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APPELLATE HOT LIST Latham & Watkins

■ **Tell us about your top U.S. Supreme Court or federal appeals court victory over the past year and how you and your team achieved the win.** Roman Martinez: We secured a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court decision for Miguel Luna Perez in *Perez v. Sturgis Public Schools*, an important case vindicating the rights of disabled students. The ruling is a major victory, opening the courthouse doors to Miguel and other student victims of discrimination. In addition, my partner Gregory Garre delivered a unanimous Supreme Court victory on behalf of CPA Michelle Cochran in *SEC v. Cochran*, a resounding victory for individuals and businesses to obtain federal court relief from structurally unconstitutional agency proceedings without having to first endure the lengthy, often ruinous, proceedings themselves.

■ **What was your firm's key to appellate success over the past year?** Gregory Garre: We continue to succeed in first-of-their-kind cases while focusing on developing the next generation of appellate superstars. This term three different Latham lawyers argued four cases at the Supreme Court, including Samir Deger-Sen who argued his first case before the Justices.

■ **What is the most satisfying element of appellate practice, in your opinion?** Roman Martinez: A core Latham tenet is our steadfast commitment to pro bono work. There's nothing more rewarding than achieving victories on behalf of vulnerable defendants,



Roman Martinez, Partner in Latham's Supreme Court & Appellate Practice
Gregory Garre, Chair of Latham's Supreme Court & Appellate Practice,
Samir Deger-Sen, Partner in Supreme Court & Appellate Practice

especially when protecting the rights of children with disabilities as we did for Miguel Luna Perez.

■ **What's the most valuable lesson you learned as a young lawyer?** Samir Deger-Sen: Aggressively go after oral argument opportunities. Advocate for yourself and be prepared to raise your hand and say why you're best positioned to handle a particular argument. ■