

New England Legal Awards 2025



LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR FINALIST

Latham & Watkins



Courtesy photo

Wesley C. Holmes of Latham & Watkins

Wesley Holmes, Latham & Watkins' Boston office managing partner, answered the questions.

What's one of the biggest challenges law firms face today?

In New England, the legal industry has historically been dominated by century old Boston-based law firms. But as key industries of the region—health care, life sciences, and technology—become increasingly integrated with stakeholders across the country and even the globe, regional firms struggle to serve clients' increasingly sophisticated needs. Firms need to find ways to stay ahead of the curve, which in such a fast-paced technological landscape requires a combination of vigilance, client engagement, and forward-thinking strategies.

Conversely, name one opportunity available to law firms in the current climate.

As companies with a New England nexus explore opportunities to grow and strengthen their competitive positions,

they will increasingly seek law firms capable of handling complex matters that unfold at break-neck speed. At Latham, we've built something unique: excellence at scale. With a global platform that extends into New England, we can provide clients across the life sciences ecosphere, from emerging companies to big pharma, to private equity and financial institutions with market-leading transactional, regulatory, and litigation advice.

In 50 words or less, what does the legal profession need to do to prepare the next generation of lawyers?

At Latham, we emphasize a long-term view of investing in client service, our teams, and emerging technologies. We train our lawyers in AI and other new technologies, while keeping abreast of dynamic regulatory environments, within our signature culture of teamwork that encourages initiative, provides leadership opportunities, and develops individual talents.