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. Roman Martinez: We secured a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court decision for Miguel Luna Perez in Perez v. Sturgis Public Schools, an important case vindicating the rights of disabled students. The ruling is a major victory, opening the courthouse doors to Miguel and other student victims of discrimination. In addition, my partner Gregory Garre delivered a unanimous Supreme Court victory on behalf of CPA Michelle Cochran in SEC v. Cochran, a resounding victory for individuals and businesses to obtain federal court relief from structurally unconstitutional agency proceedings without having to first endure the lengthy, often ruinous, proceedings themselves.

What was your firm’s key to appellate success over the past year? Gregory Garre: We continue to succeed in first-of-their-kind cases while focusing on developing the next generation of appellate superstars. This term three different Latham lawyers argued four cases at the Supreme Court, including Samir Deger-Sen who argued his first case before the Justices.

What is the most satisfying element of appellate practice, in your opinion? Roman Martinez: A core Latham tenet is our steadfast commitment to pro bono work. There’s nothing more rewarding than achieving victories on behalf of vulnerable defendants, especially when protecting the rights of children with disabilities as we did for Miguel Luna Perez.

What’s the most valuable lesson you learned as a young lawyer? Samir Deger-Sen: Aggressively go after oral argument opportunities. Advocate for yourself and be prepared to raise your hand and say why you’re best positioned to handle a particular argument.