

Ex-US FTC competition director joins Global Antitrust Institute



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Tad LipskyGCR Live / Freedom Film LLC

Bolstering its team after Koren Wong-Ervin's departure for Qualcomm, the Global Antitrust Institute has added Abbott "Tad" Lipsky, a former Latham & Watkins partner who recently served as acting director of the US Federal Trade Commission's bureau of competition.

The institute at George Mason University outside Washington, DC, will have Lipsky direct its competition advocacy programme, teach and help launch opportunities for Antonin Scalia Law School students to work on the comments and analysis that the institute submits to competition authorities worldwide.

Lipsky, 67, said he is excited to take the position.

"I am deeply honoured to be joining the distinguished faculty of this wonderful and unique institution. I will be among long-time friends and professional colleagues who represent the best traditions of cogent and practical analysis of society's most important questions regarding antitrust law, economics and policy in the global economy," he said.

During Lipsky's four-month [stint](#) as acting director for competition at the FTC this year, he [advocated](#) reforms within the agency, [emphasised](#) "limiting principles" for antitrust enforcement and [criticised](#) his predecessors in the Obama Administration for statements that appeared to stray into a broader view of what competition policy could do.

FTC acting chairman Maureen Ohlhausen said, "Tad's deep experience in antitrust policy, including its international aspects, was why I chose him as the acting director of the bureau of competition. I am confident he will continue to make important contributions in his new role at GAI."

Lipsky retired from the partnership at Latham & Watkins in February. He had [joined](#) the firm in 2001 after almost a decade working for Coca Cola's competition team, and brings more than 40 years of antitrust experience to the Global Antitrust Institute – including serving as a deputy in the US Department of Justice's antitrust division during the Reagan Administration. Former FTC commissioner Joshua Wright, executive director of the institute, called Lipsky "an intellectual giant in antitrust law. He adds serious intellectual horsepower to our team, not to mention first-hand practical knowledge drawn from leadership positions within both US agencies and decades of experience in private practice."

The institute includes other US antitrust agency alumni such as Douglas Ginsburg, a senior judge on the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, who led the Antitrust Division for two years during the Reagan Administration.

Wong-Ervin, formerly counsel for intellectual property and antitrust in the FTC's office of international affairs, was director of the Global Antitrust Institute from late 2015 until last month, when she [moved](#) in-house at Qualcomm.