

MVP: Skadden's Michael Hong

By Lynn LaRowe

Law360 (December 2, 2025, 4:03 PM EST) -- Michael Hong, a capital markets partner at Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP, helped guide underwriters in a \$1.75 billion initial public offering of Venture Global Inc., and represented Acrisure in a \$2.1 billion capital raise, earning him a spot as one of the 2025 Law360 Capital Markets MVPs.

His biggest accomplishment:

While his involvement in Venture Global's IPO in January probably garnered the most attention of all the deals Hong helped move forward this year, he sees the Bain Capital-led Acrisure deal as his biggest accomplishment.

"The most difficult, really bespoke, complex transaction was with Acrisure," Hong said, noting that he has been working with the technology-enabled financial services platform since 2017.

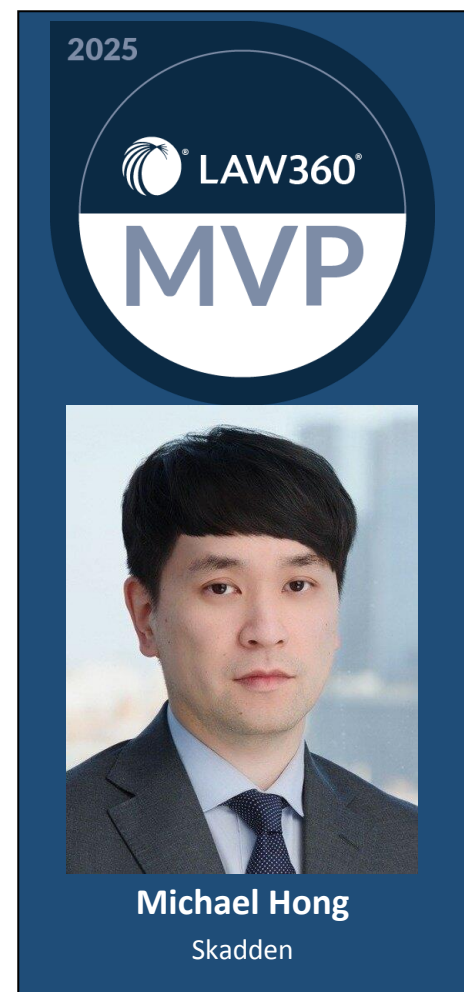
"They've grown probably 20 times just through a combination of acquisitions and smart management," Hong said. "This was sort of the last piece."

Hong said the company has had a complex capital structure with many investors at each level, and that the work culminated this year in a "unifying transaction, which kind of brings everybody together" and sets up a potential IPO in the future.

"With these types of transactions, there are so many different touchpoints that you have to deal with, things you have to think about, and that's the first half," Hong said.

Once the structuring phase was complete, Hong worked with multiple investors, new and existing, as well as their lawyers, to push the deal across the finish line.

"There were times we didn't think we could get it done just because of all the moving pieces," Hong said. "It was a gratifying deal for me personally. I've worked with the company for so long and I really wanted to get something done to set them up for future success."



His proudest moment:

Hong said that "ringing the bell for the Venture Global IPO" was a highlight this year.

He said the people at Venture Global are among the hardest working he's ever come across.

"The IPO is really the culmination of, kind of the big point, in the life cycle of a company where the people really feel like the company has made it," Hong said. "You could see the sacrifices that people had made over many, many years, and I was proud to be a part of it. I knew firsthand how hard everyone had worked, and it was great to see the recognition."

Why he's a capital markets attorney:

When Hong joined Skadden over 18 years ago right after law school, he pictured himself as a mergers and acquisitions lawyer who might later go into banking. But he "did a capital markets rotation almost as an afterthought," and that changed the trajectory of his legal career.

"I'm lucky that I kind of fell into something that I did fall in love with," Hong said. "It was in the midst of a financial crisis and capital markets was a busy practice."

Hong said he likes the "balance between transactional work and a rules-based system."

"It makes you feel like a lawyer on the rules side and like a business person on the commercial side," Hong said. "I love the collaborative nature of the deals. You're not in a zero-sum game. You still have enough negotiation to do to satisfy the lawyer's need to argue, but underlying every one of our transactions is that everybody's kind of rowing in the same direction."

Hong said that when a transaction closes successfully, "everybody wins."

What motivates him:

Hong said it is his love of learning that most motivates him, along with having the expertise to help clients achieve their goals.

"I like being able to help them see the bigger picture and advise them of what things to push back on and what not to," Hong said. "The lawyers who truly become trusted advisers are ones who can help clients do their job better, be more informed and understand the issues."

Hong said that he derives a lot of personal satisfaction from being trusted by clients, such as the Global Auto Holdings CEO with whom Hong worked in bringing about financing for acquisitions that greatly expanded the company.

"When we first started doing a deal with them, nobody wanted to do a deal with them," Hong said. "And now, everybody wants to do a deal with them."

Hong said that, after helping the company navigate multiple transactions and the "twists and turns" that come with that work over the life of a company, he developed a friendship with the key players.

"It's inevitable that you're going to form those types of relationships and friendships," Hong said. "It builds contacts and networks for the future. I really enjoy that."

His advice for junior attorneys:

Hong said he remembers the "deer in the headlights feeling" he experienced as a junior associate.

"You don't understand what's going on, everybody's asking you things, everybody seems busy, and you just want to help but you don't really have the skills or knowledge yet," Hong said. "What I tell people is, 'Be present, be inquisitive, be a team player and be enthusiastic.'"

--As told to Lynn LaRowe. Editing by Melissa Treolo.

Law360's MVPs are attorneys who have distinguished themselves from their peers over the past year through high-stakes litigation, record-breaking deals and complex global matters. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2025 MVP winners after reviewing nearly 900 submissions.