

## Rising Star: Latham's Erin Brown Jones

By Sarah Jarvis

*Law360 (July 6, 2023, 1:30 PM EDT)* -- Erin Brown Jones of Latham & Watkins LLP has worked on a matter stemming from former special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into the 2016 election and built long-lasting compliance relationships with major corporate clients, earning her a spot among the compliance law practitioners under age 40 honored by Law360 Rising Stars.

### *The biggest case of her career:*

Jones said it would be hard to top the work she did representing a corporate client in a long-running matter stemming from Mueller's investigation of potential Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. election. Like much of her work, the matter was confidential, with a lack of media attention marking a successful result for her client.

"We always say our cases are important, but this one was literally ripped from the headlines," Jones said. "We were real-time monitoring the news, sending associates to court in Virginia and D.C., and it was moving very, very quickly."

Jones said it was interesting to work on such a high-profile case, which involved complex and novel legal questions.

"I also probably won't forget it because I joined the case team and the case started the day I got back from my first maternity leave," Jones said. "So needless to say, I hit the ground running."

Jones said taking on that matter immediately after maternity leave made the work feel particularly meaningful.

### *Her most interesting recent case:*

Jones said that in the compliance space, she often has client relationships spanning many years, pointing specifically to her work as compliance counsel for Honeywell International Inc., a role she has held for at least five years.

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 **LAW360**<sup>®</sup>  
**RISING  
STAR**



**Erin Brown Jones**  
Latham

**Age:** 40

**Home base:** Washington, D.C.

**Position:** Partner

**Law school:** Notre Dame Law School

**First job after law school:** Associate at Latham

The engineering and technology company recently resolved probes into potential Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations, telling investors in December that it agreed to pay nearly \$203 million to end criminal and civil investigations into the alleged bribery of Brazilian and Algerian officials who helped the company win government contracts tied to oil projects.

Jones said her partnership with Honeywell has been rewarding, adding that she has come to understand how the company works and what it prefers after coming to know its business, audit and finance teams, in addition to its legal and compliance team.

She said that after working with clients for so long, she knows they're not calling just to "check the box," or doing the bare minimum to meet compliance requirements. Rather, they want to be innovative and take on creative and forward-thinking work, which Jones said is the most fun.

"When you've been in the trenches with them on all types of compliance matters for five-plus years, it really does start to feel like 'we,'" Jones said of her role with the company.

#### ***Her proudest moment:***

The times Jones feels the proudest at work usually aren't tied to her personal accomplishments for clients, she said. Instead, it comes from seeing younger attorneys she has supervised grow and succeed in their own careers.

Jones said she recently was in court supervising two of her associates in a pro bono case doing opening testimonies, direct examinations, cross-examinations and closing arguments.

"I just felt so proud at how much they've grown as lawyers and a little proud at myself for seeing them grow," Jones said.

She added that she's proud to witness the poise, confidence and competence of her associate teams when they have opportunities to present to the government, or to do client presentations or training.

Training — both for junior attorneys and clients — has been a big part of Jones' career, Latham said, including creating mock interview training for summer associates and FCPA training for companies focused on compliance issues specific to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### ***Why she's a compliance attorney:***

Jones said people sometimes perceive white collar criminal defense lawyers as trying to help bad guys get away with "shenanigans," but that's not how she views the profession.

"We're trying to help our clients do business with integrity and do business in alignment with their values," Jones said. "It feels like we're doing the right thing."

Her passion for compliance dates back to her time in law school, where she found ways to tie any paper she had to write back to compliance. After earning her law degree and joining Latham — where she had a chance to try various practices as an unassigned associate — Jones said she dove headfirst into white collar and compliance work.

She said her first-ever case was a sprawling and complex compliance due diligence on a transaction, and she took on a lot of export control and sanctions compliance work from the beginning of her career.

"It felt good to tell folks what I did," Jones said.

***How she thinks the industry will change in the next 10 years:***

Jones said the continued integration of technology into compliance will have a big impact on the legal practice, though she said she doesn't think she will lose her job or be outsourced by robots.

She said that technology involving automation and data analytics will help make the work of compliance attorneys more effective, and that tools like artificial intelligence can help make systems and processes more efficient. These systems can help get compliance attorneys out of the "quotidian daily review" and allow them to spend more time focusing on high-priority issues and thinking about the big picture, she said.

"I'm excited about this development, and I'm not too afraid of it," Jones said, adding that new technology can give people pause because "it's a little bit of the unknown."

— *As told to Sarah Jarvis.*

*Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2023 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,350 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of May 1, 2023, to be eligible for this year's award. This interview has been edited and condensed.*