

## Latham Hires 2 Weil Litigators, Including Former White-Collar Defense Co-Leader

**Christopher Garcia and his longtime colleague Raquel Kellert joined the firm as partners in New York.**

BY JESSIE YOUNT

### What You Need to Know

- Latham hired the former co-leader of Weil’s white-collar, defense, regulatory and investigations practice.

- Christopher Garcia and his colleague Raquel Kellert joined the firm as partners in New York.

- Garcia’s clients have included General Electric, Morgan Barclays, Aeropostale, AIG and DIRECTV.

Latham & Watkins hired Christopher Garcia, the former co-head of the white-collar, defense, regulatory and investigations practice at Weil, Gotshal & Manges in New York, the firm said Friday.

Garcia, who has handled litigation and investigations for clients such as General Electric and Morgan Stanley, joined the firm along with Weil counsel Raquel Kellert, both as partners.

The move follows the arrival of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison partner Christopher Frey to the white-collar group in April. Latham also added Ruchi Gill, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations’ deputy chief council, and

former federal prosecutors Scott Joiner and Alex Wyman in California in early 2022.

The additions are part of Latham’s plan “to build the pre-eminent white collar defense practice,” Marc Jaffe, New York office managing partner, said in a statement.

Garcia, who spent more than a decade at Weil, was previously the chief of the Southern District of New York’s Securities and Commodities Fraud Task Force. There, he led a unit of more than 35 prosecutors and staff, supervised more than 300 cases and personally conducted 10 federal jury trials.

Since joining Weil in 2012, Garcia has defended companies and individuals in regulatory and criminal investigations, including clients such as Barclays, Aeropostale, AIG, DIRECTV and Optimer Pharmaceuticals Inc., according to his bio.

Jaffe described Garcia as “a leader, an outstanding trial lawyer, and a tireless advocate for his clients” with an earned reputation in the New York white collar community “that speaks to his prodigious work ethic, judgment, and talents.”

Latham’s “standing as an elite go-to litigation practice” and its “global, integrated transactional and



(Courtesy photos)

**(L-R) Christopher Garcia and Raquel Kellert of Latham & Watkins.**

dispute platforms” were big attractions, Garcia said in a statement.

Kellert, who focuses on criminal, civil and regulatory enforcement matters, described the firm as both “a leader in New York corporate circles” and “one of the best law firms in the world” due to its platform, expertise and team approach.

For Weil, the departure comes shortly after it hired Mayer Brown’s white-collar defense head to co-chair its own practice from New York in September. It has also been busy building its Washington, D.C., presence, with an eye toward white-collar litigation and appellate work.

“We wish them well,” a Weil spokesperson said in a statement.