

TRAILBLAZERS

POLITICAL ACTIVISM | 1ST AMENDMENT RIGHTS

MICHAEL DELL

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PIONEER SPIRIT Michael Dell has always believed it is vital for an attorney to become involved in the critical issues of the day. "Protecting constitutional rights is one of the key issues this country faces in several areas, and it is important to get involved. And that is what I have done in a few areas where it is particularly important."

TRAILS BLAZED Dell has focused his pro bono work on gun violence, abortion rights and education, including representing a group of emergency physicians and trauma surgeons as amici curiae in the Connecticut Supreme Court in support of claims of families of Sandy Hook victims against gun manufacturers. "Working with my daughter, who is also a lawyer, we sued the gun manufacturers for redress. And the Connecticut Supreme Court cited our brief in finding that there was a cause of action." Dell also filed a Supreme Court amicus brief to strike down a Louisiana law restricting abortions in *June Medical v. Russo*. "The brief tells the stories of 11 women who had abortions and the difference it made to them in having successful careers and family lives." Dell also recently contributed briefs that helped win the "right to literacy" case for Detroit schoolchildren in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. "Having briefs that tell a story is relatively new. But it is an important contribution in addition to just talking about the law."

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dell has seen increased gun violence, reproductive rights restrictions by states and rising remote learning challenges for students from low-income families. "In every one of these areas, the need for the private bar to become involved and provide support for these constitutional rights has only increased. These issues are more important than ever."