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TOP ANTITRUST LAWYERS 2025



Meet the practitioners shaping how markets compete in a year of landmark antitrust actions.



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Rachel Brass has practiced antitrust law for 25 years, building her career on collaboration and team-focused litigation. Her approach to complex monopolization cases and regulatory investigations has yielded notable victories for clients in shipping, trucking and other industries facing government enforcement actions.

Brass developed her interest in antitrust law as a research assistant for Thomas Sullivan, then-dean of the University of Minnesota Law School. “Judge Jackson

had just issued his order in *United States v. Microsoft* and we jumped into writing on it — I was hooked from the start,” she said.

Her mentors, Gary Spratling and Joel Sanders, taught her that “antitrust law is a team sport where collaboration wins.” That philosophy shapes her current practice, where she focuses on building teams, training younger lawyers and forming partnerships with clients.

In March, Brass and her team secured summary judgment for Matson Navigation in a monopolization case involving container shipping to Guam. The court rejected each of the plaintiff’s six alleged forms of exclusionary conduct in a 62-page opinion. *American President Lines, LLC v. Matson Navigation Co.*, 1:21-cv-02040 (D. D.C., filed July 28, 2021).

“From day one of the case, Matson maintained that its business succeeds in Guam and elsewhere through ceaseless attention to quality, service and fair prices — not exclusionary conduct,” Brass said.

The team completed document discovery of millions of documents and nearly 40 depositions in nine months, including more than a dozen depositions in Guam.

Brass has also represented Daimler Truck North America in litigation and investigations stemming from an antitrust lawsuit filed by the Nebraska Attorney General and two private industry groups. The case challenged the Clean Truck Partnership, an agreement mandated by the California Air Resources Board. Brass

negotiated a same-day resolution that dismissed the litigation and closed a Federal Trade Commission investigation in exchange for DTNA’s agreement that the partnership is void. DTNA agreed to no wrongdoing and paid nothing.

In late October, Brass helped obtain a preliminary injunction against the California Air Resources Board’s attempt to enforce the Clean Truck Partnership. “All of those results have involved extremely challenging legal issues and a number of questions of first impression — the kind of work that gets you out of bed in the morning,” she said.

Brass tracks trends in antitrust enforcement, noting an uptick in litigation involving AI-related products, algorithms and claims of unlawful information sharing. She observes that dormant theories like Robinson-Patman are being revived and antitrust law is being pushed into areas like ESG and content regulation.

“And the several recent changes in federal administrations, resulting in greater-than-usual shifts in antitrust priorities, coupled with increasing state legislation, have increased uncertainty in the marketplace and in the courts,” Brass said. “This has corresponded with novel legal theories and less predictable outcomes. This creates opportunities for teams with a broad viewpoint, deep and varied government experience, and a business-focused mindset to provide advice that addresses this fluid environment.”