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Lawrence Silverman, Zachary Kobrin React to Whistleblower Testimony Alleging DOJ Targeted Cannabis Businesses in *Global Competition Review*

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Lawrence Silverman and Zachary Kobrin spoke to *Global Competition Review* regarding recent testimony by Antitrust Division lawyer John Elias before the White House Judiciary Committee regarding allegations that the Justice Department investigated cannabis businesses because of political feelings against them. Elias testified he was one of two whistleblowers alleging problematic Justice Department demands of cannabis suppliers that were interested in merging.

Silverman reacted to the testimony, “Everyone expected that. We all presumed they were doing this.” He added that the alleged scrutiny has discouraged companies from agreeing to deals and “has led to a significant freeze because people are afraid. To do one of these deals and then have to sit on the sidelines for a year is a problem.”

Kobrin added, “I am hopeful, but not holding my breath, that this testimony will pull back the curtain completely and give cannabis transactions an equal footing to other mergers of similar size and scope and remove the unnecessary microscope.”

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