

Graham Robinson

Title: Partner and vice chairman of the corporate practice group

Company: WilmerHale

Age: 37

Education: Bachelor's degree, University of Pennsylvania, 1996; Harvard Law School, 1999;

Residence: Weston

Favorite vacation spot: Italy

Favorite book: "East of Eden"

Favorite movies: "On Golden Pond"

Musical artist: Yuja Wang

Motto to live by: Good is the enemy of great.



By Galen Moore
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If you're an M&A lawyer in Boston, you're likely to be involved with a lot of technology and life science companies. That worked out well for Graham Robinson, partner and vice chairman of the corporate practice group at Boston law firm WilmerHale. Robinson said he has had an interest in technology since he was a kid.



Growing up in Weston, he got interested in photography early — mostly out of his love of technology and gadgetry. "In 1982 I was bringing a computer into the classroom," said Robinson, pointing out it was a TRS-80 color computer, and it was hardly portable.

He's still interested in photography, as an adult. After living in New York, Robinson moved back to

Weston with his wife, a cancer surgeon, when she got a job at Massachusetts General Hospital. Conversation at home tends to revolve around topics familiar from his workplace: Drug development, clinical trials and the biotech industry. "What interests me generally is the fact that drugs tend to be successfully developed by very smart people working in small company settings," Robinson said. "Efforts by large companies have been much less successful."

The rewards are also greater for corporate lawyers, Robinson said. Working with small, emerging firms gives him a chance to step outside of the lawyer's role strictly defined, and work with company founders hands-on.

"At venture-backed companies pursuing a biotech or high-tech business plan, the lawyer is in many cases a much more important part of the team than a lawyer to a very large company," he said. "You have experience that they don't get from other places."