

New York Law Journal



INNOVATION AWARD INDIVIDUAL FINALISTS:

Stephen Wink and Yvette Valdez,
Latham & Watkins



What are some of your proudest achievements from the past year?

Since the new Trump administration took office in January 2025, legislative and regulatory actions related to digital assets have proliferated in alignment with President Trump's Executive Order pledging to make the US the "crypto capital of the planet." Earlier this year, we developed and launched [Latham's US Crypto Policy Tracker](#) to help innovators, investors, and market participants stay updated with legislative and regulatory developments in the

rapidly evolving blockchain, cryptocurrency, and digital asset landscape. As a thought leader in this space, we were able to leverage our position to make this centralized hub a big success, which uniquely fulfills a need in the market and reflects the cutting-edge advice that Latham provides to our clients.

What, if any, obstacles stood in the way of your innovation, and how did you overcome them?

The main challenge involved developing a single platform to track actions emerging from key federal and state regulators, Congress, and the Executive Branch, particularly

INNOVATION AWARD INDIVIDUAL FINALISTS

as events began to move very rapidly. We needed to employ a holistic view that removed a significant burden for companies and institutions seeking current information across jurisdictions and regulatory bodies.

What is the best advice for younger attorneys (or others in general) looking to advance their own innovative ideas or visions?

Dive into the business of your clients. Understand and appreciate the opportunities against the risks and challenges they face on a daily basis, then work find solutions that address those issues. Putting yourself in your clients' shoes goes a long way toward establishing the rapport and insights needed to be a truly trusted and innovative adviser.