

Rising Star: Skadden's Pramode Chiruvolu

By James Boyle

Law360 (June 15, 2022, 2:03 PM EDT) -- Pramode Chiruvolu has played a major role on the Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP team representing Activision in its \$75 billion acquisition by Microsoft, earning him a spot among the technology practitioners under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

THE BIGGEST DEAL OF HIS CAREER:

Chiruvolu named the Activision acquisition by Microsoft as the biggest deal he's worked on. His contributions to the matter are the culmination of a nine-year career spent developing and completing technology transactions of all sizes across all industries, he told Law360.

"The Activision deal involves IP ownership, IP management, open-source technology, commercial contracts, risk analysis, privacy and cybersecurity," Chiruvolu said. "This is a massive deal that is moving fast."

He said the biggest challenge for him and his team has been wrapping their heads around all the IP and technology issues and putting them in proper context for clients.

"I think the sticking points of a deal this size is getting everyone comfortable with what the typical risks are," Chiruvolu said. "We're keeping everyone focused on the overall deal and not getting bogged down on the details of one issue."

HIS PROUDEST MOMENT AS AN ATTORNEY:

Chiruvolu said his proudest moment happened recently, when Skadden promoted him to counsel. He finds it "tremendously rewarding" to help his clients through their issues, but having colleagues he considers to be world-class lawyers recognize his efforts and judge his ability is "incredibly gratifying," he said.

"There are 70 attorneys in the Palo Alto office, and we know each

2022



Pramode Chiruvolu
Skadden

Age: 37

Home base: Palo Alto, California

Position: Counsel

Law school: University of San Diego School of Law

First job after law school:
Skadden

other really well," Chiruvolu said. "It's a large number of incredibly talented attorneys in the building, and it's really a family atmosphere."

WHAT MOTIVATES HIM:

Chiruvolu draws inspiration from the talent and expertise of his clients and colleagues. One of the great benefits of being involved with technology-related transactions is interacting with a company's in-house counsel, engineers and executives, Chiruvolu said. It drives him to really understand the technology and the related business initiatives so he can fully advise clients.

"I am getting the opportunity to speak with the folks in the trenches," Chiruvolu said. "These are people at the bleeding edge of technology and innovation. It is truly inspiring. I've learned an incredible amount about technology and what's next in the world. It is hugely exciting, and it is easy to come to work every day."

WHY HE BECAME A TECHNOLOGY ATTORNEY:

Chiruvolu started with Skadden in 2013 as a general litigator in the Palo Alto office, where he also had an IP practice. The office's location in Silicon Valley naturally came with a number of clients focused on technology, he said. Technology evolved from being a key part of Chiruvolu's practice to the main driver as he pivoted from litigation to transactional work.

"I wanted to work more closely with clients on their tech-related initiatives," Chiruvolu said. "In litigation, I was most often dealing with problems that came from outside and not necessarily solutions for products clients were bringing into the world. I wanted to work with clients on the latter and help them achieve their business goals."

— As told to James Boyle

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2022 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,350 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of April 30, 2022, to be eligible for this year's award. This interview has been edited and condensed.