Linklaters

Antitrust Investigations and Litigation

Our cradle to grave offering



With our global footprint and on-the-ground experience in multiple jurisdictions our Antitrust & Foreign Investment team support clients through the broad spectrum of challenges that arise before, during and after an investigation into behavioural conduct issues.

We provide a holistic approach to supporting clients, from designing and implementing effective compliance policies, swiftly reacting to dawn raids, helping respond to the investigation and advising on related litigation (trials, appeals and private damages actions). Whether it's a cartel, an abuse of dominance, a market investigation or a complex vertical investigation, Linklaters can guide your strategy of engagement with competition authorities and private litigants across the lifecycle of a matter.

Our senior lawyers have excellent access to decision-makers where it matters and our strong links with regulators are reinforced through the recruitment of former officials and longstanding relationships with the many Linklaters alumni who joined agencies. Many of our lawyers regularly advise agencies within the International Competition Network and other non-governmental bodies on policies and legislation.

The competition investigation lifecycle

We have resources and knowledge to help you across the full lifecycle of competition investigation and litigation needs.

With our unique global perspective we can advise you on the trends in antitrust enforcement in the jurisdictions where you are active and how you can get ahead of the curve to manage your enforcement risk or enforce your rights.

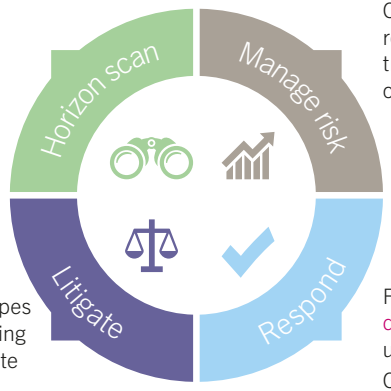
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With increased regulatory pressure and a greater need to demonstrate individual and corporate compliance within your organisation, we help you design bespoke compliance programmes that address the risks that your business faces.

With greater focus on individual responsibility and increasing availability of discounts for effective compliance policies it is more important than ever to get your compliance offering right.

Our Competition eLearning course can play a vital role in delivering competition risk management training to help identify problems and instil a culture of compliance.



Our antitrust litigation team advises on all types of litigation whether you are robustly defending against government investigations and private litigants seeking damages, appealing the outcome of an authority investigation or seeking damages from anticompetitive conduct that has raised the prices you pay.

As the investigation progresses, we support you through the key strategic questions on applying for leniency, settlement as well as deploying robust advocacy to put your case to the authority.

From first contact with authorities in the context of a dawn raid, our team can help you manage exposure using our customisable Dawn Raid App.

Our team advises across the spectrum of antitrust law from cartels and abuse of dominance to market and sector investigations and complex vertical issues.

Credentials:

- Euribor/Libor: advising in the investigations and in relation to follow-on damages claim in a number jurisdictions. Our team was involved in the first appeal of an EC settlement decision which gave rise to a successful out of court outcome for our client (fine reduction of over €200m).
- DENSO Corporation: advising as immunity applicant in the European Commission's investigations concerning Alternators & Starters, Thermal products, and Spark plugs, forming part of what has been called the "largest cartel investigation in history".
- Air France-KLM: acting for in damages claims in Germany, the Netherlands, the UK and the US re the air cargo cartel.
- A large global company in the fashion sector: advising on EC and U.S. DOJ antitrust investigations after dawn raids at several market participants. After two years the investigations were closed with no action against our client.
- Porsche: advising in the Car Emissions case before the European Commission on cartel allegations against the five German car manufacturers Daimler, BMW, Volkswagen, Audi and Porsche (the so-called "Circle of 5"). The intense and complex investigations lasted for several years and were closed on 8 July 2021 by way of settlement. This is the first case in the history of the European Commission in which fines were imposed for an alleged limitation of technological developments only (GCR Award 2022: Behavioural matter of the year, Europe).
- SSA bonds: advising one of the banks involved in the European Commission's investigation.
- A respondent: representing in the first-ever cartel proceedings in the Hong Kong Competition Tribunal through the investigation, trial and Court of Appeal proceedings. This led to the first ever penalty settlement with the regulator.
- One of the world's largest container shipping companies: advising in connection with the DOJ investigation of price fixing and collusion in the container shipping industry (the investigation was recently closed with no action after three years).
- American bank: advising on the European Commission's antitrust proceedings relating to European government bonds.
- Oil and gas benchmarks: successfully defending a global oil and gas company in relation to the European Commission's investigation into Platt's benchmarks; all charges against our client were dropped.
- A luxury goods company: assisting and managing an on-site inspection carried out by the EC, regarding an investigation in the luxury sector.
- Global tire company: advising on its global leniency applications in relation to the global marine hoses cartel. The cartel was investigated by the US DOJ, the Commission, the UK OFT, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission amongst others.
- Major player active in the sugar market: advising on collecting IT evidence triggered by a large scale, four day European Commission dawn raid.
- Visa: representing in its defence of thousands of complex, funded, group proceedings brought in the UK, Belgium and Germany, and two UK class actions.
- Vitamins: representing two Dutch animal feed producers in follow-on damages claims in the UK and Germany related to the European Commission's vitamins cartel decision. Our innovative approach to the complex factual and legal circumstances resulted in a leading reported case on jurisdiction in the UK (Provimi v Aventis).
- A large food company: advising on an investigation launched in 2019 by the FCA on a potential Article 101 TFUE case on Bisphenol A ("BPA").
- Global electronics manufacturer: advising in the cathode ray tubes cartel, including an appeal before the EU General Court and in relation to follow-on damages claims.
- A major energy player in a damage claim following the sanction of its competitor for abuse of dominance.
- Sony: acting for in defence of a UK class action alleging abuse of dominant position in the gaming console market and for Apple in defence of a Portuguese class action alleging abuse of dominant position re its App Store.
- Strides Pharma: representing in the *In Re:Generic Pharmaceuticals Pricing Antitrust Litigation* in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, U.S.
- Several clients: advising in relation to the European Commission's investigations into alleged abuses of dominance by Google which resulted in the EC imposing a €2.4bn fine on Google. We represented clients in the European Courts in Google's subsequent appeal against its fine.
- CDS: successfully defending a US dealer bank against collusion charges by the European Commission re credit default swaps; all charges dropped against our client.
- Oil and gas: representing a global oil and gas company as a successful immunity applicant in relation to the European Commission's cartel investigation into the bitumen sector in Spain and The Netherlands.
- A leading glass manufacturer: advising on the car glass cartel, including an appeal to the EU General Court and in relation to follow-on damages claims.
- Johnson & Johnson: advising on PRC litigation involving competition law issues with a distributor.
- A major Chinese internet company: advising on a milestone private antitrust lawsuit widely recognised as the "most important antitrust litigation in the field of platform economy".
- Goldman Sachs: advising on a portfolio company's participation in the Power Cables cartel including an appeal to the EU Court of Justice and follow-on damages claims litigation.
- A major player: advising on the investigation of alleged breaches of competition law in the bananas sector and subsequent successful appeals to the EU General Court and the European Court of Justice.
- A leading pharmaceutical manufacturer: advising in resale price maintenance proceedings with the Federal Cartel Office in Germany.
- CompareTheMarket: advising in relation to the CMA's imposition of a £17.9m fine for a wide most favoured nation clause, and on the successful appeal overturning this decision.
- Telefonica: defending in its competition litigation proceedings against the administrators of Phones4U concerning an alleged collusion between major mobile network operators to cease supplying Phones4U.
- Suez in the water distribution cartel before the EC obtaining that the be dropped.
- Tarkett in the flour cartel case in France.
- International transport and logistics service company: advising on a dispute with the European Commission and on various dawn raids.
- Sucocitrico Cutrale: advising in connection with an alleged cartel involving processors of frozen concentrated orange juice. The cartel has given rise to claims in a number of jurisdictions around the world and included a high-profile settlement with the Brazilian competition regulator, CADE.
- Paraffin wax: representing the largest producer of paraffin waxes in Europe in relation to the conduct and resolution of multiple cartel damages actions commenced in the English High Court on behalf of 30 different groups of claimants proceedings.
- A former water treatment chemicals executive: advised a in relation to an investigation by the US DoJ prosecution of price-fixing and bid rigging on the sale of water treatment chemicals to municipalities and paper mills.
- A European payments company: assisting and managing an on-site inspection carried out by a national competition authority in the financial services sector.



Band 1

Chambers Global 2026
Multi-jurisdictional Competition/Antitrust

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Our know-how resources

Dawn Raid App
From first contact with authorities in the context of a dawn raid, our team can help you manage exposure using our customisable Dawn Raid App.

See our site page here.

Competition E-learning
Our dedicated course delivers commercial and practical risk management training.

Linking Competition
Insights, commentary and news from our dedicated antitrust lawyers around the globe.

Antitrust and Sustainability
Our survey of over 500 business leaders from around the globe revealed that companies still view competition law as a barrier to participating in sustainability collaborations.

Foreign Investment Links
Our dedicated global blog for foreign investment updates.

Global Antitrust and Foreign Investment Group website page
Our dedicated website page that shows our global expertise.

Knowledge Portal
Customisable access to the latest legal updates through publications, seminars and collections by topic, including downloadable videos and podcasts.

Global Competition Review
The Global Elite 2025

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