



James W. Attridge

Partner | Washington, DC

Practice Areas

Antitrust

Contact

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James (“Jimmy”) Attridge is an antitrust partner trusted to guide clients through cartel investigations, antitrust litigation, and complex merger reviews. With deep government experience across the Trump and Biden administrations – including as chief of staff for the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Antitrust Division and a federal prosecutor – Jimmy has helped clients successfully navigate some of the most challenging government investigations and litigation.

His skills span antitrust compliance issues, cartel investigations, defense, and follow-on civil litigation, as well as advising clients on DOJ matters, particularly in areas with heightened enforcement like merger reviews and civil conduct investigations. Clients trust Jimmy’s guidance in cartel defense, consistently ranking him among the top nationwide lawyers in *Chambers USA* and *The Legal 500 United States*. Praised for his “excellent” work and “extraordinary client service,” Jimmy represents both companies and individuals facing cartel matters. In 2024, Jimmy was honored in *Global Competition Review*’s prestigious “40 Under 40” list, highlighting his influence and achievements in the field. He’s also a recognized thought leader, winning the Concurrences Antitrust Writing Award and Mondaq Thought Leadership Award for his top-tier analysis in antitrust law.

During his time as chief of staff of the DOJ’s Antitrust Division, Jimmy was a key player in shaping policy, leading investigations, and driving enforcement efforts. He managed a team

of advisors, oversaw work product ranging from articles to speeches, and represented the division with fellow antitrust enforcers and within the DOJ. As counsel, Jimmy advised senior leaders on a record-high docket of criminal investigations and litigation, including scores of recommendations to open and resolve investigations, grant leniency, and seek indictments. Additionally, he implemented policy changes to bring criminal charges for collusion in the labor markets, to incentivize and assess corporate compliance, and to create the Procurement Collusion Strike Force, an interagency effort to detect and prosecute cartels and fraud affecting government procurement. Jimmy also served as a criminal prosecutor during his time at the DOJ.

Before his government service, Jimmy practiced in the antitrust department of a global law firm. He clerked for the Honorable Liam O'Grady at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia after graduating from Georgetown University Law Center, where he was also a Charles H. March Fellow and clerked for Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") Chairman Jon Leibowitz.

Clerkships

- Hon. Liam O'Grady, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia (2011 – 2012)
- Office of FTC Chairman Jon Leibowitz (2009)

Professional Activities

- American Bar Association Antitrust Law Section, International Cartel Task Force (2023 – Present)
- Dartmouth College, Sailing Team Advisory Board (2012 – Present)

Experience

Private Practice

- Representing companies and executives in international and domestic cartel investigations involving algorithmic collusion, public procurement, price fixing, bid rigging, and labor-market collusion.
- Represented Ball Corporation in its \$5.6 billion sale of its aerospace division to BAE Systems.
- Advising multiple Fortune 500 companies on the design and implementation of global antitrust compliance programs.
- Currently defending a multi-family real estate investment company in a DOJ criminal investigation and civil litigation involving allegations of information exchange and price-fixing via algorithms.
- Represented a corporate leniency applicant in an Antitrust Division no-poach investigation.

- Conducted internal investigations in industries ranging from consumer goods and manufacturing to healthcare and technology for issues including price fixing, labor-market collusion, and fraud.
- Represented an individual in a white collar investigation by a U.S. attorney's office.
- Represented Corning Inc. in an auto parts criminal investigation and follow-on civil multidistrict litigation.
- Represented a global industrial company in an international cartel investigation involving the European Commission and other global enforcement agencies.
- Defended against actions alleging monopolization and conspiracy, suits seeking to enjoin mergers and acquisitions, and follow-on private litigation.
- Defended a pharmaceutical company in an antitrust conduct investigation resulting in the government's suspension of the investigation.
- Represented a third party in the FTC's administrative litigation against Microsoft/Activision.
- Advised parties and third parties in global merger reviews in support of transactions across a range of industries, from beer to semiconductors.

Government

- Advised the assistant attorney general on policy, investigations, and enforcement amid a record-breaking number of merger filings, investigations, and litigation.
- Advised on criminal investigations and ongoing litigation involving labor, public procurement, agriculture, and healthcare matters.
- Trained and engaged with antitrust enforcers around the world on cartel investigation practices and policy issues.
- Analyzed, investigated, and prosecuted violations of fraud and competition laws in the shipping, healthcare, agriculture, and real estate industries.
- Obtained convictions in a \$25 million bid-rigging scheme involving online auctions.

Includes matters handled prior to joining Axinn

Honors

- *Chambers Global*, Antitrust: Cartel (2025)
- *Chambers USA*, Nationwide Antitrust: Cartel (2024)
- *Global Competition Review*, "40 Under 40" (2024)

- *Lawdragon*, “500 Leading Antitrust & Global Competition Lawyers” (2025)
- *Lawdragon*, “500 Leading Litigators in America” (2025)
- *Lawdragon*, 500 X – “The Next Generation” (2024)
- *The Legal 500 United States*, Antitrust: Civil Litigation/Class Action: Defense (2023); Antitrust: Merger Control (2023 – 2024); Antitrust: Cartels (2023 – 2024)
- *Washingtonian Magazine*, “Top Lawyers” List (2024)
- Winner, Mondaq Thought Leadership Awards (Spring 2024)
- Winner – Concurrences Legal Writing Award (2024)
- FTC Award for Meritorious Service
- FTC Annual Janet D. Steiger Award

Education

- JD – Georgetown University Law Center (2011)
- BA – Dartmouth College (2007)

Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Virginia
- U.S. District Court District of Columbia
- U.S. District Court Eastern District of Virginia
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

Quotes

“Jimmy has a pulse on recent agency temperament and activities.”

— *Chambers USA*

“Jimmy is an outstanding cartel lawyer.”

— *Chambers USA*

“Jimmy Attridge is a top-tier cartel defense counsel who has represented both companies and senior executives before competition authorities in highly sensitive matters.”

— *Legal 500 United States*

“Jimmy Attridge is a rising star in the cartel bar. He has served in various roles at DOJ, providing him with a unique perspective in cartel cases.”

— *The Legal 500 United States*

“Jimmy Attridge is an exceptional cartel lawyer who helps clients navigate any issue before the enforcement authorities.”

— *The Legal 500 United States*