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Skadden Poaches Orrick Global Banking and Finance Lead

By Samson Amore

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What You Need to Know

- Skadden hired Zachary Finley, who had been with Orrick for nearly 25 years, to its Palo Alto office this week.
- Finley was Orrick's global banking and finance lead when he departed.
- Orrick named Bill Haft will assume Finley's prior role, the firm said.

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom has recruited Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe's banking and fund finance practice group leader as a partner in Palo Alto, the firm announced Tuesday.

Zachary Finley was previously a lifer at Orrick, having joined the firm as an associate in its banking and finance group in 2001. He was named partner in 2014 and held the role of banking and finance practice lead at the time of his departure.

Finley advises his clientele — including public and private companies, banking and finance institutions and private capital funds — on an array of matters, such as credit facilities, debt restructuring, investments, and private credit transactions.

Finley oversaw a group of seven domestic partners and four that were based outside of the United States, and he reported to the finance business unit head partner John Wang as part of a team of nearly 100 finance partners at Orrick.

Orrick's corporate finance lawyer Bill Haft will step back into Finley's prior role on an interim basis, the firm said. "We are grateful to Zach for his contributions to our firm and wish him well," an

Orrick spokesperson said in response to his departure.

"Zach joins at a pivotal moment for digital infrastructure and the broader AI ecosystem, which has seen innovative financing solutions that combine project, real estate and leveraged finance to support developers, investors and lenders that are seeking to capitalize on the rapid expansion of the data center market," Skadden's global finance group head Steven Messina said in a statement Monday. Messina added that Finley's practice reflects his deep knowledge of debt markets and his arrival underscores the firm's commitment to our leveraged finance and financial sponsor practice."

Finley said in a statement that "Skadden's reputation for excellence and its collaborative culture make it an ideal platform to grow my work in debt financing transactions, and I look forward to working with my new colleagues on our clients' most complex needs."

Finley holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English language and literature from Santa Clara University and earned his law degree from Harvard University Law School in 2001. In addition to his work in private practice, he served a three-year elected term on the Commercial Transactions Committee of the Business Law division of the State Bar of California, and was the committee's co-chair for a year.



**Skadden partner
Zachary Finley.**

Courtesy photo