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NEW YORK'S RISING STARS

ETHICAL LAW, LATINA STYLE

KARLA SANCHEZ, 35

PARTNER, PATTERSON BELKNAP WEBB & TYLER

40 *under* Forty

HER GRANDMOTHER once remarked that Karla Sanchez would never become a lawyer: "You don't know how to lie," she said. But Ms. Sanchez was determined to prove that attorneys can be honest *and* successful.

"Attorneys have **two fundamental responsibilities** not found in many other professions: to use their trade to help those in need, and to practice ethically and fairly," she says.

This determination has led Ms. Sanchez to become the only Hispanic partner at

Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, and a leader in the movement to bring more minorities to New York's top law firms.

Ms. Sanchez, a graduate of Columbia University and Fordham Law School, has won major intellectual property cases for clients such as Pizza Hut; McNeil Nutritionals, the maker of Splenda; and ALZA, a provider of drug delivery systems. She also has handled several high-profile pro bono projects in the past few years, including the appeal of Alabama death row inmate Richard Gaddy and the fight by two Bronx ministers to broadcast

their teachings over the radio.

"She is an incredible advocate—incredibly focused, tireless and brilliant," says Judge Deborah Batts of the Southern District of New York, under whom Ms. Sanchez clerked. "She has a **great deal of integrity.**"

Ms. Sanchez is acutely aware that there are few Latinas in New York's corporate bar, and she heads several groups devoted to addressing that problem.

"Diversity is more than just the right thing to do; it leads to smarter law firms," she says.

—TOMMY FERNANDEZ



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