Competition law program expands at Loyola

BY SPENCER WEBER WALLER

A competition law has substantive rules, procedures, and enforcement priorities that differ from those in the United States, but international businesses must navigate the tangle of dozens of different laws and jurisdictions that may investigate or challenge a particular business practice or transaction.

Global competition law is now an important part of the work of Loyola’s Institute for Consumer Antitrust Studies, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Our student fellows are exposed to US and global competition law both in the classroom and the real world at monthly lunches with leading practitioners; hands-on projects in conjunction with the American Bar Association; articles published on our website, and our annual colloquium, which attracts speakers and attendees from around the world. The Institute has sponsored conferences and programs in Chile, England, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, and throughout the US, as well as prepared white papers and other submissions to the governments of Canada, New Zealand, and the EU on both competition and consumer protection matters.

Global competition law issues are also the biggest themes of my current projects. In late 2015, published the fourth edition of Antitrust and American Business (Thomson Reuters). This book was initially published in 1958 when the US was more or less the antitrust police for the whole world. The book was expanded and revised in 1980 to deal with the new issues of the day (OECD, the growth of the EU, the challenges of the cold war, etc.). I look over the treaties, publishing the third edition in 1996, and have updated it ever since. The time came to comprehensively rethink and rewrite the book to deal with the issues of antitrust and competition law in the 21st century. With the help of Andrew Fieberg, a gifted coauthor, former student, and partner at Quarles & Brady, we have expanded coverage of EU, Canadian, and Mexican competition law, and the myriad ways competition agencies cooperate to enforce criminal and civil antitrust laws and promote a more consumer-friendly competitive economy, both locally and globally. In addition, we discuss for the first time the growing trend toward private damage actions in competition cases around the world where defendants now face government enforcement, as well as complicated and high-stakes private damage litigation and class actions both in the US and abroad.

Taking global competition law online

The other focus of my energies has been the launch of the new, fully online degree programs in global competition law at Loyola. Both lawyers and non-lawyer professionals working in the field may enroll in these two-year, part-time programs to sharpen their skills and knowledge in the competition law and policy issues facing regulators and the regulated in today’s global marketplace.

The MJ and LLM programs in global competition law were launched this fall with a combination of students from the public and private sector. I have enjoyed interacting online with a group of students that includes the head of a competition agency, a prominent Latin American competition law specialist, two staff members at an African agency, an in-house counsel for an American multinational corporation based in Latin America, and a Loyola MBA graduate living and working in Cambodia (see page 35). For more information, visit luc.edu/antitrust/globalcompetition.

While I teach other courses at the School of Law, US antitrust and global competition law will continue to be the focus of most of my research and writing. It is a fascinating and ever-changing field.

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FACULTY RESEARCH

ANTITRUST GOES GLOBAL

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While once an esoteric specialty, global competition law is now an important part of any international lawyer’s portfolio.