

# Daily Journal

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## TOP ANTITRUST LAWYERS 2025



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



**SAMUEL LIVERSIDGE**

GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP

LOS ANGELES

**S**amuel Liversidge has practiced antitrust law for 30 years, focusing on complex commercial litigation and merger challenges. His career trajectory was set early when, as a first-year associate, he worked on major antitrust litigation that proceeded to trial.

"I was intrigued by the complexity of the issues in the case and by the bet-the-company nature of the litigation," Liversidge said.

That early experience shaped his practice, which now centers on defending companies in high-stakes antitrust matters involving both government enforcement actions and private litigation. Liversidge credits his mentor, Bob Cooper, with teaching him foundational principles about legal practice. "He always maintained his credibility, and he never sacrificed his integrity," Liversidge said.

Liversidge recently represented Hewlett Packard Enterprise against a Department of Justice lawsuit seeking to block the company's \$14 billion acquisition of Juniper Networks. *United States v. Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co. et al.*, 5:25-cv-00951 (N.D. Cal., filed Jan. 30, 2025).

The DOJ filed the complaint in January 2025, claiming the acquisition would allow HPE and Cisco to control over 70% of the market for enterprise-grade wireless land area networking solutions. The government argued that HPE and Juniper were competitors, pointing to HPE's pattern of offering discounts to win business against Juniper.

The case proceeded on an accelerated schedule, with substantial discovery completed over several months before the matter was set for trial on July 9, 2025. The case settled on the eve of trial, and the court is now reviewing the settlement under the Tunney Act to determine whe-

ther it serves the public interest. Several state attorneys general have moved to intervene in the Tunney Act proceedings.

"One of the challenges (as in most merger litigation matters) was that everything had to be accomplished in a very compressed timeframe," Liversidge said.

In a separate matter, he represents HP in antitrust litigation pending in the Northern District of Illinois. Plaintiffs, seeking class certification, allege that HP violated the Sherman Act by releasing firmware updates that prevented printers from functioning with third-party cartridges. The complaint claims these updates tied HP printers to HP cartridges and created a monopoly in a single-brand aftermarket for HP cartridges. HP moved to dismiss the complaint, and on Sept. 30, the court granted the motion, dismissing all causes of action. The plaintiffs have amended their complaint.

"We will move again to dismiss it," Liversidge said.

Liversidge noted that antitrust litigation is evolving to address technology-driven business practices. "We are seeing more and more cases alleging that participants in a particular industry are using software to conspire with each other," he said, including cases involving AI-powered pricing software and benchmarking tools.