

Gwyn Williams

Title: Litigation & Trial partner

Company: Latham & Watkins LLP

Industry: Legal Services

CEO: William Voge, Chair and Managing Partner

Employees: 5,000 (approx.)

Education: J.D., Boston University School of Law;
B.A., Princeton University

Personal philosophy: “Keep Calm and Carry On.” So much about being a good lawyer (and parent, for that matter) is about being like the duck that’s calmly gliding along, but paddling furiously below the water.

Words I live by: I don’t really have a motto, but I suppose if I had to pick one, it would be “it’s better to ask for forgiveness than for permission.”

“STICK WITH IT. IF YOU’RE STRUGGLING AT WORK, TALK TO YOUR MENTORS, TALK TO YOUR PEERS. I CAN’T TELL YOU THE NUMBER OF TIMES I HEAR THE STORY OF A TALENTED YOUNG WOMAN WHO QUIT AND IT WAS THE FIRST ANYONE KNEW THAT SHE WAS UNHAPPY.”

~ GWYN WILLIAMS

As a litigation and trial partner, and leader in Latham & Watkins’ Boston office, Gwyn Williams has developed an extensive practice defending mass tort and product liability claims, as well as other types of personal injury/wrongful death claims, for clients like Philip Morris International. In addition, she serves as global chair of the Product Liability, Mass Torts and Consumer Class Actions Practice, overseeing 80 Latham lawyers across jurisdictions.

She also provides product liability counseling to clients on matters such as the content and dissemination of product warnings, disclaimers of warranties, and indemnification strategies, and is a contributing author for the *50-State Survey*

of *Consumer Class Action Law*, published by the American Bar Association.

Williams is a longtime member of the firm’s Women Enriching Business Committee, whose mission includes promoting and supporting the success of women in the legal industry. For many years, she served on the firm’s Associates Committee, focused on associate progression, and held a position on its Reduced Pace Subcommittee, a role which allowed her to have a direct impact on the advancement of women at Latham.

She mentors women lawyers in the Boston office by participating in the local Women Lawyers Group, and maintaining an “open door” policy that allows mentees to reach out at any time with questions

about business development, leadership and work-life balance – something she accomplished as a mother of three.

Asked what is her greatest accomplishment, Williams responds by saying it is still a work in progress. “I’m confident that helping to found and grow Latham’s Boston office, specifically the litigation and trial group, will ultimately be my greatest professional accomplishment.”

Williams offers this advice to young women: “Stick with it. If you’re struggling at work, talk to your mentors, talk to your peers. I can’t tell you the number of times I hear the story of a talented young woman who quit and it was the first anyone knew that she was unhappy.”