

# dbr DAILY BUSINESS REVIEW

## On the Rise: Javier A. Lopez

*September 28, 2020*



*Javier Lopez, Kozyak, Tropin & Thorckmorton. Courtesy photo*

**Title, Firm:** Managing partner, Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton

**Experience:** Kozyak Tropin, 2011-present, Previously at Steel Hector & Davis

**Education:** George Washington University Law School, 2005; Harvard University, 2002

**What drew you to a career in law?** I was in a bad baseball accident in college that led me to lose the vision in my left eye. Until that moment, I wanted to be

a doctor. I had a very bad experience with the doctors up in Boston and vowed never to be a doctor. After majoring in Sociological Anthropology, I love the study of people and relationships. Law was the best career I could have chosen to further that passion. It's not about the law, it's about the relationships amongst the clients, the parties and the jury.

**Have you set a specific goal that you want to achieve in the next year?** Not just survive this pandemic, but have the firm thrive through it. We are venturing into new practice areas and are lucky to be able to have hired three new lawyers during the crisis.

**What has been your proudest career moment and your biggest hurdle?** My proudest moment as a Cuban lawyer was bringing a class action against Carnival cruise line's for not allowing Cuban born, U.S. citizens, to be passengers on their maiden voyage to Havana, Cuba, after decades of the embargo. They claimed the policy was based on Cuban law. Because of our lawsuit, within two weeks, the Cuban government, for the first time in 60 years took affirmative action and removed that discriminatory law from their books and Carnival allowed Cuban born passengers on their cruise ship.

**Where do you fit on a 1-10 work-life balance scale with 10 being nirvana? Please explain.** N/A

**What is the top quality that you've used to succeed in the profession?**  
Empathy

**Who is your favorite mentor and why?** My father. He taught me the importance of empathy and humility with his actions, not his words.

**What's the best advice anyone has ever given you?** After my nephew passed away at just 44 days old, I looked at my brother and ironically it was him who, after losing his son, provided strength to me and I asked him for advice on how to get through the pain. He said two words, "Pray harder."

**What professional lessons have you learned from the coronavirus pandemic?** We do not need as much space as we thought we did, people are working just as or more efficiently from home, technology is saving clients time and money. Get a really good computer because Zoom hearings aren't going anywhere, even after the pandemic.

**How are you addressing issues of racial injustice?** N/A

**What trends are you observing in the profession that you're excited about?** N/A

**What is the greatest challenge you see for the legal profession?** N/A

**If I weren't a lawyer, I'd be ...** A high school teacher and baseball coach.