



Valarie C. Williams

Partner

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Related Services

Litigation ■ Antitrust ■ Corporate Plaintiff's Litigation ■ Technology & Telecommunications Litigation ■ Antitrust: Mergers, Compliance & Investigations ■ Food, Beverage & Agribusiness

Valarie Williams is co-leader of Alston & Bird's Antitrust Team. She 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.

Valarie has 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.

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 Microsoft as lead trial counsel in a lawsuit filed in the Northern District of California by civil plaintiffs aiming to block the company's \$69 billion proposed acquisition of gaming company Activision Blizzard.
- Lead counsel to Microsoft in the prosecution of antitrust claims related to the price-fixing of lithium-ion batteries (N.D. Cal.).
- Representing AliveCor in a Ninth Circuit appeal seeking to overturn a summary judgment decision dismissing its monopolization claims against Apple.
- Lead counsel to Fieldale Farms in defending two putative nationwide class actions alleging price-fixing and wage-fixing in the chicken industry (N.D. Ill.; D. Md.).
- Lead counsel to the McLane Company in a case alleging the monopolization of Keurig K-cups (S.D.N.Y.).
- Defended Syniverse, a mobile telecommunications company, in a Section 2 refusal to deal case with favorable results for the client (M.D. Fl.).

- Lead counsel to multinational telecommunications, information technology, and consumer electronics company in the prosecution of antitrust claims related to the price-fixing of LCD screens (N.D. Cal.).
- Lead counsel for an inventory management company in two successive lawsuits alleging various antitrust claims, including monopolization and group boycott, with favorable results for the client (N.D. Cal; W.D.N.Y.).
- Represented Mohawk in defending a nationwide class action alleging price-fixing of polyurethane foam (N.D. Ohio).
- Lead counsel to a major pharmacy and health care company in the prosecution of antitrust claims related to the price-fixing of canned tuna (S.D. Cal.).
- Representing a U.S.-based bank holding company in defending a putative nationwide class action alleging antitrust violations in the payment card industry (E.D.N.Y.).
- Lead antitrust counsel for a multinational industrial mineral producer in connection with DOJ investigations into multiple acquisitions of competitors. Resolved investigations before a second request.
- Lead antitrust counsel for a multinational medical device company in connection with an FTC investigation into the acquisition of its competitor. Negotiated a consent decree, allowing the client to complete the acquisition.
- Lead counsel for an inventory management company in an FTC investigation into its business practices.
- Represented a leading dialysis provider in a merger with a competitor, negotiating a consent decree with the FTC allowing the client to complete the acquisition.

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

- “The Price is Right (or Wrong?): Litigating Pricing Practices in the U.S. and Europe,” American Bar Association, webinar, June 18, 2024.
- “Epic v. Apple – The Latest Updates in the Antitrust Tech Wars,” webinar, April 14, 2022.
- “Law and Economics of No-Poach Agreements: A Primer LIVE Webcast,” webinar, October 20, 2021.

Professional & Community Engagement

- American Bar Association Antitrust Law Section, vice chair; Global Private Litigation Committee
- American Bar Association Antitrust Law Section, Canadian Bar Association National Competition Law Section, liaison (2020–2023)
- 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