

Company: Latham & Watkins
Industry: Law
Company Headquarters: n/a
Number of employees: 5,000+
CEO: Richard Trobman, Chair and Managing Partner



Jekkie Kim, Partner

My credentials: JD, Boston University School of Law; Masters of Business Administration, Case Western Reserve University; LLM, Yonsei University Department of Medical Law and Ethics; MD, Yonsei University College of Medicine

My work location: Silicon Valley (California)

Words I live by: Integrity. The Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have done unto you. It's only fair!

My personal philosophy: Be kind and do the right thing! Simple, perhaps, but sometimes so hard to do.

What I'm reading now: *Oh, William* by Elizabeth Strout. I was fortunate to receive a signed copy. I'm not yet Lucy's age (the protagonist), but I feel like I can understand her. It might be Ms. Strout's writing style, which is short and concise, but conveys a ton of emotion.

My first Job: I tutored while I was attending medical school in Korea. My first professional job was as a trainee physician.

My favorite charity: I have two charities that I donate to regularly: The San Francisco-Marín Food Bank, which has done just a fantastic job during the pandemic, and Doctors Without Borders, which we all know does great work throughout the world.

My interests: My main hobby right now is restoring and protecting land we purchased outside the city, which includes magical redwoods. I love using power tools on these projects. I recently upgraded my chainsaw from 12 inches to 16 inches!

My family: I have one husband (who also works in STEM), one canine, and two felines—all are rescues.

My Own Experiences with STEM

When I entered medical school nearly three decades ago in Korea, female students weren't just judged against others in their class, but also against each other. With very few spots for women in post-graduate residency programs, where we stood in our class and in relation to one another were both valued metrics. It created competitive intensity that I had not experienced before, and makes me truly appreciate how far women have come—how far I have come!

For me, being a woman in STEM means that I can do what I enjoy doing—satisfying my intellectual curiosity and being able to do this work and get paid for it! Not being able to do what I enjoy doing, simply because I was a woman, would have been quite upsetting for me.

So, I would say to those who have found their footing within STEM, consider reaching out to others who are trying to find their way in. And if someone reaches out to you, make time for them.

I've been super lucky, and I am so grateful to be where I am now in my career. At this point in my career, people don't really care about my gender; they care about my qualifications and skills as a lawyer. I've worked with clients at the heart of the response to COVID-19, from clients active with therapeutics, to vaccines, to even offering advice regarding the mask-supply chain.

I work on integrating artificial intelligence and machine-learning platform technologies to new drug discoveries and surgical robots. I also help clients develop sustainable alternatives to meat. I am grateful to be working with all of our amazing clients, including pro bono clients, and for the small role that I'm playing in helping them. Even if nobody knew my name or what my role was in a particular instance, I'd know that I was able to contribute strategic, thoughtful, and meaningful legal advice. That is good work!