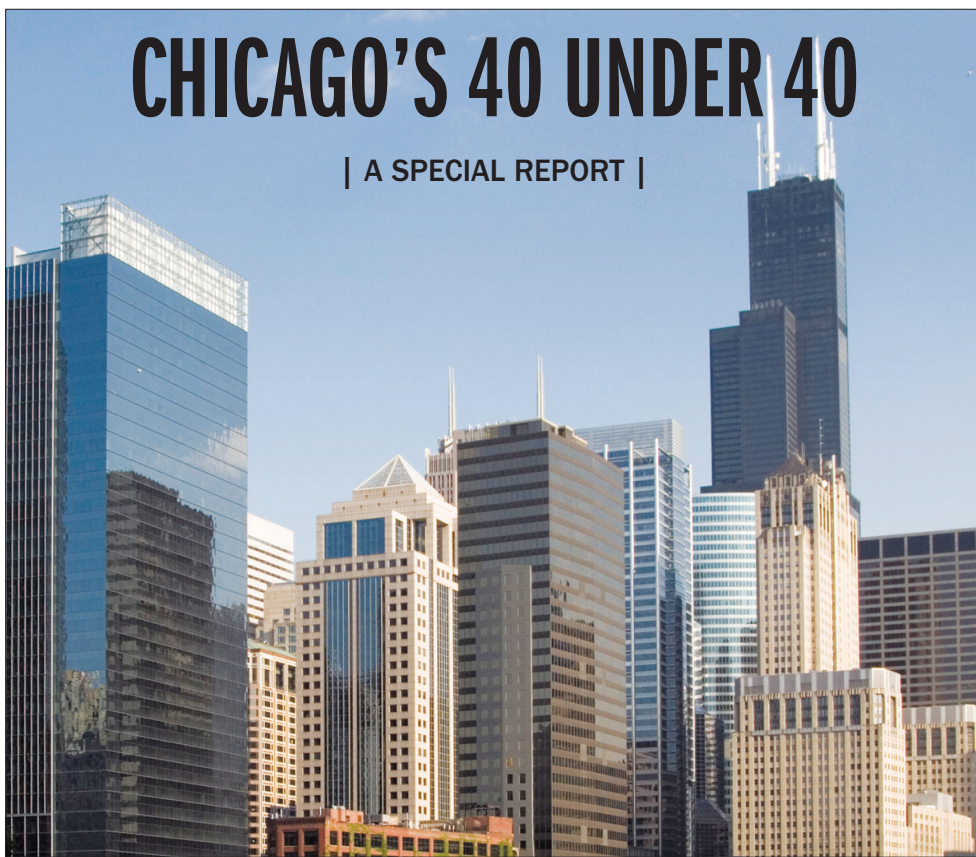
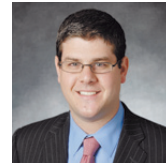
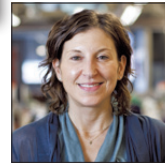


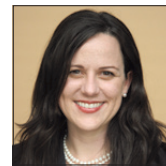
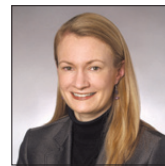
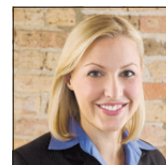
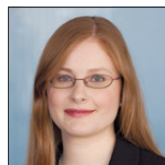
THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

JULY 1, 2013

An **ALM** Publication



Don't fear for the future of the legal profession in Chicago; judging by our survey of the city's rising stars, it's in very good hands. We asked our readers to nominate up-and-comers and snooped around on our own to compile this list of achievers in Chicago's law firms, corporate law departments and the legal academy.



CHICAGO'S 40 UNDER 40



| A SPECIAL REPORT |



RODERICK BRANCH

Latham & Watkins, 37

As a young student, Roderick Branch felt humiliated when his mother spoke Spanish to him in front of his Texas elementary school classmates. Born in Mexico, Branch moved to Dallas when he was in fourth

grade. "My mom didn't let us speak English at home so we always spoke Spanish," he said. "My brother and I were horribly embarrassed when our friends came over. At that age, no one wants to be different."

His language skills have helped make Branch one of the top young international-transaction lawyers in town. After Harvard Law School, he spent three years with Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton in New York before joining Latham & Watkins' Chicago office.

This year he was the lead partner for Mexican energy firm Infraestructura Energética Nova S.A.B. de C.V., known as IEnova, in its \$598 million initial public offering in Mexico and private placement of stock in the United States. The IPO was the first for a Mexican energy firm on the Mexican stock exchange; the country's oil industry has long been dominated by state-owned Petróleos Mexicanos, or Pemex.

"Roderick is supremely qualified in terms of knowledge and experience," said José Lau, senior counsel to IEnova's parent company Sempra International. "At the same time, he has the judgment and calm required to handle stressful and difficult situations. He is a consummate professional."

Branch serves as co-chairman of Latham's knowledge-management committee and has co-chaired its training academy for first-year associates. He is a governing member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, a volunteer with the Mimir Chamber Music Festival and an oboist in the Chicago Bar Association Symphony Orchestra. There he shares a stand with Judge Diane Wood of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, shortlisted for the U.S. Supreme Court in 2010.

—JASON MCLURE

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP