

## MVP: Latham's Stuart Kurlander

*Law360 (December 7, 2018, 2:48 PM EST)* -- Stuart Kurlander, a health and life science partner at Latham & Watkins LLP and ex-global co-chair of the practice, helped Abbott Laboratories ensure its glucose monitor is eligible for Medicare reimbursements and steered the healthcare regulatory considerations of global investment fund KKR through several high-profile acquisitions, including WebMD and a \$9 billion deal for Envision, earning him a spot as a Law360 2018 Health MVP.

### ***HIS BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT THIS YEAR:***

For Kurlander, his biggest accomplishment was the successful coding application for Abbott's glucose monitor, FreeStyle Libre. Kurlander and his team worked with Abbott to craft the application and advised the company of various regulatory considerations surrounding the launch.

As a result, the device, which eliminates the need for people with diabetes to prick a finger to measure glucose levels, is now accessible for Medicare beneficiaries.

"That was something that was a significant moment for the company, but also something that was significant for us and our work," Kurlander said. "One of the pleasures that one gets from the type of work that I do is to see a product that is needed by [patients] made available.

"We're very pleased with the results."

### ***HIS BIGGEST CHALLENGE THIS YEAR:***

Kurlander said his biggest challenge this past year was trying to juggle a variety of different projects.

"There's only 24 hours in a day," he said. "It makes it difficult because there's so much exciting work. I've been doing this for a long time and still every day I'm excited by new challenges and opportunities."

Despite the long hours, he said, he still isn't the sort of person to turn down work.

The MVP logo features the letters 'MVP' in a blue, serif font. The letter 'V' is partially enclosed by a red circle with an upward-pointing arrow, symbolizing achievement or a 'most valuable player'.

**Stuart Kurlander**  
**Latham & Watkins**

“I’ve always been one to find a way,” he said. “When you’re asked to take on a matter ... it’s an honor, and I normally find ways to make it work.”

**WHY HE’S A HEALTH CARE LAWYER:**

Kurlander says he’s long found health care fascinating, and that he also has a family connection to the industry — even if he took a path that is different from many of his relatives.

“I come from a family of doctors and I think it was clear to me early on that I wasn’t going to be an expert in sciences,” he said.

But he said the industry was still appealing.

“I’ve always enjoyed health care. I think there’s always so much going on. ... You’re constantly engaged intellectually.”

Rather than focusing just on the science, Kurlander likes to puzzle out other aspects of the industry.

“For me, it’s been important from the beginning to understand health care from the flow of dollars. It’s a complicated area ... but I think if you understand — and spend your time understanding — how the flow of funds works ... you actually begin to understand the business of health care.”

**HIS ADVICE FOR YOUNG ATTORNEYS:**

Kurlander said younger attorneys should spend time laying solid foundations that will serve them well throughout their careers.

“Spend the time and learn the basics,” he said. “Use those early years to really [develop]. Because if you don’t do it in the beginning, it’s really hard to go back. ... You’re more likely to be successful longer term if you spent the time to develop those building blocks.”

**HIS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

While Kurlander says he loves his work and gives it a lot of time and attention, he also finds it important to be involved in the community. In addition to pro bono work, he also is on the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, among other organizations.

“What I have found important throughout my career has been giving back,” he said. “As hard as I’ve worked, I’ve also worked hard to be part of the community. ... For me, doing the two together makes me a more effective lawyer and a more effective volunteer.”

— *As told to Emma Cueto*

*Law360's MVPs are attorneys who have distinguished themselves from their peers over the past year through high-stakes litigation, record-breaking deals and complex global matters. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2018 MVP winners after reviewing nearly 1,000 submissions.*