Stephen Weissman

Partner

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Washington, D.C.



Capabilities

Antitrust and Competition

Credentials

Education

University of Pennsylvania - 1994 Juris Doctor

Tufts University - 1991 Bachelor of Arts

Admissions

District of Columbia Bar

Maryland Bar

Stephen Weissman, former Deputy Director for the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Competition, is a Washington, D.C.-based partner and one of the cornerstones of the firm's Antitrust and Competition Practice Group. He is a member of the firm's Executive Committee. A former top antitrust enforcer and accomplished defense lawyer, Steve brings exceptional experience and a practical approach to representing companies in antitrust investigations by the FTC and U.S. Department of Justice and high-stakes antitrust litigations. *Chambers USA* describes him as "a fantastic lawyer" and a "tour de force." *Who's Who Legal* – Competition (2022) identifies him as a "super star in the market who works on some of the most challenging" matters. In 2024, *MergerLinks* named Steve one of the "Top 10 Antitrust Lawyers in North America."

While serving as FTC Deputy Director from 2013-2015, Steve was involved in and supervised all of the agency's merger and non-merger investigations and litigations, spanning a wide range of industries, including pharmaceuticals and other healthcare segments, digital and high-tech markets, consumer products, energy, and chemicals. Steve served as lead trial counsel in the FTC's successful challenge to the $3.5 Billion acquisition by Sysco Corp. of U.S. Foods, Inc.

Before joining Gibson Dunn, Steve co-chaired the Antitrust and Competition practice at another global law firm, where he served as one of the lead lawyers in a number of headline and high-stakes antitrust cases. In 2016, *National Law Journal* named Steve an "Antitrust Trailblazer" and *Global Competition Review* named him as a finalist for both its "Lawyer of the Year" and "Litigator of the Year" awards.

He has tried a number of cases including both bench and jury trials, argued appeals in multiple U.S. Courts of Appeal, and litigated claims under the Sherman Act, Clayton Act, and Robinson-Patman Act, as well as breach of contract and business tort claims.

Steve is a nationally acclaimed top-tier antitrust practitioner, consistently ranked by top legal publications. His recognitions include *Chambers USA* (2016-2025), *Legal 500* (2013, 2015-2024), and *Best Lawyers in America* for Litigation–Antitrust since 2020. He has also earned recognition from *Who's Who Legal* in Competition (2022-2024), Litigation (2017-2024), and Commercial Litigation (2023), as well as *Super Lawyers* (2018-2024). Steve has been featured in the *Guide to the World's Leading Competition and Antitrust Lawyers* (2012, 2013, 2018-2023), and named to *Lawdragon*'s "500 Leading Litigators in America" (2023-2026) and "500 Leading Antitrust and Competition Lawyers" for 2025.

Representative matters include*

- Represented **Broadcom** in the FTC's investigation of the company's business practices, which resulted in closing of several investigations and settlement of a narrow set of allegations.
- Represented **Pioneer Natural Resources** in the FTC's conditional approval of its

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$63 Billion merger with Exxon Mobil Corp.

- Represented **Celgene** in the FTC's conditional approval of its $74 billion acquisition by Bristol-Myers Squibb.
- Represent **RealPage, Inc.** in multi-district class actions and government litigations alleging "algorithmic pricing" and represented **RealPage** in the DoJ's unconditional approval of its 2017 acquisition of Lease Rental Options (LRO).
- Represented **Boehringer Ingelheim** in the FTC's in-depth review of its $12.5 billion global asset swap with Sanofi and in antitrust class actions involving alleged monopolization of certain markets based on FDA Orange-Book listings.
- Represented **Whirlpool** in the Department of Justice's in-depth review of its acquisition of Maytag Corp.
- Represented **PepsiCo** in the FTC's decision to abandon its lawsuit against the company for alleged violations of the Robinson-Patman Act. Also represented PepsiCo's Frito-Lay business in the FTC's review and clearance of its acquisitions of Siete Foods (2024) and of the Popcorners business from BFY Brands (2020).
- Lead counsel for **Novartis' Sandoz division** in the *In re Humira Antitrust Litigation* putative class action, including before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, which affirmed dismissal of the complaint.
- Represented **Arch Resources** in its multi-billion dollar merger with Consol Energy to form Core Natural Resources.
- Lead counsel for **Merck & Co., Inc.** in various acquisitions, including of Acceleron, Prometheus Bio, Cidara, Verona, Arqule, Imago BioSciences, Virbac's Sentinel business, and Elanco's aquaculture business.
- Represented **DaVita, Inc.** in the FTC's review of its joint venture with Medtronic, Inc. and of DaVita's acquisition of University of Utah's dialysis business.
- Lead counsel for **Hartford HealthCare** and its affiliates in private antitrust litigation brought by a competitor and in a separate antitrust action brought by a putative class of consumers.
- Lead trial counsel for the **FTC** in the agency's successful challenge to Sysco's proposed $3.5 billion acquisition of US Foods.
- Represented **General Electric** in its acquisition of BK Medical, Inc.
- Successfully defended **Arch Coal** in a challenge by the Federal Trade Commission to the company's acquisition of Triton (D.D.C.), and then in defending Arch's proposed joint venture with Peabody Energy (E.D. Mo.).
- Successfully defended **Anheuser-Busch, Inc.** in its merger with InBev, including defeating a private lawsuit to enjoin the merger (E.D. Mo.).
- Represented **QVC Corp.** in its acquisition of Home Shopping Network (HSN).
- Represented **Indorama Ventures Ltd.** in a number of transactions, including FTC approval of its joint venture with other PET resin manufacturers and its acquisition of Huntsman's specialty chemical business.
- Represented **Schering Plough** in its merger with Merck & Co., Inc.
- Retained by **Halliburton Co.** to defend in litigation the company's proposed acquisition of Baker Hughes, Inc.

*****Includes matters handled prior to joining Gibson Dunn*

Steve received his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and earned a BA in Economics from Tufts University. He is admitted to practice in Maryland, the District of Columbia, the United States Courts of Appeals for the Fourth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eleventh Circuits, and the United States District Courts for the District of Maryland, District of Columbia and the Eastern District of Virginia.?

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