

# THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

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## 2021 NLJ Awards: Professional Excellence

### DC RISING STARS

## Latham & Watkins

- **Describe your biggest win or accomplishment in practice.** Earlier this year I served as lead associate on a \$10 billion bank/bond financing for American Airlines, secured by the airline's AAdvantage loyalty program. This was the largest debt deal ever entered into by an airline and was a very complex and intricate transaction overall, requiring us to coordinate a number of overlapping and parallel workstreams and manage multiple legal teams in various jurisdictions across the world. Given the ongoing effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the travel industry, this was a particularly timely and important financing for the company and it was rewarding to be a part of it.
- **What was the most valuable lesson you learned in your first year practicing law?** You need to find a system that works for you – both for organization and time management, but also daily routine. A big part of mine is waking up early for an “email-free” period to plan my day and get organized.
- **Who is your greatest lawyer mentor and what**



JENNIFER M. KENT

**has he or she taught you?** Manu Gayatrith, a partner in Latham's finance group. She's an absolutely brilliant lawyer, but beyond that she's taught me how to build and support a team, and keep morale high in the most stressful of times.

▪ **Please share a brief key to your success.** I view myself not just as a lawyer, but as a proactive problem solver. I am always thinking about how a change in one workstream may impact the others, and then working to get ahead of those impacts. ■