



Navid Mahmoodzadegan Moelis & Co.



Managing Director

Almost two years ago, Navid Mahmoodzadegan and a group of colleagues took a leap of faith by leaving UBS to establish a new firm.

Mahmoodzadegan, who had been UBS' global head of media investment banking, followed veteran dealmaker Ken Moelis to help start Moelis & Co., which opened for business in July 2007. Since then, Moelis & Co. has been retained in highly-publicized situations, such as Yahoo's defense against Microsoft, and made headlines as a prolific recruiter.

Investment banking, though, was not the first stop on Mahmoodzadegan's career path. He started out as an associate at law firm Irell & Manella. "I was a lawyer who didn't want to be a lawyer anymore," he says. "To me, banking is more fun and interesting—at the end of the day you're more involved in the behind-the-scenes action on deals." The 39-year-old native of suburban Detroit left law and in 1995 arrived at Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, where he met Moelis.

Mahmoodzadegan, who has three children, and his mentor are active supporters of the Tourette Syndrome Association, of which Moelis is chairman.