# Women & Antitrust

## Voices from the Field

Vol. I Curation & Foreword by Evelina Kurgonaite

Concurrences
Antitrust Publications & Events

# Foreword

Evelina Kurgonaite

Competition rules, in some form or other, can be traced back over two millennia. The more formal study of competition is at least two centuries old, while modern antitrust law began with the Sherman Act in 1890.

Today, more than a hundred countries have competition laws, and the international antitrust community is vast. While no data on the number of competition professionals is readily available, one of the largest annual antitrust events in Washington DC brings together over 3,800 attendees. And even that is just a fraction of competition professionals across jurisdictions.

Not only is it an old area of law that keeps a lot of people busy – competition is also about economics, dynamic market realities, numerous policy considerations, and, indeed, also about national and international politics. By its very nature, competition is interdisciplinary – it is all intertwined, quite literally.

Arguably, this interdisciplinary nature of competition is one of the key reasons why it susceptible to pressures stemming from developments in various related areas. And competition law has adapted, continuously. But never has it been challenged quite as much as in the recent years, amidst expanding digitalisation, calls for antitrust overhaul, enforcement

toolbox review, integration of policies such as consumer protection and data privacy, and quests for levelling the playing field in the global context.

At this unprecedented juncture for the competition field, this book offers more than two dozen interviews with leading figures in the field from around the world and from different parts of the competition profession.

In the book, competition professionals – including senior enforcement authority representatives, experienced in-house counsel, economists, prominent academics and leading private practitioners – have shared with their peers their perspectives, based, in most cases, on decades of experience and the ever-changing antitrust world, as well as reflections on key challenges they have observed in the past and anticipated in the future and they have, on occasion, also offered thoughts on possible solutions.

Last but not least, the reader will also find in this book insights into the professional paths and personal anecdotes of competition women in different parts of world – from Brussels to Washington DC, Paris, London, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Lisbon, Madrid, Hong Kong, Singapore, Beijing, Sydney, Johannesburg, Sao Paolo, Mexico City, and others.

W@Competition is delighted to have partnered with Concurrences to bring this project to fruition. Together, we have sought to amplify the voices of women in the competition profession and hope this book will facilitate connections among professionals in this field in different parts of the world.

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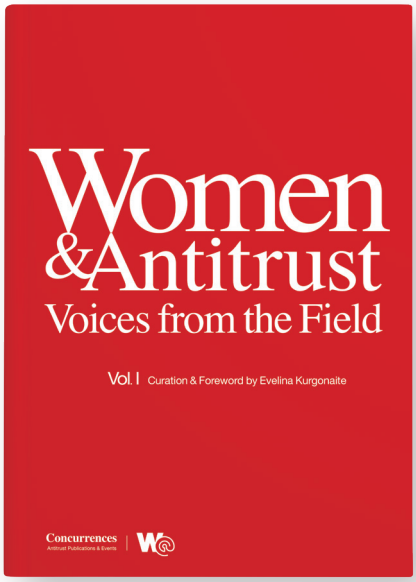


Foreword by Evelina Kurgonaite

In this first volume of Women & Antitrust, leading competition professionals from around the world present reflections and forecasts on topical issues in antitrust and competition law and policy. Nestled among the exchanges are insights into the professional paths of the women interviewed. Through personal anecdotes, they share perspectives on their chosen roles, if and how gender has informed their career choices, and offer advice to young practitioners interested in joining this field.

*This volume has been published in cooperation with W@Competition. A second volume will be published in cooperation with Women's Competition Network (WCN).*

## Curation & Foreword by **Evelina Kurgonaite**

Evelina Kurgonaite is the founder and chair of "Women At" (W@) – a platform that connects and promotes women professionals around the world. She also leads W@ Competition – a W@ branch dedicated to women in antitrust.

*"Congratulations on the important initiative and presentation of Women & Antitrust: Voices from the Field. Indeed, over the past years, we have seen the "glass ceiling" breaking with the increasing role of women in the global competition bar. This is noticeable not only in law firms, but also at the enforcement level, whether in Europe, the United States or in Asia. Some competition authorities are led by women – in the US, the EC, and France, among others. Many important agency positions are held by highly experienced women. In companies, competition departments of legal divisions have seen an increasing number of women taking leading roles. Similarly, at both the partner and associate levels of European, Asian and US law firms, a significant number of women are now practicing competition law. Concurrences, in partnership with W@Competition, is taking an initiative by sharing the reflections and forecasts of the reality of this world. Again, congratulations."*

**Jacques Buhart**, Partner, McDermott Will & Emery

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