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GLOBAL COMPETITION REVIEW

40 UNDER 40 | DECEMBER 2015
www.globalcompetitionreview.com



In the antitrust bar, generational strength matters. On both sides of the Atlantic and indeed elsewhere, leaders of competition groups look at their rivals and their own practices and judge how strong their group will be – not in a year, but in a decade, when perhaps they will be attempting to chip out of a bunker or navigate some snow-packed slope. That is to say: young talent is crucial to the health of any competition group, and the more first-chair work they get as young lawyers, the brighter the future becomes.

With that in mind, *GCR* is proud to present the 2015 edition of the 40 under 40, our listing of 40 young antitrust practitioners from around the world. As with our previous four editions, this year's listing profiles young antitrust minds who have taken on leading roles within their firms, whether serving as one of the primary junior partners behind big-name rainmakers or, in some cases, as a central figure in a competition group. This year's list includes lawyers and barristers practising in countries around the globe.

In many parts of the world, international competition law enforcement has existed through generations. While major cross-border mergers and investigations may have been novel in decades past, young lawyers practising today know no other reality. Globalisation has transformed the practice just as it has transformed economy and industry.

The 40 under 40 entrants truly span the globe, from the “usual suspect” jurisdictions of the United States, the United Kingdom and Brussels, to Ukraine, Japan, Turkey and China. But suffice to say that most of the young lawyers included in the survey received at least part of their antitrust education in one of the global hubs of antitrust law.

Now in his third and final 40 under 40, Gönenç Gürkaynak, of ELİG in Istanbul, studied law at Harvard University and trained under Ian Forrester, a former White & Case partner who now sits on the bench of the European General Court. Having spent three years as an enforcer at Japan's Fair Trade Commission, new entrant Kentaro Hirayama, from Morrison & Foerster, spent time as a visiting associate at Slaughter and May

in London. And Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co partner Naval Chopra trained and practised as a lawyer in London before taking on competition law matters in New Delhi.

But it's the work these lawyers have done in their home jurisdictions that has earned them a place in this year's 40 under 40. Indeed, all of the nominated lawyers have worked on major mergers, cartel investigations and dominance cases – sometimes helping to usher in their country's competition law enforcement regime. Igor Svechkar, a partner at Asters in Kiev, practises at the firm where he started his career 16 years ago, and over that time he has seen his business grow alongside Ukrainian competition law.

This year, for the first time, the 40 under 40 includes two new sections highlighting the blossoming careers of young lawyers working in-house on the competition teams inside companies and within antitrust enforcement agencies around the world. Each section includes young lawyers and economists, each of whom has taken on senior-level duties inside their companies or agencies.

Our enforcers hail from the United States, the United Kingdom, Chile, Denmark and Mexico. Each brings a different skill set to bear on a varied collection of job duties. After eight years inside the agency, Carlos Mena has done everything in Mexican enforcement, from leading the enforcer's cartels unit to directing its interactions with outside agencies as head of the institutional relation and international affairs division. He is now chief prosecutor within Cofece, and he's only 36. Meanwhile, Sheldon Mills has made a precipitous climb through the ranks of the UK's former Office of Fair Trading to now head the mergers unit at the Competition and Markets Authority. And Javier Tapia oversees it all in Chile; he's a judge on the country's competition tribunal.

Meanwhile, our eight featured in-house lawyers lead competition groups from some of the world's largest and most dynamic companies – including three from a company embroiled, seemingly constantly, in antitrust controversy: Google.



Daniel Colgan

Age:
Position:
Firm:
City:

38
Partner
DLA Piper
Brussels

Why did you choose to practise competition law?

I am English/German, but grew up in Brussels. From a very young age I was in constant contact with people from the European Commission and the other EU institutions. So for me, it was always obvious that I wanted to focus on an area of law with an EU/international dimension. I did a long competition law stint during my training contract, during which I became “hooked”. I subsequently became involved in very interesting cases and simply never had a reason to look back.

Who in competition was your mentor/who inspires you?

I have for many years worked closely with Christopher Rother, the global head of competition at Deutsche Bahn AG, who has been a great supporter and hugely inspiring. I admire the way he and his impressive and experienced team operate at the cutting edge of their game.

What competition enforcement trends do you anticipate developing by the time you are 45?

The beauty of competition law is that enforcement trends are always in flux and require practitioners

to rapidly adapt to new situations. My practice has, among other areas, a strong focus on international cartel enforcement. In that field, I expect an increasingly seamless coordination between the authorities investigating international cartels and would not be surprised to see progressively more sophisticated e-searches during dawn raids. Practitioners defending companies involved in such conduct will really have to stay on their toes!

What advice would you give to those starting out in competition law?

You are entering a vibrant and exciting practice area. To really succeed, you need a true passion for competition law.

What firm do you admire from afar?

Having spent almost 10 years at Freshfields, I have close relationships with a number of individuals there, whom I hold in high esteem.

Aside from competition law, what do you enjoy doing?

I love spending time with my family and playing with my 16-month-old son Alex.

