

**Words you live by:**

"Everyday I'm hustling."

Who is your personal hero?

Serena Williams

What book you're reading?

Lucky Me by Rich Paul

What was your first job?

Human resources intern for Avon—I was delighted to learn the job came with the perk of free makeup samples.

Favorite charity: ASPCA, as I have adopted way too many animals and was a sucker for that Sarah McLachlan commercial.

Interest/Hobbies: I'm the lead singer in a rock band of Latham colleagues called Side Hustle; we raise money for charity each year at Law Rocks. I also enjoy RVing and off-roading.

Family: My loving family has been a source of constant inspiration, including my mother and father, who modeled academic and career success, my brother, who is my best friend, and my Aunt Emanuella Groves, the first lawyer in the family, who is now a judge on the Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals.

She opens doors for others and reminds younger lawyers that kindness matters

When I first began my legal career, I knew I would build a litigation practice, but hadn't landed on a particular focus. I prioritized finding folks I enjoyed collaborating with and developing deep relationships with clients. The insurance recovery group at my first firm checked those boxes and resonated with a recent (at the time) personal experience. I had just gotten into a minor car accident and, due to a credit card mix-up, my insurance had lapsed the day before. The insurance company refused to extend my coverage, and I ended up filing in small claims court. Afterward, I learned from the insurer's lawyer that the insurance company spent \$25,000 to battle my \$3,000 claim, solidifying my decision to pursue an insurance recovery litigation practice.

Through my practice, I have forged a path that has allowed me to advise on some of the most interesting commercial litigation matters, including leading a trial team for Chevron exclusively comprised of Black female Latham lawyers, serving as lead counsel for one of California's largest hospital systems in its bid to recover pandemic-related losses, and representing Tom Brady, Gisele Bündchen, Larry David, and Shaquille O'Neal in multiple lawsuits arising out of their promotion of the collapsed cryptocurrency exchange FTX.

In my role as vice chair of Latham's Diversity Leadership Committee (DLC), I now focus on opening doors for others, and creating a more inclusive, accessible path to the legal profession. When I talk to our future leaders, I often give the advice that if you feel like an imposter, you're not alone; studies consistently show that many people suffer from imposter syndrome, especially perfectionists and Type-A folks (like lawyers and law students). I work with the DLC to both foster an inclusive environment, as well as help our associates overcome self-doubt.

But support cannot come just from the top. My recommendation to the younger generation is to help build up those around you, and the dividends from your investment in others will multiply rapidly. Find the friends, regardless of practice, who will sustain you. I've had a text chain that spans more than a decade with diverse female lawyers I've met throughout my career, and I've learned that one of the best ways to generate business and referrals is through the support I've given others. The legal world can feel massive, but in actuality it is quite small, especially in terms of industry or practice. Showing kindness to every person you encounter leaves a lasting impression — not just on them, but on your own career, as well.