Company Name: Latham & Watkins
Industry: Legal
Company CEO: Richard Trobman

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

Monica Groat, *Partner*

Education (degrees & institutions):
University of Chicago Law School

Your Location: Washington, DC

What book are you reading?
A psychological thriller, and always reading it right before bed.

Interests: Baking, needlepointing, and my two dogs, Maxine and Miles

What can be done to increase diversity in STEM fields?

Underscoring the importance of communication skills across all populations can benefit everyone, especially women and other individuals who wish to embark on careers in STEM, a field where the translation of complex technical concepts into accessible language for different audiences has become increasingly important. As STEM fields continue to evolve, they open up a multitude of pathways for engagement, from regulatory work to advocacy, emphasizing the value of interdisciplinary approaches and the ability to adapt and communicate across diverse platforms. This evolution encourages a more inclusive view of STEM careers, inviting individuals with varied interests and backgrounds to contribute to the field's growth and application in society.

How is the world changing with respect to STEM?

My trajectory highlights a broader trend: STEM fields are no longer siloed into pure research or clinical practice. I began my career in a laboratory at the National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute, focusing on applications of PCR technology. During undergrad, I pursued a double major in biology and religious studies. I then attended law school and began focusing on U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulatory issues during my first year in private practice. As a regulatory attorney, I constantly draw on my training in both the sciences and the humanities, and my practice regularly intersects with various sectors, including law, policy, and commerce, which offer new avenues for professionals to leverage their STEM education.

What can be done to move women forward in STEM?

To move women forward in STEM, it is essential to highlight diverse STEM career paths and show women and girls the many different ways that they can become involved in the field. Interdisciplinary education can broaden perspectives, and blending STEM and humanities courses can help students develop well-rounded skills. Engaging girls early in STEM-related education through age-appropriate presentations and hands-on programming can spark interest and confidence. Sharing stories of women who have successfully navigated careers at the intersection of STEM and other disciplines can also serve as powerful motivation for girls and women who are considering or pursuing STEM education and careers. Finally, encouraging women to take on leadership roles and increasing their visibility in STEM fields can inspire future generations. By showcasing the multifaceted opportunities available within STEM and supporting women throughout their careers, beginning with education and continuing with mentorship and early engagement, we can create a more inclusive and dynamic environment that encourages and sustains women's participation and advancement in STEM.