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Thomson Reuters' Westlaw Today: Q&A - O'Melveny's Irwin Raji on the race for sports deal work in the COVID-19 era



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O'Melveny Sports Industry Group co-chair Irwin Raji spoke with *Thomson Reuters* about the M&A deal market in the face of COVID-19 and his recent representations, which have included the Kansas City Royals in a media rights agreement and The Friedkin Group's acquisition of the controlling stake in Italian football club AS Roma.

"My plan was to have 60% of my work be facility development-related, 20% to 25% in M&A and the remainder in media," Raji said, describing his expectations going into 2020. "With M&A work, COVID really had an impact. Especially in the beginning, people were frozen. I was hoping for a really good year. And in the United States it's still a good year."

Asked whether he feels sports M&A has yet rebounded, Raji stated that while "there's so much going on in the world today" combining to impact deal activity, it's not unusual to see an ebb and flow in M&A. "I've been fortunate to have a full plate. Are there a million deals to do? No, I don't think so. But that's the nature of the practice anyway... It's always been competitive to get these deals, even more competitive now."

Thomson Reuters' Westlaw Today subscribers can read the full interview [here](#).