

CROWELL & MORING LLP

Global head: Randolph Smith

Home jurisdiction: USA

Total size of firm: 357

No. of competition lawyers: 66

% of firm specialised: 18

Who's Who nominees: 1

Equity partners: 18

Non-equity partners: 2

Senior associates: 14

Associates: 23

In-house economists: 1

Other: 8

No. of lateral partner hires: 0

No. of partner departures: 0

No. of internal promotions: 1

Crowell & Moring returns to the GCR 100 this year, thanks to an impressive docket of cases – particularly in the US. The firm was appointed lead antitrust counsel to AT&T when it bought BellSouth for US\$86 billion, and also when it acquired Dobson Communications for US\$2.8 billion.

Another key US client is Reed Elsevier. Crowell was lead antitrust counsel on its US\$4 billion sale of Harcourt Education Group to Houghton Mifflin Riverdeep Group, which combined two leading publishers of school textbooks. The group also advised on the US\$950 million sale of Harcourt Assessment and Harcourt Education International to Pearson.

Crowell handled antitrust issues on a number of other headline-making deals this year. It represented Sierra Health Services on its sale to UnitedHealth Group for US\$2.6 billion and Alcoa on its US\$598 million joint venture with Orkla ASA's SAPA Group. Other clients included EI DuPont de Nemours; the National Association of Broadcasters (in relation to the DoJ's antitrust review of the proposed XM/Sirius deal); and Arjowiggins SAS.

Crowell handled a wide range of matters on the litigation front too – from class-action price-fixing “follow on” cases to government enforcement actions to distributor refusal-to-deal claims. On the defence side, Crowell advised CSX Transportation in class actions by direct and indirect transport services alleging that the major US freight railways engaged in a conspiracy to fix fuel surcharge prices; it represented SAS Cargo in multidistrict class-action treble damage cases triggered by the global investigations of alleged price fixing in the air cargo industry; and it won federal court approval under the Tunney Act of the DoJ's antitrust settlement in AT&T and SBC's US\$16 billion merger.

Over the past year, Crowell's antitrust recovery litigation team has represented clients in a variety of industries. For example, it represented a plaintiff group – including Sun Microsystems and Unisys – in opt-out litigation against computer chip makers for their alleged involvement in a global conspiracy to fix the price of DRAM: Crowell recovered multi-million dollar settlements against several defendants.

It also represented four major purchasers of rubber chemicals products in opt-out litigation and class settlement claims against participants in the worldwide rubber chemicals price-fixing cartels. Crowell also acted for several diamond resellers – including Tiffany & Co – in seeking allocation of recovery against De Beers.

In terms of cartel defence, Crowell acted as lead antitrust counsel and criminal defence counsel for an international air cargo carrier in the global cartel investigation.