



Russell M. Steinthal

Special Counsel | New York

Practice Areas

Antitrust

Contact

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Russell Steinthal has experience with the full range of the group's practice, including litigation, merger-related work and corporate counseling. Russell routinely counsels clients on a wide variety of antitrust issues, ranging from cutting-edge issues at the interplay of antitrust and patent law to the intricacies of the Hart-Scott-Rodino pre-merger notification rules. In addition, he has been a lead antitrust attorney on numerous major transactions, including the \$67 billion merger of AT&T and BellSouth, A&P's \$679 million acquisition of Pathmark, Ball Corporation's \$577 million acquisition of beverage can manufacturing plants from ABI/InBev, Bemis's \$1.2 billion acquisition of Alcan Packaging Food Americas and Google's \$700 million acquisition of ITA Software and its \$12.5 billion acquisition of Motorola Mobility.

Russell was also the lead associate on the Axinn team that spent more than a year intensively counseling MasterCard's board of directors in the lead-up to its 2006 IPO. The IPO transformed MasterCard from a membership association of banks into a publicly-traded company and marked an important milestone in the credit card industry, which had faced a wave of antitrust challenges to its prior structure.

Russell is a member of the Antitrust Section of the American Bar Association and the New York City Bar Association. As a member of the latter's Antitrust and Trade Regulation

Committee, he has spoken on well-received panels on both SEP enforcement and the antitrust issues posed by patent assertion entities.

Experience

Mergers & Acquisitions

- Google's \$12.5 billion acquisition of Motorola Mobility
- Google's \$700 million acquisition of ITA Software
- Bemis's \$1.2 billion acquisition of Alcan Packaging Food Americas
- Ball Corporation's \$577 million of beverage can manufacturing plants from ABI/InBev
- A&P's \$679 million acquisition of Pathmark
- The \$57 billion merger of AT&T and BellSouth
- The 2004 sale of Candle Corporation to IBM

Investigations and Litigation

- Represented Google and Motorola Mobility in the FTC's investigation of the latter's standard-essential patent licensing
- Represented Matlin Patterson and Vantico in a private Section 7 challenge to a hostile takeover of Vantico, brought in the Southern District of New York, as well as in a related FTC investigation
- Represent Rapid Aid, a Canadian manufacturer of hot/cold therapy products, in a Section 2 case brought against it in the District of Maryland

Counseling

- Antitrust counsel to MasterCard's Board of Directors in connection with MasterCard's reorganization and \$2.4 billion IPO
- Counsel to Stanley Black & Decker on Made-in-USA compliance issues
- Counsel to multiple clients on Hart-Scott-Rodino pre-merger notification issues

Honors

- *Chambers USA* (2015 – 2016)
- *Lawdragon*, "500 Leading Antitrust & Global Competition Lawyers" (2025)
- *Super Lawyers*, Rising Stars (2013 – 2017)

- *Who's Who Legal*: Competition Future Leaders (2023 – 2024)

Education

- JD – Columbia Law School (2002) Honors: Stone Scholar; Public Service Fellow (2000); Semi-finalist, Harlan Fiske Stone Moot Court Competition (2001, 2002). Production Editor, Columbia Journal of Law & the Arts (2001-2002).
- BA, *cum laude* – Columbia College (1999) Honors: Departmental Honors in Computer Science.

Admissions

- New York
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- U.S. District Court Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court Northern District of New York
- U.S. District Court District of Columbia

Quotes

“He is just a very, very smart attorney - his analysis is top notch and his command of the facts is really impressive.”

— *Chambers USA*

“Axinn is one of the only firms that truly places antitrust front and center and truly positions itself as a thought leader in this space.”

— *The Legal 500 United States*