



Antitrust and Competition

Understanding global antitrust and competition rules is a necessary and prudent part of any successful business strategy in today's global economy. These laws are complex, but they govern a broad range of business conduct: interaction with competitors; obtaining and maintaining a dominant market position; forming supplier and customer arrangements; participation in trade associations; conduct in joint ventures and corporate mergers and acquisitions. Indeed, these laws have the potential to impact virtually every aspect of a company's business plan and activities in the marketplace.

Whether your company is large or small, if it is considering forming a business alliance, moving into a new market, taking a new tack with its competitors, implementing a new production, marketing or distribution strategy, or growing through corporate development, advice concerning the requirements of antitrust and competition laws is essential. The risks and consequences of non-compliance can be severe.

CAPABILITES

Investigations

Our investigations experience is market leading and diverse. Our lawyers have represented companies in a full range of competition investigations and enforcement actions conducted by, for example, the US DOJ, US FTC, the European Commission, the UK Office of Fair Trading, UK Competition Commission, the Australian ACCC, the French Autorité de la Concurrence, the German Bundeskartellamt, the Austrian Kartellgericht, the Dutch ACM, the Spanish Competition Authority, and the Korean FTC.

Counselling

We counsel our clients on national and international competition and antitrust laws, unfair trade practices, prospective acquisitions, price discrimination issues, abuse of dominance and intellectual property issues.

Mergers and Acquisitions

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RELATED SERVICES

- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Merger Control
- Intellectual Property and Technology

RELATED SECTORS

- Financial Services

We have a strong multi-jurisdictional merger practice that can seamlessly coordinate filings in jurisdictions worldwide.

We are able to help clients analyse any potential competition issues, coordinate multijurisdictional merger clearances, represent clients before regulatory agencies, analyse and negotiate potential remedies, deal with in-depth investigations and advise on merger litigation.

Compliance Audits and Programs

Our experience is diverse and includes representing companies in a full range of competition matters. This diversity in expertise allows us to provide advice to our clients on all areas of competition compliance including auditing existing policies and procedures and enables us to provide clients with commercial and practical solutions. This includes with regards to the implementation of a compliance programme, the provision of training including on raids, or any changes to existing policies and procedures.

Cartel Enforcement Defence

Criminal cartel enforcement is a top priority of competition Regulatory Authorities and cartel investigations, in particular those with international aspects, are on the rise.

Our team acts regularly for multinational clients and provides a globally coordinated approach in representing client before the regulators and in negotiating resolutions. The team has much experience in assisting client with leniency and amnesty applications and where necessary defends clients through litigation.

Civil Litigation / Class Actions

Private litigation is fast becoming as important as public regulation as a means of enforcing competition law.

We have considerable experience in advising claimants and defendants in competition based litigation in a number of jurisdictions, and representing clients appealing regulator decisions to the European and domestic Courts.

Criminal Antitrust Defence

Our team provides criminal defence to clients including in response to raids, managing disclosure, leniency negotiations with Regulators, defence of Criminal Litigation and in relation to Trials and Appeals.

State Aid

We have a strong track record in State aid work, acting for funding bodies, recipients of aid and those who feel that their interests have been damaged by unlawful aid awarded to their competitors.

EXPERIENCE

- Acting for two pharmaceutical companies in separate 'pay for delay' pharmaceutical patent settlements in Europe.
- Represented Church & Dwight in the Church & Dwight v. Mayer Labs antitrust case and related FTC investigation. In granting our summary judgment motion, the California federal judge held that a C&D shelf share discount incentive rebate program involving Trojan condoms did not constitute anti-competitive monopoly behaviour. This is a significant win for the client, who has been engaged in hotly contested litigation for more than four years with competitor Mayer Laboratories. We also convinced the FTC to drop its three year investigation without a consent decree or any conditions and the FTC agreed to destroy all documents.
- Advised Etihad Airways in relation to their equity investment in Air Berlin which required both merger control and regulatory advice, as well as competition law advice in relation to commercial co-operation agreements between the two airlines.

- Energy and Natural Resources
- Hospitality and Leisure
- Insurance
- Life Sciences
- Media, Sport and Entertainment
- Industrials
- Technology

- Advised two of the largest companies in provision of secure electronic payment technologies a complex acquisition. This involved creating cooperation between a number of competition authorities.
- Building a global compliance function with particular emphasis on antitrust, anti-corruption, antimoney laundering, international trade regulation/OFAC, government relations, and privacy/data security for an international insurance and financial services company.
- Representing a global airline in the General Court against the European Commission's air cargo cartel decision, with simultaneous damages litigation in the UK and the Netherlands.
- Advising one of the world's largest freight forwarders in the context of a European Commission cartel investigation and a subsequent appeal to the General Courts. The team successfully secured a significant fine reduction for the client which was being investigated by anti-trust authorities, notably the European Commission and US Department of Justice, following global dawn raids across the industry in 2007.
- Acting for a global airline in complex class action cases currently pending in the US including in the Southern District of New York, Eastern District of New York and the Northern District of California District Courts. The Plaintiffs allege billions of US dollars in damages.
- Advising a Japanese manufacturer of electronic equipment, in multi-district class action antitrust litigation alleging violations of the Sherman Act and state laws in the optical disk drive industry.
- Acting for Pool Corporation and its subsidiaries in a multi-district litigation alleging violations of the antitrust laws in regard to the distribution of swimming pool products and supplies. The case is pending in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana and is in the discovery stage.

INSIGHTS

Publications

Top franchise developments of 2018

11 APR 2019

DLA Piper IPT attorneys Barry Heller, John Hughes and Karen Marchiano recently conducted a webinar reviewing 2018's top franchise developments. Two stand out from the rest.

Top of Mind: Litigation

20 MAR 2019

In this issue, our coverage of 10 big topics businesses have been thinking about this quarter.

Global Merger Control Handbook

28 JAN 2019

With an increasing number of cross-border transactions taking place in today's fast-changing global environment, an understanding of, and compliance with, national and regional legislation and requirements are of vital importance.

The era of more effective EU competition enforcement has begun

17 DEC 2018

On 4 December 2018, the Council of the European Union adopted a Proposal for a new Directive designed to empower the competition authorities of the Member States (NCAs) to be more effective enforcers and to ensure the proper functioning of the

internal market (ECN+).

Global Anticorruption Newsletter

5 DEC 2018

DLA Piper's *Global Anticorruption Newsletter* offers practical guidance on complying with international bribery laws.

Antitrust Matters - July 2018

24 JUL 2018

[ANTITRUST MATTERS SERIES](#)

We are pleased to share with you a New Edition of our periodical global publication Antitrust Matters.

Increasing Level of EU Fines For Procedural Infringements in Mergers?

25 APR 2018

The fines imposed by the European Commission (the Commission) for substantive breaches of competition law have been steadily increasing in recent years, culminating in the high fines imposed on Intel (€1.06bn), Google (€2.42bn) and the participants in the trucks cartel (totalling €3.8bn). However, the Commission is also increasingly enforcing procedural competition law rules, particularly in the context of the European Merger Regulation (the EUMR), imposing fines for breaches, the most recent example being the €124.5m fine on Altice for implementing its acquisition of PT Portugal before receiving merger clearance.

DLA Piper South Africa

13 DEC 2017

DLA Piper South Africa offers legal services to clients based in South Africa, Africa and internationally. Our services include Corporate/M&A, Capital Markets, Finance and Projects, Competition and Tax law.

Antitrust Matters - November 2017

23 NOV 2017

[ANTITRUST MATTERS SERIES](#)

We are pleased to share with you a Special Edition of our periodical global publication Antitrust Matters.

Big data may become big antitrust concern

19 SEP 2017

Considering the antitrust implications of the collection and use of big data.

Threat of antitrust "dawn raids" in Indonesia

14 AUG 2017

Recent actions by Indonesia's principal competition authority, the Business Competition Supervisory Commission, portend an increased threat of dawn raids in Indonesian antitrust investigations.

Risky IT Programs - The Use of Algorithms and Risk of Collusion under Antitrust Laws

20 JUN 2017

On 14 June 2017, the OECD published a Note from the EU on Algorithms and Collusion. An updated background note on Algorithms and Collusion was published by the OECD Secretariat on 9 June 2017. At the same time the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) also published a policy paper on the impact of algorithms and the US approach.

Cartel Enforcement Global Review - June 2017

13 JUN 2017

The 2017 global review of cartel enforcement provides insights into trends that have emerged around the world in recent years, using our global network of competition and antitrust lawyers to track the latest developments in cartel enforcement.

A new test for Mexico's structural changes: antitrust reform – key points in one chart

16 JUN 2014

This entirely new framework should be carefully analyzed by investors in structuring their Mexico-related M&A transactions and managing their existing operations

[Events](#)

[Previous](#)

Antitrust aspects of big data and algorithms

23 JAN 2018

Webinar

[NEWS](#)

DLA Piper announces partnership promotions for 2019

1 APR 2019

DLA Piper is proud to announce that 77 lawyers have been promoted to its partnership. The promotions are effective as of April 1, 2019 in the United States and May 1, 2019 for EMEA and Asia Pacific. The promotions were made across many of the firm's practice areas in 43 different offices throughout 20 countries.

DLA Piper hosts leading business and diplomacy conference

14 MAR 2019

DLA Piper's London office has hosted the Annual Conference of the International Diplomatic and Business Exchange (IBDE).

DLA Piper's GTGA team named Sanctions Law Firm of the year 2018

27 JUL 2018

DLA Piper's Global Trade and Government Affairs (GTGA) team has been named Sanctions Law Firm of the year, Europe, at this year's WorldECR Awards.

DLA Piper announces partnership promotions for 2018

3 APR 2018

DLA Piper is proud to announce that 62 lawyers have been promoted to its partnership. The promotions are effective as of 1 April 2018 in the United States and 1 May 2018 for EMEA and Asia Pacific. The promotions were made across many of the firm's practice areas in 42 different offices throughout 20 countries.

DLA Piper advises Timor-Leste on historic maritime treaty

6 MAR 2018

DLA Piper has been advising the Government of Timor-Leste, for more than four years, on its historic maritime treaty with the Australian Government, signed today at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, following the successful outcome of a compulsory conciliation process.

Six months until GDPR: companies still reporting low levels of preparedness

15 Nov 2017

For the over 200 organisations responding to DLA Piper's Data Privacy Scorebox online survey tool since the start of the year, the average alignment score with all key international data privacy principles was 31.5%, as against an 38.3% average score for respondents in the 2016 calendar year.

DLA Piper establishes EU-Greek practice in Brussels

21 SEP 2017

DLA Piper has today announced the establishment of a Brussels based EU-Greek practice.

Major sporting events and human rights: Where are we now?

19 JUN 2017

A report prepared by DLA Piper for the Mega-Sporting Events Platform for Human Rights, has highlighted the importance for sports governing bodies of identifying human rights risks in candidate cities for major sporting events.
