

2017 Distinguished Young Alumnus

Robert J. Kestelik, JD '97

Assistant General Counsel, Mattel, Inc.



Robert Kestelik is assistant general counsel at Mattel, Inc., the world's largest designer, manufacturer, and distributor of toys and other children's products. His management of the company's legal affairs includes U.S. and international regulatory issues, international business transactions, material (non-IP) litigation outside the U.S., internal investigations, and labor and employment issues that arise outside the U.S.

After completing his JD, Kestelik worked in Mexico City for Pemex, Mexico's state-owned oil company, where he worked on two \$5 billion transactions. He then joined Houston, Texas-based law firm Bracewell LLP, handling domestic and international mergers and acquisitions for clients like Enron. Kestelik continued to work largely on international mergers and acquisitions and major development projects for the Houston office of the international law firms King & Spalding and Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld LLP.

A Benefactor of the William Greenleaf Eliot Society, Kestelik established and endowed The Robert J. Kestelik Diversity Scholarship in the School of Law, established the annual Robert J. Kestelik International Law Scholarship, and has supported the Washington University Pride Alumni Network Scholarship as well as other scholarships and initiatives at the law school. Educating future generations of attorneys, Kestelik serves as an adjunct professor at Washington University School of Law teaching a course entitled "Made in China". The course focuses on the many intricacies of international manufacturing and trade law.

Kestelik earned his bachelor's degree in Asian languages at Arizona State University in 1994. He lives in Marina del Rey, California.