

# Latham Partners With ‘Appellate Project’ to Develop Pathways for Diverse Advocates

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BY MARCIA COYLE

Latham & Watkins, making a significant financial commitment and dedicating more resources, has formalized a partnership with the [Appellate Project](#), a new initiative to create appellate practice opportunities for law students of color.

The firm has also agreed to place a 2L law student from the Appellate Project’s so-called “incubator” into the firm’s 2023 summer associate program. The year 2023 will mark the Appellate Project’s official launch of its incubator, a summer fellowship for diverse students interested in appellate practice.

“We have had other firms provide financial support, but Latham’s sponsorship is unique because their financial support is the most significant to date and includes with it a commitment to take a law student of color through our Incubator,” Juvaria Khan, [founder](#) and executive directive of The Appellate Project, said.

The Appellate Project is asking law firms to open their summer programs to rising 2Ls



Photo: Diego M. Radzinski / ALM

Latham & Watkins’ Washington, D.C., office.

and 3Ls and to support them at the same salaries that they pay typical summer associates, according to Khan.

The Appellate Project’s other formal partnership is with Howard University School of Law and its civil rights clinic, which emphasizes appellate work.

“Latham has a long-standing commitment to diversity and inclusion, and our partnership

with The Appellate Project brings us closer to a more equitable future for law students from traditionally under-represented backgrounds,” said **Abid Qureshi**, global chair of Latham’s recruiting committee.

As part of the partnership, Latham will host two workshops a year for students in The Appellate Project’s Mentorship Program. The workshops will include a pre-argument strategy discussion, a live argument viewing, and a post-mortem briefing with lawyers in the firm’s Supreme Court and appellate practice. Latham attorneys will continue to provide one-on-one mentorship to students in the program.

Latham partner Roman Martinez, a member of the firm’s Supreme Court and appellate practice, has been a law student-mentor during the past year. “I’m thrilled



Photo: Diego M. Radzinski/ALM

**Roman Martinez of Latham & Watkins.**

about Latham’s support for [the Project’s] important mission,” he said.

Latham has one of the busiest Supreme Court and appellate practice groups in the nation. “We believe drawing from attorneys of all backgrounds and schools will build the strongest appellate bench, and best enable us to serve our diverse clients and case load,” former U.S. Solicitor General Gregory Garre, chair of the practice group, said.

Although only six months old, “We have over 300 mentors,” Khan said. “We were spoiled at first by having more mentors than mentees.” Since that program’s launch, she added, more than 200 law students have been paired with appellate practitioners around the country.

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