

ABA Section of Antitrust Law, Antitrust Class Action Handbook (2010)

The opening lines of this valuable handbook say it all: “At least 90% of United States antitrust enforcement is generated through private actions. The antitrust class action is a primary mechanism through which private actors seeks to enforce the antitrust laws.” (1) This compact yet sophisticated handbook should thus be of interest to class action attorneys seeking to better understand practice in the antitrust area; antitrust lawyers seeking to better understand class action practice; and observers outside the United States seeking to understand this aspect of our litigation system and create sound systems of collective action for their own jurisdictions.

The handbook begins with an introduction which examines the history and future trends of class actions in the United States and briefly looks at the efforts in the EU and Canada to implement appropriate collective action litigation for their jurisdictions. The rest of the handbook proceeds with a comprehensive and even-handed look at the legal and strategic questions of filing a class action; antitrust claims suitable for class treatment; deciding whether to opt out of a class action; class action certification procedure; antitrust class certification standards; the role of experts in antitrust class certification, and antitrust class action settlements.

Spencer Weber Waller
Loyola University Chicago School of Law