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# TRAILBLAZERS

PLAINTIFFS' LAWYERS



## BETSY A. MILLER AND VICTORIA S. NUGENT

COHEN MILSTEIN SELLERS & TOLL PLLC

**PIONEER SPIRIT** Betsy Miller and Victoria Nugent co-chair Cohen Milstein's Public Client practice. "We represent state attorneys general and other governments on the plaintiffs' side," said Miller. "It's driven by a need in the enforcement world. The states have a role to play in keeping deception out of the market."

**TRAILS BLAZED** In their work representing public clients, Miller served as counsel for the co-lead state in the January 2017 \$864 million settlement by 22 states and the Justice Department with Moody's, as well as representing a co-lead state in a \$1.4 billion settlement with Standard & Poor's. "These cases represent how states are willing to take on the toughest companies in order to protect consumers from unfairness and deception," Miller said. Nugent currently represents multiple states that are investigating and litigating against for-profit nursing home chains for failing to provide basic care. Said Nugent, "We're using a cutting-edge industrial simulation, a sophisticated tool that illustrates how workflow and workload function in a nursing home." Nugent said they both excel at applying existing laws to areas that weren't considered when the laws were written. Miller also attributes success to her focus on dispute resolution theory: "The attention on how to ask the right questions has been a key to our practice's success."

**FUTURE EXPLORATIONS** Policing the internet at the state level will be a major issue, Nugent predicted. Miller said the firm is also focusing on opioids, which have become a major problem in many areas of the country.

