

MVP: Latham's Pardis Zomorodi

By **Sanjay Talwani**

Law360 (November 14, 2025, 4:04 PM EST) -- Pardis Zomorodi, partner at Latham & Watkins LLP's transactional tax practice in Los Angeles, has guided companies through the tax aspects of major complex transactions, including 2024's largest IPO and the high-profile merger between Skydance Media and Paramount Global, earning her a spot as one of the 2025 Law360 Tax MVPs.

Her biggest accomplishments:

Zomorodi called the year a phenomenal one for her in terms of the variety and importance of the transactions she worked on.

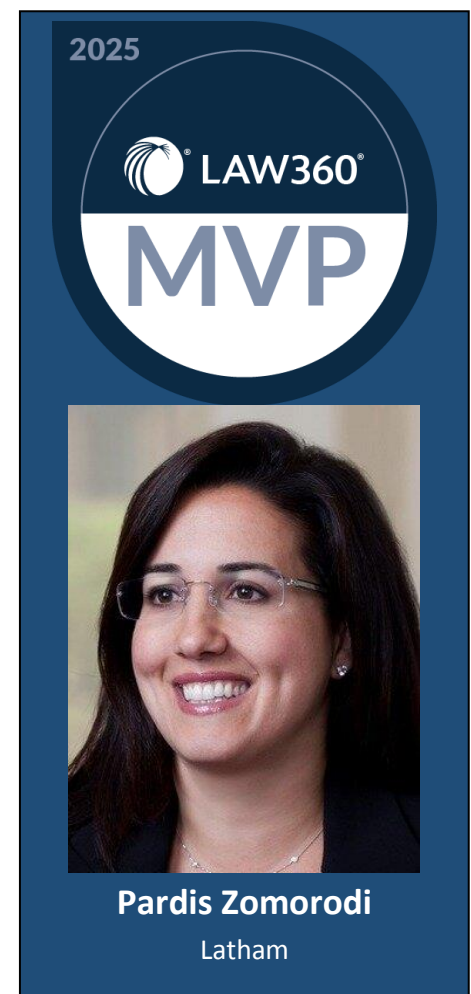
She was the co-lead tax lawyer representing Skydance Media LLC, a client of hers for over a decade, in its merger with Paramount Global, forming a new media company.

"It was complex. It was unique," she said. "It was in everyday news. It was challenging."

More than 200 Latham lawyers worked in some way on the deal, she said, so she had the opportunity to work with numerous people in different disciplines.

At the same time, she said, she was working on the \$4.4 billion initial public offering of Lineage Inc., a global warehouse real estate investment trust with more than 480 facilities worldwide. The largest IPO of 2024, it was the culmination of more than 13 years of work with Lineage by Zomorodi and other Latham attorneys, from fundraising to pioneering a private capital structure and strategy, and on through the IPO, she said.

"And when you do that, you become a member of that team," she said of working with both Lineage and Skydance. "You work with some people over a decade, they become your friends, you're vested. ... So it was really rewarding to do these."



Other notable deals she's worked on:

Zomorodi also represented real estate company Howard Hughes Holdings Inc. on the tax aspects of the spinoff of its Seaport Entertainment division into a separate public company, Seaport Entertainment Group Inc.

"So, three giant transactions, very different issues involved in all of them, all of them incredibly satisfying, incredibly challenging, rewarding and complex, but also great deals," she said.

With the complexity of the transactions, she said, there's no way one person could do it all, and Latham's success is a testament to its deep bench.

"We all pitch in together, we all help each other, and we help do these transactions, seamlessly," she said.

Zomorodi also guided Skechers USA on tax matters related to its \$9.4 billion take-private acquisition by investment firm 3G Capital.

She said the number of other recent very large take-private transactions might be an indication of things to come.

"And we're lucky because we're on the forefront of that," she added.

Why she's a tax attorney:

Zomorodi, who has a Master of Laws degree in tax, knew in law school that tax law was what she wanted to do.

"I like it a lot," she said. "It's interesting. It's challenging. It's putting together a puzzle."

Zomorodi gets to work with a wide variety of people, she said — M&A, capital markets, financing and international lawyers.

When one is able to structure a transaction successfully, "it's very rewarding intellectually, emotionally, everything," she said.

Her advice for junior attorneys:

Zomorodi said a great start is to take tax classes in law school, to develop an understanding of the practice.

Junior attorneys should be curious, ask questions, work hard and learn, she said. And tax law is a great career, Zomorodi added.

"It's rewarding, you meet an amazing number of very interesting people," she said. "And I have to say that I'm really lucky because I work at a place where we emphasize our culture, and I think the fact that you could do those transactions at the same time kind of underscores that this is a great collaborative culture where we all pitch in with each other and help out."

Zomorodi said law remains a human industry, with a human touch needed to negotiate deals and put

together all the pieces.

Asked about advances such as artificial intelligence, she said she was reminded of the past advent of new technologies, such as the BlackBerry.

"It helps us become more efficient, but at the end of the day, this is still a relationship business," she said. "And it's still about having people that are working together and helping drive an outcome for our clients."

--As told to Sanjay Talwani. Editing by Kristen Becker.

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.

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