

THE LAWYER

Ali Nikpay, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher

The Lawyer 2019



As someone involved in one of the largest and most extensive competition inquiries the Competition

and Markets Authority (CMA) has ever conducted, Gibson Dunn competition partner Ali Nikpay did not have time to stop in 2018.

The proposed Asda-Sainsbury's merger dominated headlines in September and the probe is due to stretch into a reasonable part of this year. Cases of this size are usually heard by the EU, but due to the domestic nature of this, it is being dealt with on home turf. Nikpay cites it as a test-case for how the CMA might operate post-Brexit.

Few other practices can say they have dealt with more high-profile competition cases over the past three years.

Nikpay's practice was also brought in on the Ladbrokes-Gala Coral merger, as well as the Euro Car Parts and Andrew Page merger inquiry.

Complementing this work, he also helped set up the Brexit Competition Law Working Group. The group is chaired by Sir John Vickers, former head of the CMA, and helps to shape and develop policy.