

Valarie C. Williams

Partner

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Valarie Williams concentrates her practice in antitrust litigation, with extensive experience in both prosecuting and defending complex multidistrict antitrust cases for Fortune 100 companies. She focuses on cartel litigation with a multinational dimension. She regularly counsels clients on mergers and acquisitions (including filings under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976 and international premerger notification laws) and has assisted clients with investigations by the U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission challenging proposed business combinations. She also regularly assists companies in developing or improving document management and e-discovery programs.

Valarie has been recognized for her antitrust experience by *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* and as a leading lawyer in antitrust law by *The Best Lawyers in America*®. Valarie has been active in the leadership of the ABA Antitrust Section for over 15 years.

Representative Experience

- Representing the McLane Company in a case alleging the monopolization of Keurig K-cups.
- Lead counsel to Microsoft in the prosecution of antitrust claims related to the price-fixing of lithium-ion batteries.
- Lead counsel to Fieldale Farms in defending a putative nationwide class action filed in the Northern District of Illinois alleging price-fixing in the chicken industry.
- Lead counsel to Nokia in the prosecution of antitrust claims related to the price-fixing of LCD screens.
- Represented Mohawk in defending a nationwide class action alleging price-fixing of polyurethane foam.
- Lead counsel to CVS Health in the prosecution of antitrust claims related to the price-fixing of canned tuna.
- Representing SunTrust in defending a putative nationwide class action alleging antitrust violations in the payment card industry.
- Lead antitrust counsel for a multinational industrial mineral producer in connection with Department of Justice investigations into multiple acquisitions of competitors. Resolved investigations before a second request.
- Lead antitrust counsel for a multinational medical device company in connection with a Federal Trade Commission investigation into the acquisition of its competitor. Negotiated a consent decree, allowing the client to complete the acquisition.
- Lead counsel for Auto Auction Services Corporation in a lawsuit filed in the Northern District of California alleging various antitrust claims, including monopolization, group boycott, and related California state-law claims.
- Lead counsel for an inventory management company in a Federal Trade Commission investigation into its business practices.

- Represented a leading dialysis provider in a merger with a competitor, negotiating a consent decree with the Federal Trade Commission allowing the client to complete the acquisition.
- Advised companies on creating legally defensible document retention and preservation policies for over 10 years; advising Fortune 500 companies on document retention issues, including strategies for creating and implementing effective document management programs, legal preservation plans for paper and electronic documents, and processes to effectively respond to requests for e-discovery.

Publications & Presentations

Publications

- “Below-Cost Pricing Brings Potential Liabilities,” *Progressive Grocer*, May 7, 2021.
- “Supreme Court Decision Weakens Deference to Foreign Laws,” *Law360*, June 26, 2018.
- “Peace Is Complicated: Global Settlements from an In-House Counsel Perspective,” *The Antitrust Counselor*, Vol. 10.4, June 2016.

Presentations

- “Law and Economics of No-Poach Agreements: A Primer LIVE Webcast,” webinar, October 20, 2021.
- “Debating Class Action Mechanisms in the U.S. and EU,” chair, 65th ABA Section of Antitrust Law Spring Meeting, Washington, D.C., March 29, 2017.

Professional & Community Engagement

- American Bar Association Antitrust Law Section, Canadian Bar Association National Competition Law Section, liaison
- American Bar Association Antitrust Law Section, Governing Council (2016-2019)
- American Bar Association Antitrust Law Section’s Antitrust Law Developments, 8th edition, editorial board
- American Bar Association Antitrust Law Section, Books and Treatises Committee, chair (2004-2007)

Education

- University of California, Berkeley (J.D., 1995)
- Georgia State University (B.B.A., 1990)

Admitted to Practice

- California
- Georgia

Related Services

Litigation | Antitrust | Corporate Plaintiff’s Litigation | Technology & Telecommunications Litigation | Antitrust: Mergers, Compliance, and Investigations | Food, Beverage & Agribusiness