

CHRISTOPH VAN OPSTAL

Counsel

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PRACTICE AREAS

CHRISTOPH PRACTICES ANTITRUST AND COMPETITION LAW. HE ADVISES CLIENTS ON MERGER CONTROL, ANTITRUST INVESTIGATIONS AND LITIGATION, AND STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL ISSUES.

Christoph's practice focuses on complex M&A transactions, investigations and enforcement actions with a global and multi-jurisdictional dimension.

Prior to joining Fangda, Christoph worked in the competition practices of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in London (practicing EU and UK competition law) and Gilbert + Tobin in Sydney. As a result, he has first-hand experience in representing clients before various competition authorities and courts globally, including China's State Administration for Market Regulation, Hong Kong's Competition Commission, the European Commission, the United Kingdom's Competition and Markets Authority, and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS AND CASES

In China and Hong Kong

Christoph's most recent work includes:

- acting for **MaxLinear** on its proposed USD3.8 billion acquisition of Taiwanese semiconductor company Silicon Motion, a landmark semiconductor merger control case that was cleared with remedies in the midst of China-US geopolitical tensions in 2023;
- acting for **Regal Rexnord Corporation** on its USD5 billion acquisition of Altra Industrial Motion Corp;
- securing unconditional approval for **MKS Instruments** on its USD6.5 billion acquisition of German-based specialist chemicals technology company Atotech;

- representing **Lumentum** on its USD918 million acquisition of NeoPhotonics Corporation, a leading supplier of optoelectronic products;
- acting for **AerCap** on its USD30 billion acquisition of GE Capital Aviation Services, to create a global leader in aircraft leasing;
- advising **Maxim Integrated** on its USD27.5 billion sale to Analog Devices, which combined two semiconductor leaders and was cleared unconditionally;
- securing unconditional clearance for the proposed USD1.8 billion **Hyundai Heavy Industries / DSME** merger to create the world's largest shipbuilder (following an extensive review of nearly 17 months, which represents one of the longest reviews undertaken in China);
- advising a global complainant in the USD7 billion the merger control proceedings of NVIDIA/Mellanox, which resulted in a significant remedy package in China;
- securing unconditional clearance for the USD12 billion **Pfizer (Upjohn) / Mylan** merger;
- advising American Express on its entry into China's bank card clearing services (the first foreign payments network to be allowed to process local currency transactions in China).

Christoph represents clients in investigations and potential enforcement actions in Hong Kong. Most recently, he led the team in securing favorable commitments for **Deliveroo** in the highly publicized investigation into online food delivery platforms by the Hong Kong Competition Commission.

Christoph regularly advises on the investments of a variety of private equity houses and investment banks, including **Apollo Global Management**, **Brookfield Global Asset Management**, **Blackstone Group**, **Warburg Pincus**, and **Goldman Sachs**.

In Europe and the United Kingdom

Christoph acted as global counsel (which includes coordinating global filing efforts) on a number of key deals before the European Commission, including:

- acting on the proposed merger between **Siemens / Alstom**, which is widely regarded as a landmark test case in European merger control;
- securing unconditional (Phase I) clearance for **Coty** on its USD12.5 billion acquisition of Procter & Gamble's beauty business to create one of the world's largest beauty players;

- providing strategic advice on the **Intrum Justitia / Lindorff** merger, which resulted in significant remedies and created the industry leading provider of credit management services;
- acting for a **major luxury brands supplier** on a range of vertical issues in respect of its distribution systems in the e-commerce space.

Before the UK's Competition and Markets Authority, Christoph also represented **Acadia Healthcare** on its GBP 1.3 billion acquisition of the Priory Group, which resulted in "mix and match" remedies following a complex Phase 1 investigation.

In Australia

Christoph acted as lead lawyer in key investigations and court proceedings before the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and a range of financial regulators, including:

- representing a **major bank** against allegations of manipulation/collusion in the foreign exchange markets;
- defending and achieving favourable settlement for **Malaysia Airlines** in court proceedings regarding global price-fixing allegations of air cargo related surcharges.

OTHER INFORMATION

Christoph holds a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts. He graduated with First Class Honours.

Christoph is admitted to the Supreme Court of New South Wales in Australia. He is a member of the New South Wales Law Society and the Law Society of Hong Kong.