

MVP: Latham's David Della Rocca

By Kellie Mejdrich

Law360 (November 18, 2025, 4:00 PM EST) -- David Della Rocca of Latham & Watkins LLP served as lead benefits counsel on high-profile mergers and acquisitions over the past year, including Cox Communications' \$34.5 billion merger with Charter Communications and Permira's \$7.2 billion acquisition of Squarespace, earning him a spot as one of 2025 Law360 Benefits MVPs.

His biggest accomplishment:

Della Rocca says his biggest accomplishment over the past year has been advising on employee benefits and executive compensation matters for complex M&A transactions with attorneys across the country and even internationally.

In addition to Permira's acquisition of Squarespace and the Cox-Charter merger, Della Rocca highlighted his work advising marketing communications agency Omnicom on its \$13 billion acquisition of Interpublic, which is expected to close later this year. The deal has grabbed the attention of both U.S. and U.K. regulators.

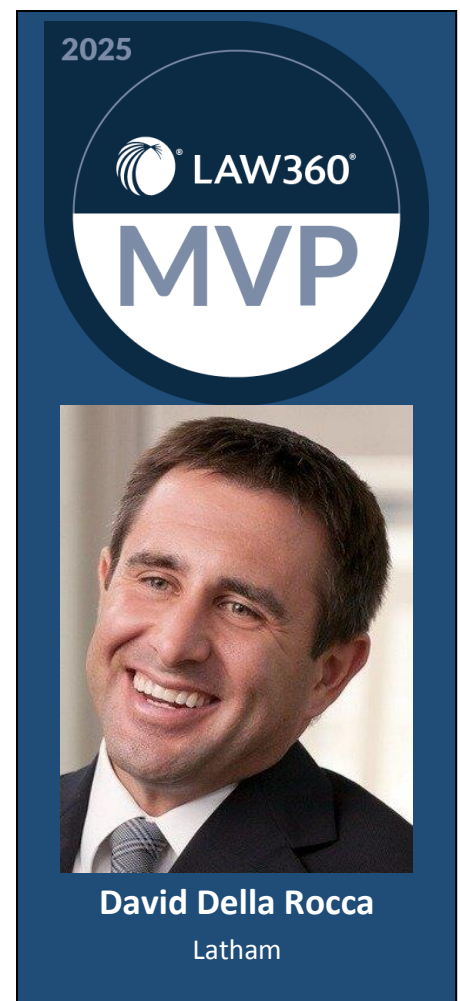
"It was being able to juggle all these deals, hitting at the same time, with my team," Della Rocca said.

Why he's a benefits attorney:

Della Rocca describes taking an interest in the Employee Retirement Income Security Act when he interned at the U.S. Department of Labor's Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, which was renamed the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

"I realized when I went to the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, that not many people do the ERISA work, and I felt it was a good niche," Della Rocca said.

Della Rocca added that when he moved to Silicon Valley, "I felt that was probably an even better niche, within the benefits group, and I loved the team when I was out there." He is now based in Latham's Washington, D.C., office.



What motivates him:

Della Rocca listed family and the benefits practice at Latham, which he said was about 70 attorneys strong, as key motivators.

"They're just superstars, right? They're smart, they're extremely hard working, and it's a competition to get up every day [and] to be able to keep up," he said.

Della Rocca added the work also keeps him interested: "I view it like I'm dealing with worst problems every day and trying to solve those problems."

His advice to junior attorneys:

"Be as responsive as possible to your clients. Like quick, quick responses," Della Rocca said. "But most importantly, get to know clients on a personal level."

"Pick up the phone, use Zoom, rather than just typing emails all the time. I think that's super important," he said.

Della Rocca said that another important thing is to "think outside the box."

"Try to listen to your client, fit your client's business objectives, but also, not everything's the same. So think outside the box and [about] what fits your client the best," he said.

--As told to Kellie Mejdrich. Editing by Adam LoBelia.

Law360's MVPs are attorneys who have distinguished themselves from their peers over the past year through high-stakes litigation, record-breaking deals and complex global matters. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2025 MVP winners after reviewing nearly 900 submissions.