but the barriers to entry are much lower. Companies used to have to go public to raise funds at high valuations. That’s not true anymore. There is a ton of secondary liquidity, and I don’t necessarily see that changing. It creates some challenges.” AI and blockchain will revolutionize the way people do things. “And the internet continues to change the way we all do our business and live our lives.”