

12. WILSON SONSINI GOODRICH & ROSATI

Merger
ranking

9

Cartel
ranking

—

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Global heads: | Jonathan Jacobson, Susan Creighton |
| Number of jurisdictions with a competition team: | 4 |
| Practice size: | 59 |
| <i>Who's Who Legal</i> nominees: | 8 |
| Partners: | 15 |
| Percentage of partners/counsel in <i>Who's Who Legal</i> : | 32 |
| Senior associates: | n/a |
| Associates: | 34 |
| Counsel and consultants: | 10 |
| Other: | 0 |
| Lateral partner hires: | 0 |
| Partner departures: | 0 |
| Former enforcers: | 10 |

At one point, it may have been fair to categorise the Wilson Sonsini antitrust practice as one focused almost wholly on the technology and start-up scene in Silicon Valley; indeed, the firm was at one point headquartered there, and the bulk of its antitrust talent called the bay home. Those days are long gone. While the firm still attracts as much antitrust work from the start-up-fuelled tech world as anyone, the Wilson Sonsini practice is now mature and robust, spanning multiple continents and serving clients in industries far and wide.

While the firm opened in Brussels last year, Wilson Sonsini continues to focus much of its energy on the US market. Its merger practice is active in a range deals for the firm's robust client base, on all of which the firm acted as global coordinating counsel. While many of its mergers were relatively minor, some presented issues in dynamic industries that can trip up enforcers. Last year, the firm defended Bazaarvoice against a government lawsuit challenging its purchase of its nearest rival. The effort came up empty when the judge sided with the government in the case, but firm attorneys showed the guts and savvy to take a difficult case to trial preaching novel theories of a dynamic industry ripe for change.

Wilson Sonsini's cartel practice is growing, thanks in large part to former US Department of Justice prosecutor Mark Rosman, who was hired specifically to expand the firm's cartel and criminal antitrust capabilities. The firm has since been involved in multiple cartel cases and follow-on litigations, acting for companies and executives in the auto parts, capacitors, ocean shipping and financial services cases, among others.

Rosman is just part of a push at Wilson Sonsini to hire top former enforcement officials and put them in position to serve clients and win new business. Susan Creighton, the practice's co-leader, is a former DoJ official, as are partners Andrea Agathoklis Murino and Charles Biggio, and counsel Stuart Chemtob and Jeff VanHooreweghe. Meanwhile, partners Seth Silber and Chul Pak are Federal Trade Commission alumni.