

# DoJ competition lawyers on the move

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**A pair of antitrust lawyers with senior experience from the Department of Justice have joined US firms Morrison & Foerster and McGuireWoods.**

**Morrison & Foerster** has hired the deputy chief of staff of the **Department of Justice's** (DoJ) Antitrust Division. It marks a return to private practice for Washington, DC-based **David Shaw**, who left **Covington & Burling** for the government in 2016, having earlier worked for the now defunct firm Howrey.

Shaw initially joined the DoJ's technology and financial services section, working on the US government's challenge to the **AT&T** merger with **Time Warner**. He then moved on to be counsel to the assistant attorney general, working on competition law and policy across a range of sectors, including telecommunications, media, transport, energy and agriculture.

Most recently, he combined that with a role as deputy chief of staff, and latterly acting chief of staff, helping the Antitrust Division to manage the transition to a new government following the election.

Shaw has experience of cartel enforcement and merger clearance litigation among other subjects.

It follows the firm's March hire of the Antitrust Division's assistant attorney general for civil enforcement, **Alexander Okuliar**, also in Washington.

Co-chair of Morrison & Foerster's global antitrust group, **Jeff Jaeckel** said in a statement that the hire would be useful at a time of "increasing antitrust enforcement anticipated at the federal, state, and international levels".

Shaw himself said: "Antitrust law and policy are undergoing a major shift, with an ever-intensifying regulatory landscape, and I look forward to being part of the global antitrust group in helping clients to navigate that shift."

In February, Morrison & Foerster [hired an investigations partner](#) from the DoJ.

Elsewhere in Washington, former DoJ antitrust lawyer **Wrede Smith** has joined **McGuireWoods** from **Arnold & Porter**, where he spent five years, earning a promotion from senior associate to partner in the move.

Smith has experience of litigation and investigations stemming from mergers and acquisitions, including merger clearance and government enforcement, including by the **Federal Trade Commission**, and has worked on matters relating to the telecoms, banking, aeronautical, defence and mining sectors, including government contracts.

Chair of the McGuireWoods antitrust, trade and commercial litigation department, **Amy Manning** described Smith as “an important addition”, citing his “experience and insight”.

Smith said he appreciated the firm’s international reach, adding: “The firm’s lawyers are known as innovative problem solvers and I am excited to be part of this world-class team.”

It follows the firm’s February [hire of a fraud lawyer](#) from the DoJ, while in January it recruited [a former judge in North Carolina](#).