

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, multi-jurisdictional transactions and enforcement actions, including global merger control proceedings and antitrust investigations.

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 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 is currently defending a global digital platform against allegations of anticompetitive conduct in a major investigation before the Hong Kong Competition Commission.

Christoph regularly advises on the investments of a variety of private equity houses and investment banks, including Blackstone Group, The Carlyle Group, Apollo Global Management, 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 Proctor & 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.