

TRAILBLAZERS

LITIGATION

ROMAN MARTINEZ LATHAM & WATKINS LLP



What was the genesis of the idea/path that has made you a trailblazer?

As the son and grandson of immigrants from Communist Cuba, I grew up valuing the importance of our Constitution, individual rights, and the rule of law. I knew I wanted to be a lawyer, and I imagined there would be no more interesting or impactful place to practice than before the Supreme Court. I

was honored to clerk for then-Judge Kavanaugh and Chief Justice Roberts, to represent the United States before the Supreme Court as an attorney at the Justice Department, and now to represent clients there and in federal and state appellate courts as a partner at Latham. So far, I've had the privilege of arguing twelve cases before the Supreme Court

What sort of change has resulted from the concept?

I'm especially proud of the work I've done facing off against federal and state government overreach. The government has enormous power and huge advantages in litigation. It's essential to level the playing field by providing creative, hard-hitting advocacy on behalf of clients. Some of my favorite wins have included helping veterans, children with disabilities, and federal employees stand up against unlawful government conduct. I've also enjoyed helping companies develop innovative strategies to fight back against federal agencies overstepping constitutional and statutory limits on their power.

What bearing will this have on the future?

In *Marbury v. Madison*, the Supreme Court said that the Judiciary's highest duty is to "say what the law is." Great advocacy will always be essential to help judges make wise decisions that uphold the Constitution and defend the rule of law.