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TOP ANTITRUST LAWYERS 2025



Meet the practitioners shaping how markets compete in a year of landmark antitrust actions.



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Joshua Holian has spent 25 years at Latham & Watkins LLP, building an antitrust practice focused on mergers and conduct investigations for technology and life sciences companies. His path into antitrust began before law school, when he worked for two years as a paralegal specialist at the U.S. Department of Justice's antitrust division, handling merger reviews and conduct investigations.

"Working as a paralegal at DOJ was a great introduction to antitrust; I found the

push-and-pull between antitrust theory and practical business realities fascinating," Holian said.

During his career, he learned from prominent antitrust practitioners including Karen Silverman, Dan Wall, Tad Lipsky and Tom Rosch. The lessons from these mentors shaped his approach to client service. "To give great antitrust advice, you need to know your client's business deeply and you need to be able to explain the antitrust rules simply, in a lived-in and practical way," Holian said.

His technology practice includes work with NVIDIA on multiple mergers and acquisitions matters. Holian secured US regulatory approvals for NVIDIA's acquisition of Run:ai, an Israel-based AI infrastructure company.

On the life sciences side, Holian guided Cerevel Therapeutics through an \$8.7 billion acquisition by AbbVie that required an extended FTC antitrust review. The transaction cleared the FTC without remedies and closed in August 2024, allowing Cerevel's pipeline of therapies for conditions like Parkinson's and schizophrenia to benefit from AbbVie's resources.

The Cerevel matter demonstrates the substance of modern antitrust work. Cerevel was developing treatments for challenging disease states, and AbbVie had

drug products addressing some of the same therapeutic categories, Holian said. The FTC conducted a months-long investigation to evaluate whether Cerevel was an emerging competitor to AbbVie in specific disease states, he added.

Holian's team resolved the FTC's investigation by demonstrating that Cerevel's drug candidates would not directly compete with anything in AbbVie's portfolio and that Cerevel's offerings would be generationally different from existing treatments. "Securing FTC clearance demanded a strategic approach to advocacy, clear communication with agency staff, and the ability to demonstrate that the transaction would not harm competition," Holian said.

The landscape for deal-facing antitrust work has shifted in recent years. "In just the last year or two, the intersection between antitrust, foreign investment and global trade policy has come together in some extraordinarily complicated and impactful ways," Holian said. "If you want to do deal-facing antitrust work on the global stage in this environment, it is no longer enough to just think about the technicalities of antitrust; you have to account for and navigate all these complex intersections to help get your client to the right result."