

**Education (degrees & institutions):**

J.D., Cornell Law School, cum laude

**Company Name:**

Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP

**Industry:** Legal**Company CEO:**

Marc E. Kasowitz, managing partner

**Company Headquarters Location:**

New York, NY

**Number of Employees:** 250**Words you live by:**

Act like you've been there before

**Who is your personal hero?**

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

**What book(s) are you reading?***Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson and  
*The Latecomer* by Jean Hanff Korelitz**What was your first job?**

Salesperson at a retail store

**Favorite charity:** The Trevor Project**Interests/Hobbies:**

Reading historical fiction, travel

**Family:** Married with 3 children

## To Be Successful, Find a Mentor and Be a Mentor

As a Latina adopted at a young age into a boisterous Italian-American family, I did not have a strong sense of my identity during my adolescence. While I always knew that I was adopted and that my birth father was born in Cuba, I was often told by friends and acquaintances how fortunate I was that I could easily "pass" for Italian. To say that this left me confused and a bit unmoored is an understatement. As a first-generation college student, I also struggled with navigating the undergraduate and then law school process. Not only was the idea of law school a wild and seemingly unattainable dream, but I had never met anyone who practiced law. Needless to say, I arrived on the scene somewhat unprepared both in terms of expectations and in mentorship. While I attempted to live by the mantra "act like you've been there before" this was often easier said than done.

*"...mentorship is invaluable to success, and comes in many forms. Most importantly, mentors are people who are vested in your success, not only as a lawyer but as an individual."*

What I discovered after I joined Kasowitz Benson Torres, where I have spent the last 26 years, is that mentorship is invaluable to success, and comes in many forms. Most importantly, mentors are people who are vested in your success, not only as a lawyer but as an individual. Mentors take the time to teach, but also support and enable your individual path. As a working mother of three, who has also experienced and survived serious illness, I have a mountain of gratitude to my colleagues who have provided the support that has enabled me to thrive in the profession that I have come to truly love.

My advice to young lawyers is to find those people – whoever they are – who will have your back from both a professional and personal standpoint, because both are equally important to your success. Then, pay it forward and become a mentor to someone next to you. With this cycle, the potential success that can be achieved together is limitless.