



Firms hire and promote in Europe and the Americas

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17 July 2020



After more than a decade as chief economist at Belgium’s Competition Authority, Alexis Walckiers has left the agency to join E.CA Economics in September, while Baker McKenzie and a Brazilian firm have promoted lawyers to the partnership.

E.CA Economics

The Belgian Competition Authority’s chief economist Alexis Walckiers will join E.CA Economics on 1 September as a director. He will be based in the firm’s Brussels office, leading a group of more than 40 antitrust economists.

Since [joining](#) the competition authority in 2010, Walckiers has advised both the authority’s investigative and decision-making arms on the use of economic tools in antitrust cases. He’s been a member of the authority’s board since 2013, which defines the priorities of future competition policy in Belgium, drafts guidelines and manages the agency’s operations.

As chief economist, he advised on the [merger](#) between supermarket chains Ahold and Delhaize in 2016 and on Liberty Global’s [acquisition](#) of controlling stake in De Vijver Media in 2015. Prior to

joining the enforcer, Walckiers was a consultant at economics consultancy Oxera from 2007 to 2009.

“I want to thank the Belgian Competition Authority for the opportunities I was given as chief economist over the last 10 years,” Walckiers said in a statement. “I am delighted to become part of one of Europe’s strongest teams of antitrust economists, and embark on a new journey, advising clients on competition investigations,” he said.

Hans Friederiszick, one of the founding directors of E.CA, said Walckiers has “a proven track record of offering robust economic advice,” which matches the firm’s strong reputation with European competition authorities.

The Belgian enforcer did not respond to a request for comment.

Following Walckiers’ addition, the E.CA will have six directors in Berlin and Brussels.

Baker McKenzie

Paul Johnson in Brussels and Teisha Johnson in Washington, DC, have joined the partnership at Baker McKenzie.

Paul Johnson, 41, joined Baker McKenzie’s Brussels office in February 2015. His promotion became effective on 1 July.

He defended Warner Bros in the European Commission’s investigation into competition concerns over cross-border access to pay-TV content among six major film studios and successfully [negotiated](#) a settlement agreement in 2019. He also acted for Hitachi on its \$11 billion acquisition of ABB’s power grid business, which the EU unconditionally cleared last month.

He was previously at the Financial Conduct Authority’s competition department in London from August 2014 to February 2015 and was a senior associate at Berwin Leighton Paisner – now Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner – in London and Brussels from March 2004 to July 2014.

“Baker McKenzie has a number of new service lines that are being developed, and we are heading in a great direction with respect to being able to deliver real additional value for our clients,” he told *GCR*.

Teisha Johnson, 39, joined the Baker McKenzie’s team in Washington, DC, as an associate in April 2011 and was previously an associate at Dentons from 2006 to 2011.

Her promotion became effective on 1 January but was made public last month.

She advised events management company Freeman Company last year on the sale of its Encore Event Technologies business to rival events company PSAV.

Johnson said she hopes to further contribute to the strength of the firm’s competition practice by leveraging her e-discovery expertise and consumer protection experience to lead the team on those matters.

She added that she is also looking forward to using her skills to bring a “pragmatic and innovative approach to solving client issues and anticipating client needs”.

The firm’s global antitrust and competition chair Mark Hamer said that both lawyers have been driving forces behind some of the highest-profile global antitrust mandates in recent years. He added that the pair are “stellar examples of the rising young talent in our Washington and Brussels competition teams.”

Baker McKenzie now has seven competition partners in Brussels, five in Washington, DC, and more than 125 worldwide.

Lefosse Advogados

Juliana Daniel, 36, was promoted to partner on 24 June at Lefosse Advogados in São Paulo, Brazil.

She joined Lefosse as a senior associate in December 2014 after leaving Veirano Advogados, where she was a senior associate.

Daniel is currently advising US agricultural commodities company Bunge in the sale of its margarine businesses to Brazilian food processing company Seara. She also regularly advises clients in the health, pharmaceutical, consumer products and infrastructure sectors on mergers and government enforcement actions.

“I have a strong background in complex domestic and international litigation, so that helps build a competition area with complimentary profiles that is able to deal with the most diverse and innovative antitrust matters,” Daniel said.

She added that she is excited to continue building a strong and diversified practice and to contribute to the growth of the firm.

Lefosse now has two competition partners in Brazil.