

CORPORATE DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR

WEEK OF MAY 23, 2016

TRUSTED ADVISORS

Patrick Pohlen

Latham & Watkins

Is the Valley a unique legal market, and if so, why?

Very much so, in that here in the Valley, our clients can be everything from the girl, the guy and the dog in a garage with an idea but no corporation and looking for capital, all the way up to Fortune 50 companies. I would posit there is no other market in the world where you run the full business lifecycle gamut as we do here. The other unique factor at play is the growth rate of companies. Most of the Valley household names that are changing and shaping our lives every day were incorporated after 2000. In human terms, these companies are barely teenagers and yet some have grown to be so ubiquitous, they've become verbs. Fortunately, these factors play into Latham's strength, where we can support clients through their entire life cycle—from formation to growth stages and exits—and our firm's complete spectrum of corporate

capabilities help these companies scale quickly.

What do you see coming in your area of specialty that will shock everyone?

The pace of innovation. It's staggering when you consider 15-20 years ago cellphones and computers were not part of people's work or personal life whereas now they are a cornerstone of our lives. Every industry, from retail and ecommerce to automobiles and energy, will be disrupted. Just to pick one to watch: The convergence of technology and healthcare will be fascinating. Soon, everyone will have a wearable—on their wrist, in their clothing, etc.—and these devices will record massive amounts of data, which will be extremely useful and valuable to



JASON DOY

having healthier lives. Again, Latham is well positioned to guide this disruption of industries.

Patrick Pohlen is the global co-chair of Latham & Watkins' emerging company practice.