

BOOK REVIEW

***ABA Section of Antitrust Law, Antitrust Class Actions Handbook*. 2d ed. Chicago, IL. ABA Publishing. 2018. 373 pages. \$229. ISBN 978-1-64105-122-4.**

The new edition of the Antitrust Class Actions Handbook comes at a welcome time in terms of the continuing evolution of the law. All forms of collective litigation deal in different ways with the phenomena of large numbers of relatively small claims which only become viable if bundled into some form of single action. The United States has been a leader in these field since the amendments to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23 in the 1960s making modern class actions possible. Since then class action practice in the United States has waxed and waned and numerous other countries have experimented by introducing their own forms of class or collective actions.

The new edition of the Handbook updates and expands its discussion of the key issues in United States class action practice and introduces new chapters on mass actions and class actions in other key jurisdictions. The volume begins its US coverage with an immensely practical chapter on the legal and strategic issues of whether and where to file a class action. The Handbook continues with rich chapters analysing the type of antitrust claims potentially suited for class treatment and the critical decision of whether to opt out of the class action.

The deepest analysis is found in the chapters dealing with court certification of the proposed class action, the moment of truth in most such litigation. Chapter V discusses the procedures for class certification while Chapter VI contains an equally detailed analysis of the substantive standards for class action certification. The United States section then concludes with shorter chapters on the role of experts in class action litigation and the critically important issue of settlement, and the ensuing court approval, of such agreements.

The final third of the Handbook shifts the focus to the evolving state of mass and class actions outside the United States. The Handbook surveys the law in Canada, Australia, the EU, and select EU Member States. These surveys are of great interest, but space limitations prevent the type of in-depth coverage of the United States sections of the volume.

This practitioner-oriented volume is a must for generalist competition lawyers, antitrust class action specialists, as well as students, academics, or attorneys seeking to better understand the current state of play in antitrust class action litigation.

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