Sophia A. Hansell

Partner

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Sophia (Vandergrift) Hansell is a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Gibson Dunn. She is a member of the Antitrust and Competition Practice Group. Before joining the firm, Sophie served as an attorney in the Mergers IV Division of the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Competition, where she focused on merger review and enforcement litigation.

At the FTC, Sophie was a core member of trial teams that blocked proposed mergers for Sysco and US Foods, Advocate Health Care and NorthShore University HealthSystem, and Wilhelmsen and Drew Marine. Previously, Sophie served in the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in the General Crimes Division. She also was a special counsel at another law firm.

Leveraging her experience in government enforcement, Sophie's practice focuses on complex antitrust litigation and investigations before the Department of Justice, Federal Trade Commission, and state attorneys general. She also has experience counseling companies on a broad range of competition issues relating to M&A transactions, including pre-deal risk assessments, transaction negotiations, and gun jumping issues. Sophie also develops and executes strategies to secure merger clearance with U.S. and foreign competition authorities. She has been recognized by "*Lawdragon 500 X* – The Next Generation" guide for three consecutive years (2023-2025), and named a "Rising Star" in Antitrust and Competition by *IFLR* in 2021 and by *Euromoney Legal Media Group* in 2020.

Sophie received her law degree, *magna cum laude*, from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, where she was Notes Editor of the *Washington University Law Review*. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree *summa cum laude* from Wake Forest University.

Sophie is admitted to practice in Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Capabilities

Antitrust and Competition
Life Sciences
Litigation

Credentials

Education

Washington University in St. Louis - 2011 Juris Doctor
Wake Forest University - 2008 Bachelor of Arts

Admissions

District of Columbia Bar
Virginia Bar

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