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2022 NLJ Awards: Professional Excellence

APPELLATE HOT LIST

Latham & Watkins

■ **Tell us about your top U.S. Supreme Court or federal appeals court victory over the past year and how you and your team achieved the win.** We secured a unanimous Supreme Court decision for ZF Automotive US in *ZF Automotive v. Luxshare* which will have wide-reaching effects for businesses and individuals with arbitration agreements worldwide. The U.S. Supreme Court's decision will ensure that parties to foreign commercial arbitrations cannot improperly take advantage of discovery in U.S. courts. In addition, my partner Melissa Arbus Sherry led an all-woman team in delivering a unanimous Supreme Court win for *Boechler P.C. in Boechler, P.C. v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue*, a resounding victory for taxpayers—especially low-income taxpayers and small businesses—who narrowly miss the 30-day deadline for challenging the IRS' decision to seize property in satisfaction of tax debts. —Roman Martinez, Deputy Office Managing Partner in the Washington, D.C. office

■ **What was your firm's key to appellate success over the past year?** Four Latham lawyers (Sherry, Greg Garre, Scott Ballenger, and I) argued five cases before SCOTUS this past term, winning four—the best win record of any firm this term, and a tie for most cases argued. —Roman Martinez, Deputy Office Managing Partner in the Washington, D.C. office



Latham & Watkins partners Roman Martinez, Melissa Arbus Sherry, and Gregory Garre

■ **What is the most satisfying element of appellate practice, in your opinion?** There's nothing more rewarding than helping the next generation of appellate lawyers. Over the last several years, I have seen so many of our associates get argument opportunities and just crush it at the podium. —Melissa Arbus Sherry, Partner in the Supreme Court & Appellate Practice

■ **What's the most valuable lesson you learned as a young lawyer?** Don't lock into your positions too early as you begin to prepare for oral argument. Keep an open mind and adjust your arguments as you test them in moot courts and internal discussions. —Gregory Garre, Chair of the firm's Supreme Court & Appellate Practice ■