

Education: JD magna cum laude, Boston College Law School; BS cum laude, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Company Name: Latham & Watkins LLP

Industry: Law

Company CEO: N/A

Company Headquarters Location: N/A

Number of Employees: 5,000+

Your Location (if different from above): Washington, DC

Words you live by: Lift as you climb.

Who is your personal hero? Bryan Stevenson

What book are you reading? *Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner

What was your first job? Cashier at a Wendy's fast food restaurant

Favorite charity: Horton's Kids, a Washington, DC nonprofit, providing academic, youth development, and basic needs support to help children succeed

Interests: Going to see live music, traveling, and trying new restaurants



A Community of Mentors

Many lawyers will tell you that it was their childhood dream to become an attorney. I am not one of those lawyers.

In fact, when I entered Boston College Law School, I was still uncertain whether I wanted to actually practice law. I had applied to law school at the encouragement of my college advisor, who said a law degree would give me a wide range of career options, legal and beyond.

That advisor—my first true mentor—led me to law. I gained three more mentors during law school, whose guidance allowed me to secure a “big law” job for my 1L summer, officially kicking off my legal career. And today, as a senior associate at Latham & Watkins, I am grateful to dozens of mentors who have counseled me every step of the way.

As my list of mentors has expanded over the years, so has my perspective on mentorship. I used to

think of it as a formal advisory relationship with a senior colleague, but I have since learned that it can be far more fluid and less hierarchical. I certainly look to senior attorneys for guidance—one of my strongest mentors is Manu Gayatrinath, a partner in Latham's finance group, who has taught me invaluable lessons about being a woman of color in this profession. But I have also built relationships with several junior associates whose insights have shaped me into a better supervisor and a stronger leader. Attorneys outside Latham have counseled me on business development; mentors outside the legal profession have provided guidance on topics, such as being authentic at work and balancing competing demands. I think of these people collectively as my “personal board of directors,” each of whom has shared hard-earned lessons and helped me view my career in a more holistic way.

Mentorship has been a critical part of my success to date, and I have made it a priority to pay it forward by pouring energy and attention into younger Black lawyers and law students, whenever I can. Informal mentoring has been a large part of this, but I have also looked to formal avenues such as participating in Latham's Black Lawyers Group global mentoring program, partnering with Thurgood Marshall Academy (a predominately Black charter school in Washington, DC that focuses on educating students about law, democracy, and civics), and being an advisor to The Black BigLaw Pipeline (a nonprofit organization established to provide support and substantive training for Black attorneys in large law firms).

As I move forward in my career, I know that mentorship—and my growing network of mentors and mentees—will continue to play a major role.