



# Merger Control

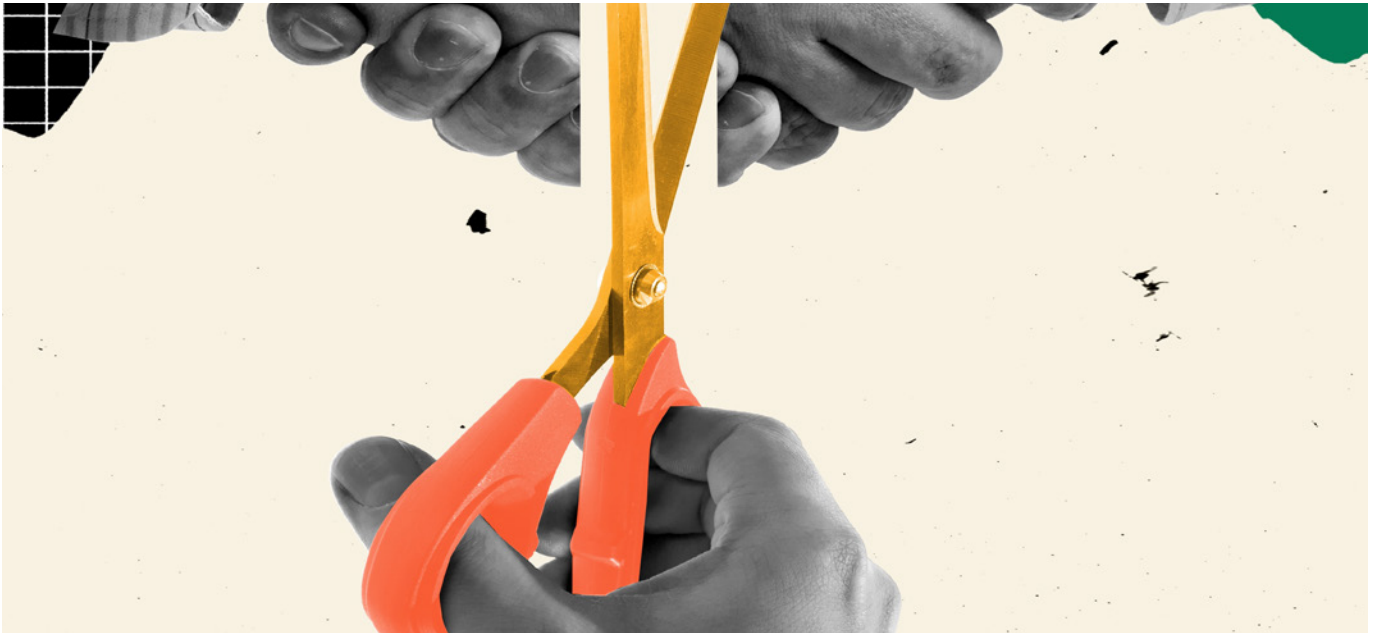
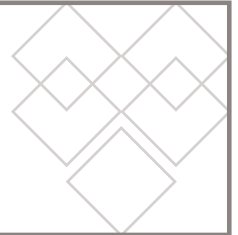
## 2026



PROFILED:

**TARA REINHART**

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP





## Merger Control



### TARA REINHART

Partner & Head of DC Office Antitrust/Competition Practice  
**Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP**

Washington, DC, US

T: +1 (202) 371 7630

E: tara.reinhart@skadden.com

★ 2026

★ 2025

#### PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

**Tara Reinhart** leads Skadden's antitrust/competition group in Washington, DC, and previously served as chief trial counsel for the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Competition. She represents clients in antitrust mergers and acquisitions, high-stakes antitrust litigation and government investigations. She has secured major victories in Department of Justice merger challenges and cartel matters, and she also advises companies on antitrust compliance programmes. She has been selected for inclusion repeatedly in Chambers USA and as one of Lawdragon's 500 leading lawyers in the US.

**Skadden**



## TARA REINHART

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

### Q&A WITH TARA REINHART

#### **What standout moments in your career have significantly shaped your professional journey?**

◆ Taking the opportunity to act as chief trial counsel of the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC's) Bureau of Competition transformed my career. The role focused on leading teams in deciding whether to recommend to the commissioners litigation to block a merger, in preparing a case for trial on an expedited schedule, and in presenting and arguing a case to a judge at trial. Until I took that opportunity, my resume lacked first-chair trial experience. At the FTC, I not only gained that practical experience, but I also learned the vagaries of decision making at the agency. I cannot overstate the value of my time at the FTC.

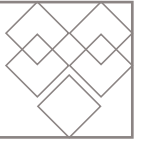
#### **Could you describe your approach to tackling complex legal challenges? What principles or philosophies guide your work?**

◆ My job as an antitrust litigator is to make the most persuasive legal arguments I can in the context of the client's specific situation. Rule one is not to overreach with the legal precedents; we lose credibility with the court if we stretch legal holdings too far. Second, I focus on how the client's situation fits within the principles of the precedents - what makes my interpretation of the law the right one not only within the precedential framework but also in how my interpretation would be applied in future cases. Finally, I endeavour to articulate my argument plainly, whether orally or in legal briefs, using active verbs and avoiding adverbs. It is gratifying to read a court's opinion that not only accepts my interpretation of the law, but also mimics my framing.



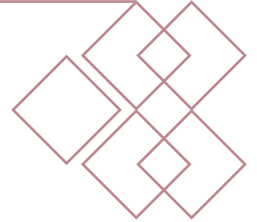
## TARA REINHART

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP



### What are your predictions for the future of your legal specialty? How do you see your vocation evolving over the next few years?

◆ Between the neo-Brandeisian tendencies of the Biden administration and the populist bent of the two Trump administrations, antitrust enforcement is more aggressive and unsettled today than ever before. Rather than retreating to a traditional Republican approach after the Biden administration, the Trump enforcers continue to apply a number of the prior administration's novel approaches. Moreover, politics are seeping into enforcement, sometimes raising the question whether political favouritism in industries, or even as to individual corporate players, is affecting the agencies' decision making. As a result, clients more than ever are consulting not just antitrust counsel but a range of advisers to navigate both merger and conduct investigations. The introduction of advocacy outside of traditional legal and public policy questions may have the undesired effect of complicating investigations and frustrating agency staff. If political advocacy becomes the norm, look for enforcement outcomes to be even less predictable. ■



**“BETWEEN THE NEO-BRANDEISIAN TENDENCIES OF THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION AND THE POPULIST BENT OF THE TWO TRUMP ADMINISTRATIONS, ANTITRUST ENFORCEMENT IS MORE AGGRESSIVE AND UNSETTLED TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE.”**



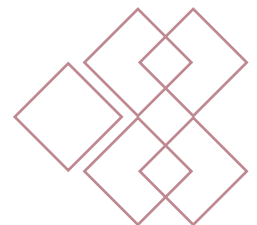
## TARA REINHART

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP



## REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- ◆ Represented Juniper Networks, Inc. in the litigation and settlement before trial of the US Department of Justice’s lawsuit attempting to block its \$14bn acquisition by Hewlett Packard Enterprise.
- ◆ Represented American Express Global Business Travel in the litigation and dismissal before trial of the US Department of Justice’s lawsuit attempting to block its \$570m acquisition of CWT.
- ◆ Represented Norfolk Southern Railway Co. in an 18-year litigation pursued by more than 300 shippers alleging the four major freight railroads conspired to use fuel surcharges to increase rail rates, and secured a victory on summary judgment in June 2025.



### Enjoyed this article?

Join our community for free to access more expert insights.

[Join Now - It's Free](#)