How Thick Is That Ice? Competition Law

Brian O'Bleness, Partner Kansas City & Washington, DC +1 816 460 2527 brian.obleness@dentons.com



Introduction and Overview



- Enforcement Initiatives of DOJ and FTC
- State of merger control at the agencies;
- Practical antitrust concerns

Department of Justice - Antitrust Division



William Barr, Attorney General



Criminal prosecutions

Sharing the load of merger review



Makan Delrahim, AAG Antitrust Division

DOJ Merger Review

Enforcement, not regulation

Reduce compliance time and expense

Aiming to resolve most merger investigations within six months of filing

Structural Remedies



- Under AAG Delrahim, we expect more use of "structural remedies" like divestment
- See, e.g., Bayer's \$66 billion acquisition of Monsanto

DOJ Enforcement Initiatives

Healthy Healthcare Competition

Cartel Investigation in Key Markets

Promoting Innovation

Protecting Taxpayer Dollars



Federal Trade Commission



Joseph Simons, Chairman



- Bureau of Consumer Protection
 - Bureau of Competition
- Bureau of Economics

FTC Competition Priorities & Merger Review

Drug pricing

Nascent competitors

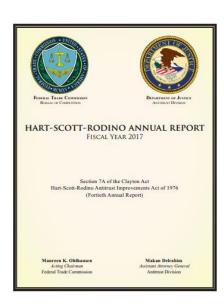


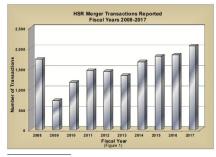


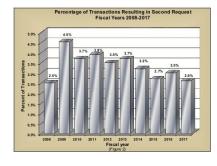
High-tech platforms

Innovation markets

One Last Word on Mergers







¹ Fiscal year 2017 covered the period of October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017

TABLE I FISCAL YEAR 2017 ¹ ACQUISITIONS BY SIZE OF TRANSACTION (BY SIZE RANGE) ²												
	HSR TRANSACTIONS		CLEARANCE GRANTED TO FTC OR DOJ					SECOND REQUEST INVESTIGATIONS ³				
TRANSACTION RANGE (\$MILLIONS)	NUMBER ⁴	PERCENT	NUMBER		PERCENT OF TRANSACTION RANGE GROUP			NUMBER		PERCENT OF TRANSACTION RANGE GROUP		
,			FTC	DOJ	FTC	DOJ	TOTAL	FTC	DOJ	FTC	DOJ	TOTAL
Below 50M 5	- 1	0.1%	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
50M - 100M	145	7.3%	7	4	4.8%	2.8%	7.6%	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
100M - 150M	346	17.4%	26	6	7.5%	1.7%	9.2%	3	- 1	0.9%	0.3%	1.2%
150M - 200M	271	13.6%	17	3	6.3%	1.1%	7.4%	2	0	0.7%	0.0%	0.7%
200M - 300M	250	12.6%	33	14	13.2%	5.6%	18.8%	4	- 1	1.6%	0.4%	2.0%
300M - 500M	255	12.8%	23	5	9.0%	2.0%	11.0%	1	2	0.4%	0.8%	1.2%
500M - 1000M	469	23.5%	47	17	10.0%	3.6%	13.6%	6	5	1.3%	1.1%	2.3%
Over 1000M	255	12.8%	52	23	20.4%	9.0%	29.4%	17	9	6.7%	3.5%	10.2%
ALL TRANSACTIONS	1,992	100.0%	205	72	10.3%	3.6%	13.9%	33	18	1.7%	0.9%	2.6%

Congress is Getting Into the Act





Evolution of Focus on Information Exchanges

Safe harbor - lag data 3 months; use 3d party to collect and manage data; and aggregate data from at least 5 sources



2016 guidance discusses info exchanges in the employment setting -- while not criminal, could have anticompetitive effect; offers example on wage data lessening competition

2018 DOJ settled with broadcast companies for exchanging indirect data related to advertising spot inventory

Algorithms - Welcome to the Future



"We will not tolerate anticompetitive conduct, whether it occurs in a smoke-filled room or over the Internet using complex pricing algorithms. American consumers have the right to a free and fair marketplace online, as well as in brick and mortar businesses."



DOJ prosecuted David Topkins, who used pricing algorithms to fix prices for posters, prints and framed art sold on Amazon Marketplace



Questions?





Thank you



Dentons US LLP 4520 Main Street Suite 1100 Kansas City, MO 64111-7700 United States

1900 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20006-1102 United States

Dentons is the world's largest law firm, delivering quality and value to clients around the globe. Dentons is a leader on the Acritas Global Elite Brand Index, a BTI Client Service 30 Award winner and recognized by prominent business and legal publications for its innovations in client service, including founding Nextlaw Labs and the Nextlaw Global Referral Network. Dentons' polycentric approach and world-class talent challenge the status quo to advance client interests in the communities in which we live and work.

© 2019 Dentons. Dentons is a global legal practice providing client services worldwide through its member firms and affiliates. This publication is not designed to provide legal or other advice and you should not take, or refrain from taking, action based on its content. Please see dentons.com for Legal Notices.