Latham & Watkins Partner Discusses the Firm's AI Academy, Training Efforts

Michael Rubin, Global Chair of Latham & Watkins' Artificial Intelligence Practice, which won the Legalweek Leaders in Tech Law Award for Best Tech Training Program Implementation, discusses how the firm approaches training and legal innovation.

By ALM Staff

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The 2025 Legalweek Leaders in Tech Law Awards honor those who have made significant contributions to legal innovation from law firms, corporate legal departments and legal tech providers.

These awards recognize the efforts of legal professionals or organizations over the past year, specifically how they are pushing the boundaries of legal innovation, redesigning processes and improving the way legal professionals work, and / or building the foundation for a more innovative, creative and knowledgeable legal industry.

As part of our awards series, we asked our winners how they're pushing the envelope, what innovation means to them, and more.

Here's what Michael Rubin, Global Chair of Latham & Watkins' Artificial Intelligence Practice, which won the award for Best Tech Training Program Implementation, had to say

Michael Rubin (left) at Latham's AI Academy with Steve Satterfield, Director on Meta's Privacy and Public Policy team.

Looking back at the past year, what were the biggest challenges you faced, and how did you overcome them?

The rapid evolution of AI technology continues to raise increasingly novel questions and transform virtually every area of law and busi-

ness. To address the implications both for the legal industry and for our clients' businesses, we adopted a comprehensive approach to our AI training curriculum, with the needs of both our firm and our clients in mind. We offer expert-led on-demand training modules and practical in-person workshops that allow us to quickly update our curriculum with the latest AI developments. This ensures our lawyers receive the most relevant and timely training.

Looking at the legal industry as a whole, what does "legal innovation" mean to you?

I consider legal innovation to be tackling new approaches to lawyering to improve client service and outcomes—which can include leveraging tools like AI to streamline processes, improve efficiency, and provide strategic client advice.

At Latham, legal innovation is about reimagining the practice of law to meet evolving client needs. Our AI Academy exemplifies this by equipping lawyers with the skills needed to navigate AI's complexities.

Coordinating our inaugural AI Academy event, which invited more than 100 first- through fourth-year associates from across Latham's global offices, was a tremendously innovative, first-of-its-kind program in the legal industry. We leveraged internal resources and collaborated closely with our multidisciplinary AI Practice, TACE Committee, Events team, and Technology and Information Services Department. This teamwork enabled us to efficiently manage logistics and deliver a successful event.

Engagement was paramount. We designed the AI Academy to be interactive and skills-based, offering hands-on training to equip lawyers with the tools they need to navigate the significant legal changes that AI continues to bring to businesses across industries and around the world.

Legal tech is only growing in scale and importance. What is it about working in the tech world that you enjoy?

I've been a tech lawyer my entire career—25 years. The constant change and the opportunity to influence society and our clients is highly rewarding. In this current cycle, we've been advising companies at every layer of the tech stack, and our focus on AI has been the culmination of many years of strategic planning. By incorporating technology into our practices from the ground up, we enhance efficiency, address diverse client needs, and continue to meet the legal needs of technology companies.