MVP: Goodwin's James Ding

By **Tim Ryan**

Law360 (November 6, 2026, 4:00 PM EST) -- Goodwin partner James Ding co-led Roku's $22 billion sale to Fox Corp. and worked on multibillion-dollar sales of software company MeridianLink and life sciences company Blueprint Medicines, earning him a spot among the 2026 Law 360 Technology MVPs.



His biggest accomplishment:

Ding served as co-leader of the Goodwin technology and mergers and acquisitions groups that guided Roku through a sale to Fox with an enterprise value of $22 billion. The agreement has been approved by both companies' boards of directors and is scheduled to close in the first half of next year, creating what the companies say will be one of the largest combined streaming services in the country.

Ding said he was one of the only people to have "360-degree visibility" on the transaction through his role on the deal team, which meant that he was responsible for coordinating with the many different constituencies involved in the process. One particularly difficult challenge of the deal was the public attention it received because of the prominence and reach of the brands and the services that they provide, Ding said.

It fell on Ding to communicate the complex legal topics and strategic decision-making to the various people involved in the transaction, from investment bankers to associates and senior partners on his own team.

To do so, Ding said, he drew on a somewhat unexpected source — his time teaching third grade. Ding said teaching children new skills like multiplication required him to develop communication skills and an understanding of how different people learn that he has found valuable in his current work.

"I think a lot of that was a transferable skill in being able to synthesize knowledge to what I'm doing now as a transactional attorney," Ding said.

Other notable cases he's been involved in:

Aside from the Roku deal, Ding said marshaling cloud-based financial software firm MeridianLink's $2 billion sale to Centerbridge and biopharmaceutical company Blueprint Medicines' $9.5 billion acquisition by Sanofi were two other particularly notable accomplishments.

The Blueprint Medicines deal illustrates that while his focus is in technology, he is able to handle matters across a number of industries, Ding said. To transition between different industries, it is important to have "institutional knowledge" about what buyers look for in transactions, as well as developing an intimate understanding of how the company operates, he said.

"I think in a public M&A deal, it's important to understand your client's business like the back of your hand, because at the end of the day, you're selling that entire asset to a buyer," Ding said.

Why he's a technology attorney:

Ding came to his current career as a technology attorney with a focus on mergers and acquisitions in a somewhat nontraditional path that included his stint as an elementary school teacher. His summer associate program gave him valuable cross-experience between litigation and corporate law, but he found that in the end, the skills he picked up in the classroom were more easily applied to his current practice.

The work itself is rewarding, Ding said, including the effort that goes into creating value for companies and the unpredictable pace of the deals.

"I enjoy the adrenaline rush, if you will, of these M&A deals that can be very fast and proceed on very unforeseeable timelines," Ding said.

His advice to junior attorneys:

While the deals that Ding works on are complex and involve many moving parts, he said most come down to a few discrete topics that predominate and influence how the rest of the transaction plays out. Young attorneys can benefit from learning how to identify and isolate those specific issues early on and let them guide how they proceed with the rest of the deal, Ding said.

"There usually is a very finite number of key considerations on deals. It might not be obvious, but it pervades everything that you do," Ding said. "If you are a junior associate, it kind of behooves you to ask yourself first, 'How do these key issues potentially affect what I'm doing in the work stream that I'm leading on?'"

--As told to Tim Ryan. Editing by Patrick Reagan.

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