

THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

THE 2024 NLJ AWARDS: PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE—APPELLATE HOT LIST

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FINALIST: LATHAM & WATKINS

Answered by: Gregory Garre, Chair of Latham's Supreme Court & Appellate Practice; Michael Bern and Roman Martinez, Partners



■ **Tell us about your top U.S. Supreme Court or federal appeals court victory over the past year and how you and your team achieved the win.**

We secured a watershed US Supreme Court decision for our clients in *Relentless Inc. v. Department of Commerce* (decided with *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*), where the Court overruled the *Chevron* doctrine. The 40+ year old *Chevron* doctrine required courts to defer to Executive Branch agencies when resolving the meaning of ambiguous statutes. The Court's decision held that under the Administrative Procedure Act, courts must exercise independent judgment in deciding whether an agency has acted within its statutory authority. The decision will recalibrate the balance of power between agencies and courts, with implications likely felt across virtually all federal agencies. —*Roman Martinez*

■ **What was your firm's key to appellate success over the past year?**

Our success is driven by Latham's collaborative approach, seamlessly integrating our appellate lawyers with trial teams to strategically frame and preserve critical issues long before they reach the appellate phase. This maximizes our opportunities to win at every stage of litigation. —*Gregory Garre*

■ **What is the most satisfying element of appellate practice, in your opinion?**

The most satisfying element of appellate practice is working with a very smart and collaborative group of colleagues to help clients to achieve their objectives on cases of critical importance to their businesses. —*Michael Bern*

■ **What's the most valuable lesson you learned as a young lawyer?**

Understanding a client's business is crucial. Analyzing cases and writing great briefs are important, but understanding your client's broader goals and concerns will help you make the right case-related decisions. —*Michael Bern*