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40 UNDER 40



ROMAN

ROMAN MARTINEZ

Partner, Supreme Court & Appellate Practice, Latham & Watkins LLP **Age:** 39 **Residence:** Chevy Chase Hometown: New York Education: Bachelor's in history, Harvard College; master's in philosophy and international relations, Cambridge University; J.D., Yale University Family: Wife; son Rommy, 5; daughter Cobi, 3 First job: Lemonade stand entrepreneur

IF YOU HAD YOUR CHOICE OF FUTURISTIC SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

My dream superpower has always been the ability to function without sleep. Roman Martinez never shies away from a fight — or complex problem. At Latham & Watkins, as well as in his previous roles, Martinez has handled many high-profile cases. While working in the Solicitor General's office, Martinez successfully urged the Supreme Court to overturn the Federal Circuit's test for awarding enhanced damages under the Patent Act in Halo Electronics Inc. v. Pulse Electronics. Aside from excelling in the courtroom, Martinez also works to enhance inclusivity and diversity within his practice and frequently conducts pro bono work for veterans and immigrants.

▶ What do you hope will be the biggest change to your industry 40 years from now? Change is wonderful, but my hope is that the core fundamentals of the legal profession stay the same — committed advocacy on behalf of clients within the framework of a stable, fair and democratic legal order.

▶ If you could have tech replace one work task in the future, it would be: The best part of my job is solving hard legal problems for my clients. The worst is handling the burdensome, but important, tasks, like tracking my time and preparing and sending bills — and it would be great to have some smart technology help alleviate some of those burdens.

► A colony is built on Mars. Are you moving? I'm not sure I'd move to Mars on a permanent basis, but it would be fun to help draft a Martian constitution and bill of rights.

– Ellen Schneider