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People — Valentine departs DOJ for Crowell

By **Claude Marx**

(October 6, 2026) -- When Rebecca Valentine joined the Federal Trade Commission as an honors paralegal, she had a cursory knowledge of antitrust.

But as she helped trial teams, the Duke University alum got hooked. That led to a series of jobs, culminating in her recent move from the Department of Justice to Crowell & Moring.

In an interview with *FTCWatch*, Valentine shared that making the switch lined up with her interests and experience.

"My work at the DOJ focused on defense industries and aerospace, and I felt that expertise would be a perfect synergy with what Crowell & Moring does well," she said.

The appealing aspects of antitrust stem from learning about different industries as the markets are always evolving, Valentine said, adding that it's also fact-based.

"Especially in defense and aerospace, the markets are very dynamic and the ways companies do business changes," she said. "And dynamic markets can be good for the economy."

While her antitrust work is precise and quantitative, Valentine's choice of colleges was anything but. She received catalogues from several prestigious schools and decided that Duke's campus looked the prettiest.

Thriving at Duke, Valentine majored in economics and Spanish. Eventually, that led her to the FTC, cementing a desire to work on antitrust matters.

She left the agency to attend Vanderbilt University Law School.

"I was a very annoying kid at law school. I knew exactly what I wanted to do," she recalled.

Valentine thinks the approach toward protecting competition has changed, so counseling clients has become more challenging.

"There's been a lot of pendulum swinging and not just ideologically. This is a more business-friendly moment than in previous administrations," she said.

Her range of expertise encompasses government and the private sector. After law school, she was an associate at Mayer Brown and Latham & Watkins. In 2015, Valentine joined the DOJ where she stayed for 11 years.

"I went to the DOJ for practical skills, but I also learned about issue-spotting and predicting outcomes. But a frustrating thing about government service is that you experience so many pendulum swings that it causes whiplash," she told *FTCWatch*.

A final note on Valentine's defense and aerospace work: the sector could only be described as unique, often including issues tied to vertical competition and bidding, with days full of legal skill-building.

Off the clock, she enjoys singing and playing handbells in her church choir.

Valentine also sings for fun and is partial to 1990s' country music. In addition, the native of Kansas

City's suburbs, is a fan of the city's sports teams.

References:

<https://www.crowell.com/en/professionals/rebecca-valentine>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/rebecca-valentinecompetitionlawyer/>

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