



**Education:** JD, New York University School of Law; BA cum laude in cursu honorum, Fordham University

**Company Name:** Latham & Watkins LLP

**Industry:** Law

**Company CEO:** N/A

**Company Headquarters Location:** N/A

**Number of Employees:** Approximately 4,500

**Your Location (if different from above):** New York, New York

**Words you live by:** We often can't control outcomes in life, but we can control what we put into it—our effort, our preparation, how we care for and treat others, and our generosity as we pursue outcomes. I believe in staying positive even in the face of adversity and making the most of the time we are given.

**Who is your personal hero?** My mother, who came to the United States from Cuba, with my three older brothers and without anything to start a new life; and my father, who was not permitted to come with the family, but joined us later; my dad, a doctor, supported our family with odd jobs while he retrained to practice medicine in the United States.

**What book are you reading?** My favorite recent read was *Legacy* by James Kerr

**What was your first job?** While in high school, I did clerical jobs in my dad's office and worked at a fruit market.

**Favorite charity:** ACCION ([www.accion.org](http://www.accion.org)), a microfinance organization whose mission is "to empower people who are underserved, revolutionizing financial services for people who are left out."

**Interests:** Coaching youth sports (basketball, baseball, and soccer) and the theater

**Family:** I am married to Alejandra; we have 3 children: Maximo (15), Joaquin (13), and Mateo (9). I also have four brothers.

## I Know that Mentorship and Representation Matter

As the son of Cuban refugees in the United States, and a witness to the socioeconomic obstacles they overcame, I recognized early on that the law affects nearly every aspect of society. I became the first in my family to attend law school, determined to build a career that allowed me to have a positive impact on, and support economic development in, the Hispanic community, not only in the United States but also in Latin America.

Early in my career, one of my mentors, Jose Fernandez, included me on matters related to the privatization of state-run enterprises in various Latin American countries. That experience—

working with government, multi-lateral organizations, and industry leaders—informs both my practice and my commitment to increasing access to economic opportunity.

As the head of Latham's market-leading Latin America practice, I lead a diverse group of more than 50 professionals who are bicultural and bilingual and have lived in or come from the region. Our team includes professionals with ties to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, and other areas.

I currently serve on the Board of the Council of the Americas ([www.as-coa.org](http://www.as-coa.org)), a not-for-profit organization whose members share a commitment to economic and social

development, open markets, rule of law, and democracy throughout the Western Hemisphere. I also served on the U.S. State Department's Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy from 2010 to 2015.

I know firsthand that mentorship and representation matter. Two decades ago, when I began to practice, there were relatively few Latino partners at elite law firms conducting the kind of cross-border transactions in which I was interested. Now, I chair a flourishing Latin American practice at one of the world's leading law firms. I also serve as the partner advisor to the Hispanic and Latin American Lawyers Group at my firm.