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GLOBAL COMPETITION REVIEW

WOMEN IN ANTITRUST 2016
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Introduction

The fifth edition of Women in Antitrust marks the first time Global Competition Review has profiled more than 100 women private practitioners, enforcers, in-house counsel, economists and academics.

Although it is impossible to include every woman worthy of recognition, this publication endeavours to highlight many of those who have been at the forefront of competition law in their respective jurisdictions and made groundbreaking contributions to the ever-changing, increasingly globalised competition landscape.

Rather than traditional biographies, we asked our 150 entrants to tell us about themselves and their passions – both in and out of the office. Some we have tipped our hats to before, while others appear for the first time. The diverse list of women include musicians, authors, mountain climbers and runners; women who say they have never experienced gender-based disadvantages while climbing the career ladder, and others who started at a time when ‘acting like a man’ but never wearing trousers was the only way up.

Among the enforcers on our list are six officials at the helm of the US Federal Trade Commission, a robust and entirely women-led antitrust authority to which we pay special tribute in this edition.

This year’s survey features in-depth interviews with competition commissioner of the European Union Margrethe Vestager; Mona El Garf, chairperson of Egypt’s Competition Authority; and Alejandra Palacios Prieto, chairwoman of Mexico’s Federal Economic Competition Commission. For the first time, we also hosted a roundtable including six top women antitrust lawyers.

Thank you to everyone who took part. GCR



Margaret “Peggy” Zwisler

Partner, Latham & Watkins, Washington, DC
Years in antitrust: 40

I did not plan to become a competition lawyer. I went to law school in 1973 – after I had been a legal secretary and a paralegal in the litigation department of what is now Mayer Brown – for the express purpose of becoming a courtroom lawyer representing corporations in complex cases. In those days, women made up around 12 per cent of the legal profession, so in large law firms there were few, if any, opportunities for women trial lawyers in any practice area, let alone antitrust.

When I sought a permanent job in the fall of 1975, most of the firms that I interviewed with were skeptical about putting women in a litigation practice area. I interviewed at what was then Howrey Simon Baker & Murchison and at the time it was an antitrust litigation boutique. Howrey offered me the opportunity that no other firm did: to become a courtroom lawyer. So, I became an antitrust trial lawyer because that was the only practice area that Howrey had at the time when I joined it after graduation in 1976.
