

Editor's Introduction to the 2024–2025 edition

Corporate Counsel's Guide to Relations with Competitors is not a scholarly treatise on the minute details of antitrust risks but is instead designed to be practical in nature. It provides specific and helpful advice on what is permissible and what is not when dealing with competitors. It contains detailed summaries of the important and relevant cases and covers a range of topics including trade associations, bid rigging, antitrust concerns in joint ventures, monopolization, and agreements with competitors that trigger the antitrust laws.

Highlights to the 2024–2025 edition include:

- Discussion of *United States v. Brewbaker* and *In re Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litigation* regarding Per Se or Rule of Reason price-fixing agreements (§ 2:3).
- *Okavage Group, LLC v. United Wholesale Mortgage, LLC*, where plaintiff alleged that UWM acted improperly by orchestrating an anticompetitive scheme that violated federal and state antitrust laws (§ 5:3).
- *In re Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litigation*, where commercial and consumer buyers of broiler chicken meat brought a class action against producers of such meat, alleging that producers conspired to decrease production in order to increase prices in violation of the Sherman Act (§ 6:1).
- *Geomatrix, LLC v. NSF International*, where Geomatrix sold a septic system that substantially differed from those sold by its competitors. It asserted defendants, those competitors and NSF International (the primary standard-setting organization for the wastewater product industry), conspired to exclude its unique system from the marketplace. It alleged that defendants conspired to devalue its products by dominating the NSF process to wrongly disparage Treatment and Dispersal (T&D) systems and to exclude them from the marketplace.