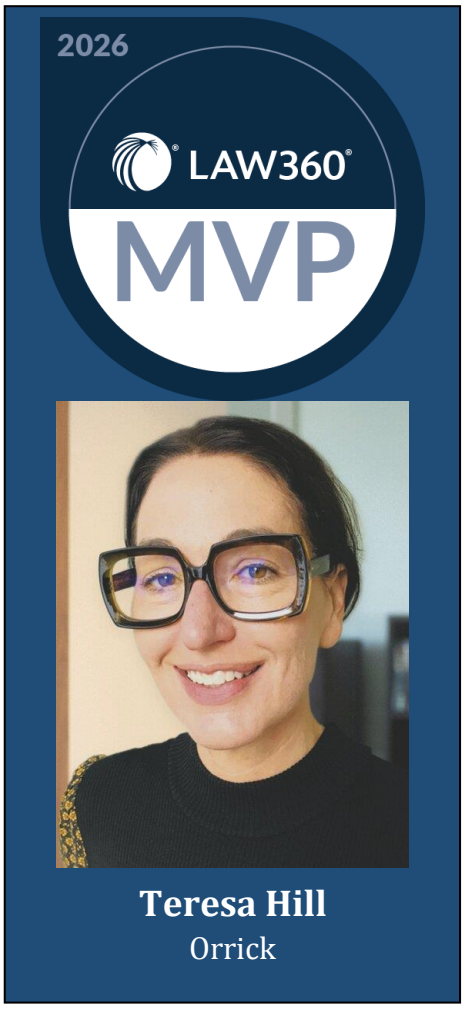
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MVP: Orrick's Teresa Hill

By **Christine DeRosa**

Law360 (November 16, 2026, 4:00 PM EST) -- Teresa Hill of Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP guided Microsoft Corp. through a major power purchase agreement with a Chevron subsidiary and helped lead nuclear power company Oklo Inc. in a power agreement with Meta Platforms, earning her a spot as one of the 2026 Law360 Energy MVPs.



Her biggest accomplishment:

Hill said her biggest accomplishment over the last year was advising Microsoft on a 20-year power purchase agreement with Chevron subsidiary Energy Forge One to support one of the U.S.' largest co-located natural gas and data center developments. Known as Project Kilby, it is planned to have a power capacity of 2.67 gigawatts and will be located in Pecos, Texas.

When it announced Project Kilby in June, Chevron said the natural gas facility is expected to start operating in 2028 and the entire project will create over $10 billion worth of tax revenue. The project will support nearly 2,000 jobs and won't use freshwater, the company said.

"I think it's a deal that really highlights what's going on in the industry today with respect to the limitations of the current power grid and supply chains and their inability to keep pace with AI and cloud advancements and their associated energy demand," said Hill, who has worked with Microsoft since 2020. "It's really driving innovation in deal structures and requiring a new level of coordination between energy and infrastructure."

Her biggest challenge:

For Hill, who is on Orrick's management committee and leads the data centers practice, the biggest challenge she's faced over the past year is the pace and scale of the deals she works on.

Hill said transactions like the Microsoft deal are "enormous" and require countless hours and seamless coordination among internal and external counsel.

While those large deals have multiple components, Hill said the core transactions move quickly because

it's a competitive environment and if you sit and iterate on them for too long, the industry and opportunity will pass you by.

"If you had told me 20 years ago, 'You're going to do a 2.7 gigawatt power deal over the summer,' I would have been like, 'No, that will never happen,'" Hill said.

She added that she feels fortunate that she's been in the industry for many years and has worked with specific clients for a long time, which paves the way for her to jump in and do meaty deals.

Hill's also grateful for Orrick's large offtake team, including the firm's specialized offtake associates, who help on matters. She said they sometimes even leverage associates in offices overseas to use all 24 hours of the clock, allowing Hill to interact with people around the world and keep a work-life balance while advancing deals for clients.

Her proudest moment:

While singling out one moment over the last year feels like choosing her favorite child, Hill said, she's extremely proud of the work she and her team did for Oklo on its agreement with Meta Platforms to develop a 1.2GW power campus supporting Meta's data centers and AI supercluster in Ohio.

The transaction marked Oklo's first large-scale binding power agreement. The project is expected to support thousands of jobs, strengthen Ohio's clean energy workforce, and generate long-term local and state tax revenue through major infrastructure investment.

"We as a firm pride ourselves as innovating at that convergence of energy and technology, and the work for Oklo, where they're deploying a new generation of advanced nuclear reactors, sits right in that sweet spot," Hill said.

Hill, who was also named a Law360 MVP in 2024, added that everything she loves, like new technologies and innovative energy solutions, are all wrapped up in that deal.

Why she's an energy attorney:

When Hill was in law school, she thought her focus would be on environmental law, and she always wanted to do something impactful to the planet. But at the beginning of her career, the renewables industry was taking off, and it became clear that the energy industry was for her.

Hill said she's motivated by ensuring that society is working toward a just energy transition while simultaneously focusing on overall decarbonization of the grid. She's also driven to remain in the energy space because she's able to do work where she feels she's making a difference.

Right now is an interesting time in the energy field, Hill said, because the current focus on speed to power and keeping pace with rapid technological advancements create challenges but also present an opportunity.

"Suddenly, everyone is interested in energy ... and the challenges that the energy grid has, and I think it's a time where it is creating new opportunities to deploy new technologies and build resiliency," Hill said. "That's why you have a deal like Oklo."

In this period of rapid change in the energy industry, Hill added that decarbonization can still be a focus

since there's so much investment in bringing power to data centers, the electrification of fleet vehicles and more.

"There's so much need for electricity that what better time for innovation?" Hill said.

Her advice for junior attorneys:

Hill urges young attorneys to embrace technology and AI, calling it a differentiator for them.

Younger attorneys are coming in as the first generation of native AI lawyers who were trained on the technology from the beginning, she said.

"They really have a unique opportunity to help firms adopt these tools and shape the way they deliver legal services in a way that I think is hard for me because I've been practicing for so long. You get set in your ways," Hill said.

Orrick is accelerating its training programs so new associates can acclimate faster to the substance of their jobs by utilizing technology to help with tasks, according to Hill.

"These are the simplest tasks, but they're revolutionary to me because I used to, as an associate, have to cross-check the page numbers and the citations ... and then you can look at the substance and the advice," Hill said. "One of the great things about practicing this long is now my task is really to be that strategic adviser at a high level, and if you can accelerate people's path to [attaining that level], it's really the rewarding part of the career."

--As told to Christine DeRosa. Editing by Bruce Goldman.

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 2026 MVP winners after reviewing nearly 1,000 submissions.

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