

Rising Star: Latham's Danielle J. McCall

By Sydney Price

Law360 (August 12, 2026, 4:03 PM EDT) -- Danielle McCall of Latham & Watkins LLP has advised healthcare systems, corporations, investment firms and nonprofit organizations through high-stakes investigations, compliance challenges and civil rights matters, earning her a spot among the compliance law practitioners under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

Why she's a compliance attorney:

McCall said she was drawn to compliance work because it combines legal analysis, business judgment and strategic problem-solving.

"Compliance work allows me to assess each client's unique needs and leverage my investigation and litigation experience to help my clients solve problems, mitigate risk and balance their various legal and business objectives," she said.

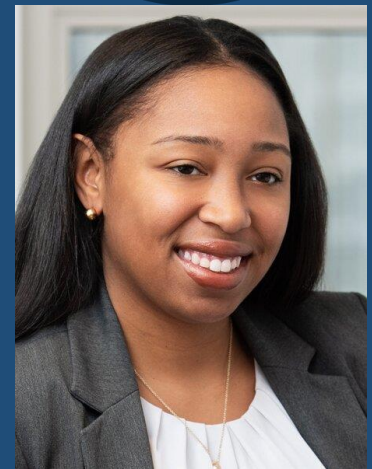
Her practice includes government-facing investigations involving the False Claims Act, Anti-Kickback Statute and Stark Law, civil rights audits and investigations, internal reviews, compliance counseling and litigation. She has helped clients navigate evolving anti-discrimination and civil rights issues, including reviews of diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

Her biggest case:

One of the defining matters of McCall's career began shortly after she arrived at Latham, when she joined a team representing four major healthcare systems in a False Claims Act case involving allegations of a decades-long, multibillion-dollar Medicaid fraud scheme.

The matter ultimately spanned McCall's entire associate career as she helped guide the clients through a lengthy government investigation, subsequent non-intervened litigation and a successful appeal. The team secured favorable rulings in district court and ultimately prevailed when

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Danielle J. McCall
Latham

Age: 34

Home base: Washington, D.C.

Position: Partner

Law school: University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

First job after law school: Clerk for former U.S. District Judge C. Darnell Jones II

the appellate court affirmed dismissal of the relator's claims with prejudice.

She said the case helped shape the broad skill set that now defines her practice, combining regulatory investigations, litigation strategy and appellate advocacy.

"I enjoyed being able to hone my skills in investigations, litigation, and appeals on a single matter — and to bring these skills to bear and secure a favorable outcome for our clients," she said.

Her proudest moment as an attorney:

For McCall, one of the most meaningful professional milestones was being elected to partnership after six years in private practice, calling it "an incredible honor."

McCall said she is equally proud of helping build Latham's anti-discrimination and civil rights practice, for which she now serves as co-chair.

"Working alongside my talented colleagues to advance a practice that provides world-class counsel to leading companies, healthcare systems, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and their boards on complex and evolving civil rights issues has been one of the greatest highlights of my career," she said.

McCall also points to her extensive pro bono work, particularly her role supporting an independent panel investigating the police-involved death of Elijah McClain in 2019.

"That matter had a profound impact on me and helped spark my interest in anti-discrimination and civil rights compliance," she said.

What motivates her:

McCall said the most rewarding aspect of her practice is helping clients through difficult and often high-pressure situations.

"I enjoy helping clients navigate their toughest moments," she said. "Whether it's an investigation, a compliance challenge or a crisis, I like helping clients find practical paths forward."

Other notable matters she has worked on:

In recent years, McCall successfully helped a large regional healthcare system secure the closure of a multiyear U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights investigation into allegations of race discrimination without any resolution demands or additional compliance requirements.

She also co-led a comprehensive compliance review of a major nonprofit healthcare system's diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives and health equity programs, helping identify and remediate legal risks while preserving the organization's mission-driven objectives.

Additionally, she advised a leading alternative asset management firm on race-conscious investment initiatives and represented a global pharmaceutical company in a U.S. Department of Justice False Claims Act investigation that concluded without any resolution demands or compliance obligations.

On the future of the industry:

McCall expects compliance and enforcement challenges to become even more complex as companies navigate shifting regulatory priorities and increased scrutiny from government agencies.

"Companies will continue to face a rapidly evolving regulatory and enforcement landscape, particularly in areas like False Claims Act enforcement and civil rights, and many of the compliance decisions and changes that companies make today will have serious implications for their businesses going forward," she said.

McCall said she believes demand for proactive compliance counseling, internal investigations and strategic risk management will continue to grow as organizations seek guidance through an increasingly dynamic legal environment.

--As told to Sydney Price. Editing by Alyssa Miller.

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2026 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,100 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of April 30, 2026, to be eligible for this year's award.