

DAILY REPORT



ON THE RISE

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE 2016

ADRIA PEREZ, 35

**Partner, Kilpatrick
Townsend & Stockton**

**Florida State
University, 2001**

**Columbia University
School of Law, 2004**

ADRIA PEREZ is not the sort of lawyer who would let moss grow beneath her feet. As a litigator in a busy practice, she represents clients in white-collar criminal defense, including government enforcement issues and internal, criminal and Securities and Exchange Commission investigations.

Over the past several years, she also has performed nearly 1,000 hours of pro bono work, much of it related to international abduction cases, representing left-behind parents in countries such as Spain, Mexico and Belgium.

A self-described “military brat,” Perez was born in Germany. The family moved around about every three years, including a stint in Seoul. But when she and her twin brother hit high school, her father worked it out so that they could establish roots at Norcross High.

Perez says she always knew she wanted to be a lawyer. “I was the kid who was always watching the O.J. trial,” she recalls. Concerned that she would be idle, her mother made her paint the living room while she watched, she says.

Her mother need not have worried.

Perez favors organizations where she can be “a small part of something that creates a ripple effect” leading to sustainable change. Tired of the oft-repeated rhetoric that highly-qualified Latino lawyers were “hard to find,” she co-founded the Georgia Latino Legal Foundation.

Perez also is a past president of ToolBank USA, a nonprofit that loans tools to communities in need and following disasters.

—Mary Smith Judd