



## DISTINGUISHED LEADER: CAROL VILLEGAS

# LABATON SUCHAROW

### Q&A **What are some of your proudest recent achievements?**

I was appointed as one of the Lead Attorneys in a data privacy case against an app developer Flo Health, as well as Meta, Google and others. We allege that Flo Health unlawfully shared personal medical information involving reproductive health with advertisers without the notice or consent of the women who use the app. This is particularly meaningful to me because it involves a woman's ability to control how her own personal reproductive health information is used and shared. Recently, we survived the motion to dismiss the case and it is currently in discovery.

### **Name a lawyer or mentor whose leadership inspired you.**

She is not a lawyer, but my mom is and continues to be an inspiration for me. She was born and raised in a poor town in Colombia and dropped out of school in the 8th grade to work full time so she could support her brothers' education. She came to this country with my father in her 20s not knowing a word of English. She and my father learned the language, worked 2-3 low-paying jobs at a time, and scrimped and saved for my (and my sisters') education. My mother always held her head up with grace and prized hard work, dedication, commitment, kindness and love for her family above all. I try to carry forward those important values in my representation of my clients every day.



Carol Villegas

Courtesy photo

### **How are the business and profession of law changing, and how should lawyers adapt for the future?**

The business and profession of law are changing in tandem with the world.

### **What is the best advice for someone considering a career in law, or someone already in the profession who is seeking to make a greater impact?**

For many people, access to justice is difficult to obtain—that is why being a lawyer is such an important job in today's society. Working for the public interest or in a job that assists underserved individuals is a must for every lawyer at some point in their career. Whether that means pro bono work in your corporate practice or spending time working at legal aid, the DA's office, or clerking for a judge. The experience you obtain is unmatched and the assistance you are providing for those who cannot navigate the legal system by themselves is priceless.