

SILICON VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL

2020 WOMEN OF INFLUENCE



Legal

Elizabeth
Deeley

Partner and global vice chair of
Latham's Complex Commercial
Litigation Practice

Latham and Watkins LLP

Headquarters: Menlo Park

What it does: International law firm

What led you to your career path: Working in Washington, D.C., at the National Council of La Raza, the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S., became the foundation for my legal career. My work with NCLR gave me a keen perspective on how to work effectively with high-level stakeholders with widely divergent viewpoints and priorities.

A moment in your career you are most proud of: During my first-ever jury trial, which happened to be for a pro bono client, I was responsible for a critical cross examination of a key witness. This witness was hostile and lied on the stand; however, through my questioning I was able to extract key admissions that were instrumental in proving our case to the jury. Ultimately, the jury decided in my client's favor and awarded her \$3.5 million.

First paying job: When I was in high school, I worked in a coffee shop at the University of Georgia. I was the only employee working there on non-football weekends, and was responsible for everything — making the coffee, preparing food, cleaning, serving customers and accounting for cash receipts. I learned customer service, responsibility and management.