

DAVID B. LAWRENCE

EXPERIENCE AND AFFILIATIONS

FELLOW, THURMAN ARNOLD PROJECT *Apr. 2026 – Present*
Yale University (guiding Yale students in their antitrust research on a part-time basis)

POLICY DIRECTOR *Jan. 2022 – Mar. 2026*
Antitrust Division, United States Department of Justice

- Seniormost career official for antitrust policy, reporting to Senate-confirmed leadership across presidential administrations and supervising 50+ staff. Principal legal author of the 2023 Merger Guidelines—the central guiding document for federal merger review—and coauthor of over a hundred other official statements, speeches, and briefs.
- Oversaw all appeals and dispositive legal issues. Developed the doctrinal architecture of landmark monopolization cases against Google, Live Nation, Apple, and Visa.
- Led international relations. Oversaw participation in multilateral organizations such as the OECD and ICN, and supported USTR in trade negotiations.
- Supervised interagency regulatory engagement. Oversaw OMB and OIRA interagency review on behalf of the Antitrust Division; trained regulatory agencies on the incorporation of competition principles in rulemaking; worked closely with the Patent and Trademark Office in developing IP competition policy.
- Managed Congressional engagement. Drafted legislation for committee staff; prepared senior officials for Congressional testimony; and wrote official responses to Congress.

CHIEF, COMPETITION POLICY AND ADVOCACY *Jan. 2019 – Jan. 2022*
Antitrust Division, United States Department of Justice

- Senior domestic policy advisor to Senate-confirmed leadership. Led the development and implementation of all significant policy initiatives and engagement with Congress, including authoring the 2020 Vertical Merger Guidelines.
- Led a Division-wide effort to support the development and implementation of President Biden’s Executive Order on Competition in the American Economy, engaging directly with the National Economic Council at the White House and numerous other agencies.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, provided wide-ranging support for the federal response.

DIRECTOR, T-MOBILE/SPRINT TRANSACTION TASK FORCE *June 2018 – Aug. 2019*
Federal Communications Commission

- On detail to the Office of Chairman Ajit Pai, led 50+ person interagency task force.
- Directed all aspects of the legal, economic, and engineering analysis and the preparation of the Commission Order; developed and negotiated 5G buildout remedies.

COUNSEL TO THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL AND TRIAL ATTORNEY *Oct. 2011 – July 2018*
Antitrust Division, United States Department of Justice

- Senior legal advisor to Assistant Attorneys General Hesse, Snyder, Finch, and Delrahim.
- Lead attorney in several complex investigations in the telecommunications industry.

CLERKSHIPS

LAW CLERK TO THE HON. WILFRED FEINBERG
United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

October 2010-October 2011

LAW CLERK TO THE HON. RICHARD J. HOLWELL
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

October 2009-October 2010

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary: Antitrust; Civil Procedure; Business Associations

Secondary: AI and Law; Law and Technology; Administrative Law

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

Antitrust in Time (Job Market Paper)

This article introduces “temporal error” to reevaluate the theoretical underpinnings of antitrust adjudication. It adapts familiar decision theory (minimizing errors of over- and under-enforcement) to account for the costs of delayed enforcement such as ongoing harm and remedial degradation, yielding new insights on how substantive tests should be applied. It proposes courts follow Congress’ commands and resolve public monopolization claims “as soon as may be” by adapting expedition approaches applied to merger litigation.

The Merger-Monopolization Gap (forthcoming in 101 N.Y.U. L. REV. __ (2027))

This article identifies a gap between Congress’ statutory design of the Clayton Act as a monopolization-prevention tool and enforcers’ execution. It identifies the sources of that gap in an early divergence between Sherman Act and Clayton Act understandings of monopolization that led to an overcorrection abandoning enforcement altogether. To bridge the gap, it proposes a doctrinal synthesis of Sherman Act and Clayton Act precedents, developing a four-part test that prevents monopolization-enabling mergers without condemning efficiency.

Contemporary Merger Review Under the Rule of Law: Translating Old Law into Modern Economics, 2025 COLUM. BUS. L. REV. 99 (2025)

Nominated for Best Academic Article — Mergers by Concurrences 2025 Antitrust Writing Awards. This article examines the application of old precedents to modern merger review. It argues that sound law enforcement must both maintain absolute fidelity to binding precedent and reflect up-to-date economic understandings and market realities, which requires an act of translation. It discusses several translations between old doctrine and new economics necessary to simultaneously serve both goals.

The 2023 Merger Guidelines: Lessons in the Importance of Inciency, Modern Economics, and Monopsony, CPI ANTITRUST CHRON. May 21, 2024; also published as Stanford Law and Economics Olin Working Paper No. 596 (2024) (with Susan Athey)

This article provides a retrospective from the DOJ’s lead guidelines authors on several key aspects of the law and economics of merger review revealed during the process of preparing the revision. It underscores how the updated guidelines pursue the shared goal of advancing modern economics and respects limits on the regulatory authorities of federal law enforcers.

Can Telecommunications Regulation Inform the Regulation of Generative AI?,
NETWORK. L. REV, Winter 2024)

This article leverages lessons from the history of telecommunications regulation to inform emerging regulatory approaches for generative AI. It argues that similarities in the fixed infrastructure costs of both technologies suggest similar economic principles may apply to aspects of AI regulation, including as to the benefits of promoting interoperability and the need for the development of robust connections with law enforcement to ensure safety and security.

Temperature-responsive semipermeable capsules composed of colloidal microgel spheres,
Langmuir 23(2), 395-398 (2007) (with T. Cai, Z. Hu, M. Marquez & A.D. Dinsmore)

As first author, developed a novel nanoparticle self-assembly process as an undergraduate physics project. Now with over 125 citations, this article continues to influence the development of soft condensed matter physics.

Market Power and Economic Self-Governance (in progress 2026)

Antitrust policy debates whether monopolies or competitive markets produce more innovation but has ignored that innovation has both magnitude and direction. Whether markets evolve to benefit the many or the few depends on who already has power. This Article connects an emerging historical and economic literature on the direction of progress with the economic concept of market power, showing that market threatens self-governance directly by constraining consumers' ability to shape their economy.

EDUCATION

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

J.D., *magna cum laude*

May 2009

Editor-in-Chief, N.Y.U. ANN. SURV. AM. L.

Lederman-Milbank Fellow in Law and Economics

Order of the Coif

Sol D. Kapelsohn Prize (for most outstanding paper in the field of labor relations)

Vanderbilt Medal (for outstanding service to the law school).

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

B.S. in Physics, *magna cum laude*

May 2006

Student Speaker for the 136th Commencement (one from 4,000 graduates)

Kandula Sastry Award (two awarded for excellence and creativity in physics)

SELECTED APPEARANCES

PUBLISHED KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Keynote [Address](#), King's College London Sixth Annual EU Competition Law Conference, "Transatlantic Convergence in Competition Enforcement" (December 2024)

Keynote [Address](#), William Howard Taft Lecture, New York State Bar Association and Columbia Business Law Review (December 2024)

Keynote [Address](#), Brigham Young University Law Conference, "Tech Platforms in a New Age of Competition Law" (October 2022)

ACADEMIC EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Invited Commentator, University of Chicago Coase Sandor Institute for Law and Economics and University College London Centre for Law, Economics, and Society, “When Competition Law Meets Labour Market Power: Navigating Worker Protection and Market Competition,” (December 2025)

Invited Commentator, NYU Law Program on Corporate Compliance and Enforcement Annual Conference, “Antitrust Scrutiny of Institutional Investors,” (November 2025)

Guest Lecturer, Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, Antitrust (October 2025)

Guest Lecturer, University of Miami School of Law, Antitrust (November 2024)

Invited Commentator, George Washington University, Research Conference on Communications, Information, and Internet Policy, (September 2025)

Invited Commentator, Harvard Law School and Oxford University, Conference on Common Ownership, Common Directors, Governance, and Competition (October 2024)

Featured Speaker, Georgetown University Law Center, Center for Technology Law & Policy, Lawfare Conference, “The Antitrust Implications of AI Systems” (October 2024)

Introductory Speaker and Moderator, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research and Antitrust Division Workshop on Promoting Competition in Artificial Intelligence (May 2024)

Invited Commentator, NYU Law Antitrust and Competition Law Society Annual Conference, “Updates in Merger Enforcement,” (November 2023)

Invited Commentator, Georgetown University McDonough School of Business, Georgetown on the Hill Panel, “The Draft Merger Guidelines: First Impressions and Discussion” (June 2023)

Introductory Remarks and Moderator, Stanford Graduate School of Business and Antitrust Division Workshop on Venture Capital Investment and Antitrust Law (January 2020).

GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Invited Commentator, George Washington University Competition and Innovation Lab, Capitol Hill Briefing, “Free Speech and Antitrust: Who Controls the Public Square” (November 2025)

Invited Commentator, Deutsche Bundeskartellamt 22nd International Conference on Competition (February 2024)

Frequent presentations to Congressional staff on competition policy and technical assistance on drafting antitrust-related legislation (2019-2026)

U.S. Delegate, OECD Competition Committee meetings (2022-2026)