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THE 2024 NLJ AWARDS: PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE— APPELLATE ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR

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FINALIST: LATHAM & WATKINS' ROMAN MARTINEZ

■ **What is the best advice you have for an aspiring appellate attorney?**

Embrace every case as a chance to hone your craft. Seek out and tackle new challenges—they're crucial for growth. Always practice, and practice again. Above all, act with integrity to build a reputation that precedes you.

■ **Did you ever leave an oral argument saying to yourself, "I wish I had said this in response"? What would that response have been?**

I'm so fortunate to work with an outstanding team of colleagues at Latham, who serve as moot judges and rigorously prepare me to face even the toughest questions from the most challenging benches. But sometimes even they can't save me: In an October 2022 copyright case I argued in the Supreme Court, Justice Barrett posed a tricky hypothetical involving the 'Lord of the Rings' books and movie. I had to confess that I hadn't read or seen the series—I guess I spent too much time reading cases and law review articles! It's a great reminder to expect the unexpected.



Roman Martinez
Partner