



**My credentials:** JD, University of Washington School of Law; MPhil, University of Cambridge; BA, University of Pennsylvania

**My work location:** Bay Area—Menlo Park and San Francisco, California

**Words I live by:** This too shall pass. It was one of my grandmother's favorite expressions and it always helps me get through the hard times.

**My personal philosophy:** Work hard and be nice. And be a team player. It's amazing how much we can accomplish when people work together and are kind.

**What I'm reading now:** *The Seine: The River that Made Paris* by Elaine Sciolino

**My first job:** Ice cream scooper at Friendly's

**My favorite charity:** San Francisco-Marin Food Bank and the Marin Agricultural Land Trust

**My interests:** Running and hiking in Marin, spending time at the beach with my family, and spending time in France

**My family:** I am married to my wonderful husband and we have two sons (6 and 9). My parents also moved out from New York to take care of our kids while my husband and I work, so they are very much a part of our little family unit. We couldn't do this without them!

**Company:** Latham & Watkins LLP

**Industry:** Law

**Company Headquarters:** none

**Number of employees:** 5,400

**CEO:** Rich Trobman, Chair and Managing Partner

## Closing the Gender Gap in STEM

STEM fields are still largely dominated by men. This means that young women have fewer role models to whom they can relate.

I had wonderful mentors who guided me and helped shape my career. And yet, looking back, I realize that all of my mentors until I went to medical school were men. So I consciously mentor younger women, and I am aware of these sometimes unconscious barriers. I do my best to instill in these women the kind of confidence I see more often in their male counterparts. And I encourage them to embrace the support they will undoubtedly receive from male mentors as well.

## Moving Women Forward in STEM

We can start by removing cultural barriers: changing how we approach math and science education for children as early as elementary school, reframing the narrative around girls' skills in math and science; and making sure we encourage girls to pursue STEM subjects. We also have to create more opportunities for young women to compete in these fields, including providing a clearer picture of what career paths and jobs are out there in STEM.

As a lawyer, it is truly an honor to be recognized for my work in a STEM field. That's exactly the kind of open thinking that will make our field more approachable and attract women to STEM careers in labs, classrooms, or courtrooms.

## Women in STEM 5 Years down the Road

I think opportunities for women in STEM will continue to improve. The more women who are working in these professions, the easier it will be for girls to imagine a future doing similar work.

I have noticed that some women in STEM tend to downplay their accomplishments, which I find interesting. I can think of several brilliant women I know—including a neuroscience professor at a highly esteemed institution—who are somewhat nonchalant about their accomplishments. I think this quality of being understated can be an asset when dealing with clients. I have found a lot of value in being relatable. People feel like they can tell me things and talk with me comfortably, rather than feel intimidated by a high-powered big law persona.