

People



Austin A.B. Ownbey

Partner, Corporate

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vCard

An antitrust regulatory practitioner, Austin Ownbey counsels clients on a wide range of competition and antitrust issues, including the review of mergers and other enforcement matters before competition agencies in the United States and around the world. Austin has worked with clients across a broad array of industries including healthcare, pharmaceuticals, private equity, venture capital, technology, and energy.

Austin has experience representing clients before the U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division (DOJ); the Federal Trade Commission (FTC); state attorneys general; and foreign antitrust enforcement agencies. Austin also frequently counsels clients through the Hart-Scott-Rodino (HSR) merger review process and other merger control filings. During his time as a staff attorney at the FTC, Austin gained significant experience handling merger and conduct investigations, as well as consumer protection litigation.

Austin's practice also includes guiding cannabis clients through the licensing processes as well as compliance matters with cannabis regulators around the country.

Notable Work

BCC Engineering, LLC: Prepared HSR filing and provided antitrust guidance to BCC Engineering, LLC, one of Florida's leading transportation engineering firm and a portfolio company of Trivest Partners, in its sale to Parsons Corporation.

Comvest Partners: Prepared HSR filing and provided antitrust guidance to Comvest Partners in the recapitalization of Bland Landscaping, Inc, an Apex, N.C.-based regional provider of commercial landscaping services.

Front Row Group: Prepared HSR filing and provided antitrust guidance to Front Row Group, an e-commerce agency and accelerator providing fully outsourced marketplace management to

Areas of Experience

Corporate
Antitrust and Trade Regulation
M&A and Private Equity
White Collar Crime and Government Investigations
Cannabis

Education

J.D., University of Michigan Law School, 2010
B.A., Oberlin College, 2003

Admissions

Bars

District of Columbia
California

Related Content

Eduardo Espinosa, Michael Napoli, and Austin Ownbey to Present on Cannabis and the Securities Regulator
March 05, 2025

Austin Ownbey and Alexandra Mora to Speak on Navigating the National Association of Realtors' Antitrust Settlement
January 28, 2025

Akerman Represents Hidden Harbor Capital Partners in Strategic Investment in Quaker Valley Foods
January 24, 2025

beauty, health & wellness, and CPG brands and a portfolio company of Trivest Partners, in its sale to Charlesbank Capital Partners.

Managed Print and IT Services Company: Prepared HSR filing and provided antitrust guidance to a managed print and IT services company in its sale to an investment firm.

Symbiosis Coalition: Prepared HSR filing and provided antitrust guidance on the formation of the Symbiosis Coalition, a new advance market commitment collaboration from leading technology companies including Google, Meta, Microsoft, and Salesforce aimed at supporting the development and growth of the nature-based carbon removal market.

GreenLight Biosciences: Prepared HSR filing and provided antitrust guidance to GreenLight Biosciences, a biotechnology company, in a \$1.2 billion SPAC business combination with Environmental Impact Acquisition Corp., which resulted in GreenLight becoming a publicly listed company.

New-Indy Containerboard: Prepared HSR filing and provided antitrust guidance to New-Indy Containerboard, a joint-venture formed by the Kraft Group and Schwarz Partners, LP, in its acquisition of Shoreline Container.

Pointillist: Prepared HSR filing and provided antitrust guidance to Pointillist, a developer of a customer journey analytics software intended to rapidly uncover customer insights and improve customer experience, in its sale to Genesys Cloud Services.

Watterson Brands: Prepared HSR filing and provided antitrust guidance to Watterson Brands, a leading national facility services company, in its sale to Highview Capital.

Internet Listing Services Provider: Represented a major company in the internet listing services provider industry as a third-party witness in a merger challenge brought by the FTC.

Global Payments Solutions Provider: Represented a leading global payments solutions provider in obtaining clearance for its acquisition of a payment technology company, in a transaction valued at \$1.05 billion.

Health Services Company: Represented a leading health services company in a multistate antitrust and consumer protection investigation relating to pharmaceutical pricing.

Medical Device Company: Represented a multinational medical device company in connection with an FTC investigation into the acquisition of a competitor, successfully negotiating a consent decree that allowed the client to complete the acquisition.

Hazardous Waste Disposal Company: Represented a company that specializes in the treatment, storage, and disposal of radioactive, hazardous, and mixed wastes during its attempted sale to one of the world's largest processors of low level nuclear waste.

Healthcare Provider: Represented leading in-home healthcare provider in \$1.8 billion merger of equals that created the largest provider in the United States with more than 780 locations in 36 states.

Oilfield Services Company: Represented one of the largest oilfield services companies in the world on its attempted acquisition of a major competitor.

Recycler of Poultry Products: Represented one of the largest recyclers of poultry products in the world in its \$800 million sale of substantially all its assets to one of the largest U.S. food companies, obtaining unconditional clearance for the transaction that combined the two largest poultry rendering companies in the United States.

Cultivate Holdings : Prepared HSR filing and provided antitrust guidance to Cultivate Holdings in its sale to Cresco Labs.

Columbia Care Inc.: Prepared HSR filing and provided antitrust guidance to global cannabis operator Columbia Care Inc. in its sale to Cresco Labs and divestitures.

Columbia Care Inc.: Provided antitrust guidance to global cannabis operator Columbia Care Inc. in signing a definitive agreement to acquire Green Leaf Medical, LLC, a privately held, fully integrated cannabis multistate operator based in the mid-Atlantic region

New England Treatment Access, LLC: Prepared HSR filing and provided antitrust guidance to New England Treatment Access, LLC, a leading Massachusetts-based cannabis company, in its sale to Surterra Wellness.

Related Professional Experience

- Federal Trade Commission, Staff Attorney, 2012-2015
- California Attorney General, Antitrust Law Section, Dean's Fellow, 2010-2011

Published Work and Lectures

- North American Securities Administrators Association, 2025 Enforcement Training, Speaker, "Cannabis and the Securities Regulator," March 5, 2025
- D.C. Bar Antitrust and Consumer Law Community and the Real Estate, Housing and Land Use Community, Speaker, "Navigating the National Association of Realtors' Antitrust Settlement," January 28, 2025
- Lexology, HSR Masterclass Webinar, Speaker, "New Year, New Rules: Planning for the New HSR Notification Rules and Form," January 23, 2025

Affiliations

- American Bar Association, Antitrust Section, Member
- District of Columbia Bar: Antitrust and Consumer Law Community, Steering Committee Member; D.C. Affairs Community, Steering Committee Co-Chair
- California Bar Association, Antitrust & Unfair Competition Section, Member
- American Constitution Society, DC Lawyer Chapter, Next Generation Leader and Executive Board Member