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BIOGRAPHY

Paul Barrs has a deep and diverse antitrust practice, with significant experience in counseling and compliance, transactional analysis, defense of merger and conduct investigations, and regulatory filings with the Federal Trade Commission and U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division.

Paul counsels clients on antitrust issues arising from their day-to-day competitive concerns, and from proposed mergers and acquisitions involving competitors. He has deep experience in managing information exchange issues, both for trade associations and other clients, and in the premerger context. He has negotiated and devised language for dozens of M&A agreements, customized to allocate and manage antitrust risk associated with potential divestitures and other remedies.

Paul is a leader in our firm's joint defense efforts defending merger investigations on a multijurisdictional basis, helping to devise strategies around market definition and competitive dynamics.

ADMISSIONS

- Missouri, 2017
- California, 2003

EDUCATION

- University of California-Hastings, J.D., 2003
- University of California-Los Angeles, B.A., with honors, 1999

RELATED PRACTICE AREAS

- Antitrust
- Investigations
- Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Regulation, Compliance & Advisory

RELATED INSIGHTS

News

Apr 24, 2025

BCLP Advises AMMO, Inc. on Sale of Manufacturing Assets to Leading Ammunition Maker Olin Winchester

News

Apr 03, 2025

BCLP advises Terrestrial Energy Inc. in Milestone move to become first publicly traded molten salt nuclear reactor developer

Blog Post

Mar 21, 2025

Embrace Tradition, Reject Modernity? Recent FTC and DOJ Deal Challenges Show Preference for Traditional Antitrust Theories of Harm

Both the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Department of Justice (DOJ) Antitrust Division have now brought cases challenging deals under President Trump's administration. In many respects, the theories of harm alleged in these cases are traditional and not necessarily reflective of the "new theories" under the 2023 Merger Guidelines. Additionally, in both cases, the DOJ and FTC show a continued focus on both price and non-price aspects of competition, especially those related to innovation.

News

Feb 27, 2025

BCLP advises Caleres, Inc. in acquisition of the Stuart Weitzman brand from Coach parent Tapestry, Inc.

Insights

Jan 17, 2025

Disconnecting Companies: DOJ and FTC Push for Broader Interlocking Directorate Liability

Insights

Jan 14, 2025

FTC Announces 2025 HSR Act Thresholds and Filing Fee Schedule

The Federal Trade Commission announced the annual revised thresholds for merger notifications under the Hart Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended ("HSR Act"). The thresholds are revised annually based on changes in U.S. gross national product. The FTC also issued its annual revision of the HSR filing fee schedule. The new thresholds ("2025 Thresholds") will become effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. Therefore, if publication occurs this week, the 2025 Thresholds will become effective in mid-February and be in effect until the next annual adjustment in January 2026.

Insights

Jan 10, 2025

FTC Secures Record-Breaking Gun-Jumping Fine, Opines on Buyer's Right to Approve Transactions and Lack of Diligence Controls

The Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") sent a firm message—unlawful coordination of merging businesses prior to the closing under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements ("HSR") Act will be aggressively enforced. On January 7, 2025, the federal agency secured a record-breaking \$5.684 million fine from three oil companies for unlawful coordination—also known as "gun jumping"—in violation of the HSR Act's mandatory waiting period. The proposed final order, if entered, orders each of the buy side and the sell side to be fined \$2.842 million, the largest total gun-jumping penalty in U.S. history.

News

Jan 02, 2025

BCLP Advises VOXX International Corporation on \$196 Million Sale to Gentex Corporation

Insights

Oct 21, 2024

FTC Announces New Premerger Notification Form

On October 10, 2024, the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”), with the concurrence of the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice, (the “DOJ”, and together, the “Agencies”) voted unanimously to adopt new premerger notification rules (the “Final Rule”) that implement the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended (the “HSR Act”). The Agencies had previously announced proposed amendments on June 27, 2023, which we covered in a previous insight. The Final Rule reflects numerous changes made during a lengthy review and comment period, including a thorough revamping of the Premerger Notification and Report Form (the “New Form”) that parties are each required to complete if their transaction is reportable under the HSR Act.