

UK Regulatory | Antitrust and competition

In a global regulatory environment, we offer timely and practical advice. We have long been recognized as a market leader in UK and EU competition law - and are an integral part of one of the largest global regulatory and competition practices. We embed ourselves at the heart of our clients' commercial strategies, working closely with senior management. We provide prompt and focused counselling and advice on current and proposed commercial practices and agreements, which is a critical part of risk management for our clients.

We advise clients on all aspects of UK and EU competition law, including:

- Assisting clients obtain merger clearances, including on deals facing complex in-depth and deal-critical competition reviews before the UK Competition and Markets Authority and the European Commission. These are often carried out as part of worldwide multi-jurisdictional merger filings, for which we will devise filing strategies. We also navigate clients through the increasing complexity of FDI filings, and work closely with our corporate and public policy practice to traverse any regulatory hurdles.
- Advising clients on investigations conducted by antitrust agencies in the UK, Europe and beyond, including many of the highest-profile cartels and abuse of dominance investigations. We routinely advise clients defending cross-border investigations around the world and help those clients who want to bring complaints.
- Handling large, complex and precedent-setting antitrust litigation, including damages claims brought in the UK, and navigating multi-jurisdictional claims.
- Advising clients on UK and EU sector reviews where the potential outcomes include major structural changes to the industry concerned. In this, and other contexts, we draw on our experience of complex sectors facing heavy scrutiny, and our knowledge of the interplay of competition and related powers by sectoral regulators.



Examples of our UK experience

- Advised AmerisourceBergen as antitrust and FDI counsel on its US\$6.47bn acquisition of Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc.'s Alliance Healthcare wholesale distribution business in Europe, dealing with a number of filings including to the European Commission.
- Advised IBM on the worldwide antitrust merger clearance aspects of its US\$34bn acquisition of Red Hat Inc.
- Advised Bottomline Technologies (DE) Inc, a global payments software group, in obtaining unconditional Phase 2 merger clearance before the UK CMA for its acquisition of assets from Experian Limited.
- Advising a number of tech and media parties in relation to the UK Competition and Markets Authority's online platforms and digital advertising market study.
- Advising a global provider of corporate risk advisory and other services in respect of the European Commission's investigation of possible anticompetitive practices in the aviation and aerospace insurance and reinsurance broking sector.
- Representing Vodafone in relation to claims by the administrators of Phones 4U alleging an anti-competitive agreement between the three biggest UK mobile operators (Vodafone, O2, EE) and their then-parent companies.
- Advised Novartis on the filings strategy and substantive assessment of Novartis' exclusive worldwide license and collaboration agreement with Mesoblast Limited.
- Advising a UK bank on the application of the State aid rules in the context of Government support schemes in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Advised an American multinational manufacturer on its defense of cartel damages claims in the English High Court.
- Advised ITV on the creation of BritBox, the UK streaming service joint venture with the BBC.



Clients say ...

"A lot of in-depth experience."

Chambers UK, 2021

"Always practical, down-to-earth and fast-moving."

Legal 500, 2020

"The team has the unique ability to distill practical advice and explain it clearly to clients unfamiliar with the intricacies of the challenging area of competition law."

Legal 500, 2020



Recognized for excellence

Winner of Merger Control Matter of the Year award in Europe for the IBM/Red Hat transaction, *Global Competition Review 2020*

Top ten firm, *GCR 100 Global Elite Antitrust and Competition Practices, 2021*

Highly recognized by *Chambers UK and Legal 500 UK, 2021*

Winner of Litigation of the Year – Cartel Defence, *GCR Awards, 2018*



London contacts



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