



Ronald F Wick
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Practice Areas

Litigation and Arbitration, Antitrust and Competition Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Appellate Practice, Aviation Litigation, International Trade, White Collar Defense and Regulation

Education

Georgetown University Law Center (J.D. 1992); Cornell University (A.B. 1986)

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia; State of Maryland; U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, District of Maryland, Eastern District of Michigan, and Eastern District of Wisconsin; U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, Fourth, Eighth, and Ninth Circuits

Ronald F. Wick focuses his practice on litigation concerning trade regulation, antitrust, and commercial disputes. He has represented clients at the Federal Trade Commission, in the courts of Maryland and the District of Columbia, and in federal courts across the country. In addition to his litigation practice, Ron advises clients on antitrust compliance, pricing discrimination, premerger notification issues, and other compliance issues.

Ron's trade regulation practice encompasses a variety of areas. He has defended clients against allegations of price-fixing and attempted monopolization under the Sherman Act, price discrimination under the Robinson-Patman Act, and unfair competition and false and deceptive advertising under the Federal Trade Commission Act. He regularly advises and represents clients contemplating mergers and acquisitions, including by handling premerger notification filings with the FTC and the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act, and by working with both agencies to resolve potential antitrust issues arising out of mergers, acquisitions, and joint ventures.

Ron regularly assists corporate clients in developing antitrust compliance policies, forming joint ventures, and evaluating sales and marketing initiatives for compliance with the antitrust laws. He is also experienced in counseling and representing trade associations.

In addition to his antitrust practice, Ron has litigated a variety of commercial disputes in state and federal courts. His litigation experience includes matters as varied as commercial asset-based lending arrangements, obstetric malpractice, insurance disputes, a challenge to federal higher education regulations, the attempted attachment of assets of a foreign government, and litigation under the False Claims Act. He has litigated cases in a broad range of areas, including intercollegiate athletics, medical equipment, longshore labor, public utilities, international shipping, and aftermarket auto parts.

Prior to joining Cohen & Gresser, Ron was a Partner in Cozen O'Connor's Washington, D.C. office. Ron received his law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Cornell University.

Ron is actively involved in the ABA Antitrust Law Section and currently serves in its leadership. He has been named one of Washington, D.C.'s *Super Lawyers* each year since 2017.

Antitrust Litigation

Obtained jury verdict and affirmance on appeal for aftermarket auto parts retailer against allegations that it unlawfully induced discriminatory pricing in violation of the Robinson-Patman Act.

Obtained dismissal of antitrust complaint against a multi-employer collective bargaining association alleging that collective bargaining agreement unlawfully excluded nonsignatories from the market, including dismissal of allegations pending against co-defendant for more than two years before joinder of client.

Obtained summary judgment and affirmance on appeal on behalf of a Puerto Rican newspaper and its subsidiary in a lawsuit that alleged an unlawful tying arrangement involving advertising and commercial printing markets.

Defended airline in an antitrust class action brought by travel agents alleging conspiracy to fix travel agent commissions.

Obtained summary judgment and affirmance on appeal for major auto glass manufacturer against competitor's allegations of a conspiracy to control the auto glass market and exclude competition.

Represented an asphalt manufacturer in a lawsuit against two competing road paving contractors that alleged bid rigging and unfair competition in violation of California antitrust and unfair competition laws as well as libel, product disparagement, and Lanham Act claims.

Obtained dismissal of trade organization from lawsuit alleging conspiracy to depress demand for aluminum worldwide.

Obtained summary judgment and affirmance on appeal for a Canadian potash producer against allegations of a price fixing conspiracy.

Defended the world's largest manufacturer of artificial teeth in civil antitrust litigation regarding monopolization claims relating to distribution contracts.

Obtained dismissal of a lawsuit alleging that online casino conspired to exclude competition brought by a potential competitor.

Obtained summary judgment on behalf of a group of cardiologists against allegations that it unlawfully conspired with a hospital to exclude a competing hospital from the market.

Represent class of NCAA Division I male basketball and football players in a civil antitrust lawsuit against the NCAA to eliminate its rule prohibiting players from obtaining compensation while in college.

Defended a major metropolitan daily newspaper in a DOJ action regarding a proposed modification to a newspaper joint operating agreement.

Represented plaintiff in *parens patriae* antitrust suit brought in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by Governor Thomas W. Corbett, Jr., on behalf of Pennsylvania citizens to enjoin the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) from imposing sanctions against Penn State.

Represent a recreational vehicle manufacturer in pursuing claims of cartel activity against parts suppliers to manufacturers of recreational vehicles.

Obtained affirmance on appeal of dismissal of antitrust claim against a multi-employer collective bargaining association alleging conspiracy to exclude non-members from the market.

Antitrust Transactions

Regularly advise clients regarding potential antitrust implications of proposed mergers and acquisitions and have filed dozens of pre-merger notifications with the FTC and DOJ under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act, including:

- Represented a leading producer of hybrid seed corn in acquisition by major chemical conglomerate.
- Represented a leading manufacturer of overhead doors in acquisition by a competitor.
- Represented a leading paper and packaging manufacturer in a DOJ investigation of a joint venture with a competitor.
- Represented a leading cable television network as a third-party witness in the DOJ's investigation of AT&T's acquisition of MediaOne.
- Represented a regional drugstore chain in FTC investigation of acquisition by national competitor.

Antitrust Counseling

Regularly draft and implement antitrust compliance programs and provide antitrust compliance training for companies.

Regularly provide antitrust advice to a wide variety of clients regarding distributor and resale pricing, price discrimination, bundled and discounted pricing, potential mergers and joint ventures, collaborations and communications with competitors, and other issues with antitrust implications.

Served as outside antitrust counsel and provided antitrust advice to a wide variety of trade associations in industries including vertical lift, metals, household cleaning products, financial services, concrete pavement, and residential construction.

Commercial Litigation

Obtained defense verdict at trial on behalf of a commercial asset-based lending company in a lawsuit brought by another creditor of the same law firm debtor alleging improper debt collection.

Represented an association of trade and vocational schools in a challenge to Department of Education regulations regarding federal funding for career schools.

Obtained defense verdict on behalf of a health insurance company in a lawsuit brought by a policyholder alleging improper failure to pay.

Represented an international manufacturer of transit buses in civil False Claims Act litigation regarding allegations of falsified customs records.

Represented a major metropolitan daily newspaper in a censure proceeding by a leading association of public opinion researchers, persuading it to close its investigation.

Represented industrial goods company in International Trade Commission anti-dumping proceeding regarding forklifts and other heavy industrial materials.

Defended a non-profit corporation in a lawsuit under the Colorado RICO and other state statutes regarding ownership and valuation of a golf resort.

Defended Baltimore TV station against a challenge by a competing broadcast company to the station's license renewal application with the FCC.

Represented a commercial asset-based lending company in a breach of contract lawsuit against a now defunct law firm with respect to its loan agreement with the client.

Represented professional sports league in a negligence claim against its insurance broker alleging failure to properly maintain insurance policies and notify carriers of a covered event.

Represented major creditor of bankrupt company against claims of fraudulent transfer by bankruptcy trustee.

Represented bankruptcy trustee for debtor medical equipment supplier in bankruptcy litigation.

Defended technology company against lawsuit alleging various business and employment related torts brought by former executives.

Activities and Affiliations

Vice Chair, American Bar Association (Antitrust Section, Civil Practice and Procedure Committee)