

# TRAILBLAZERS

## CYBERSECURITY & DATA PRIVACY

### RAYMOND AGHAIAN

KILPATRICK TOWNSEND & STOCKTON LLP



**PIONEER SPIRIT** Ray Aghaian worked for the Cyber & Intellectual Property Crimes Section of the U.S. attorney's office. "I specialized in investigations of computer hacking cases and enforcement of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act." After seven years, Aghaian returned to private practice. "I continued working in that space, but my role changed. I no longer prosecuted hackers but was essentially representing companies looking to secure their systems and set up infrastructure. Once a breach happens, I help them deal with the consequences of cyber intrusions. Companies are more cognizant and interested in shoring up systems before there has been any sort of security incident."

**TRAILS BLAZED** On the privacy side, Aghaian has worked on significant breaches. "I've represented a law firm and some large companies. The key has been to establish a standard of care around preventative security." He prosecuted a case with Russian and Romanian hackers in the United States. "It was a spoofing type email situation." He has also worked with cases involving government data and has dealt with laws in other countries around the world. "There are very interesting issues that come up in the breach scenario."

**FUTURE EXPLORATIONS** The SEC is now fining companies that don't have adequate security. "We're going to see more of that. The government has been handling companies gently, but as companies are expected to have better security in place, it will be harsher. This is typically coming to light now when there's been a breach, but soon we can expect proactive audit requirements and other actions."