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40 under 40

CLASS OF 2015

Roderick Branch | 39

Partner; Co-chair, Chicago Corporate Department
Latham & Watkins, Chicago



Roderick Branch's parents always said he'd make a good lawyer. "That was just their way of saying I was not the most docile of children," recalls Branch, who was born in Mexico City and immigrated to Texas at 9.

Branch now runs a cross-border capital markets practice at Latham & Watkins' Chicago office—generally, similar work is done in New York or London. Fluent in Spanish and French, and with a fleet of clients

across Latin America and Europe, he recently led bond financings of 2 billion euros for Glenview-based Illinois Tool Works; \$1.2 billion for Chicago-based TransUnion; and \$1.4 billion for Chicago-based Hyatt Hotels. He also led the Latham team representing IEnova in the first-ever public offering by an energy company on the Mexican Stock Exchange.

Branch plays cello and oboe, sometimes with the Chicago Bar Association Symphony Orchestra.

His financing expertise thoroughly preps Hyatt's in-house lawyers to advise the company's executives, says Rena Hozore Reiss, Hyatt's general counsel. Besides making a client "feel like you're the most important person, even if he could be working on four different things at the same time," she says, Branch excels at distinguishing between banker demands that can be safely conceded and the ones the company should fight.

Claire Bushey