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GLOBAL COMPETITION REVIEW

WOMEN IN ANTITRUST 2016  
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Women

WOMEN IN  
ANTITRUST

2016



# Introduction

**T**he fifth edition of Women in Antitrust marks the first time Global Competition Review has profiled more than 100 women private practitioners, enforcers, in-house counsel, economists and academics.

Although it is impossible to include every woman worthy of recognition, this publication endeavours to highlight many of those who have been at the forefront of competition law in their respective jurisdictions and made groundbreaking contributions to the ever-changing, increasingly globalised competition landscape.

Rather than traditional biographies, we asked our 150 entrants to tell us about themselves and their passions – both in and out of the office. Some we have tipped our hats to before, while others appear for the first time. The diverse list of women include musicians, authors, mountain climbers and runners; women who say they have never experienced gender-based disadvantages while climbing the career ladder, and others who started at a time when ‘acting like a man’ but never wearing trousers was the only way up.

Among the enforcers on our list are six officials at the helm of the US Federal Trade Commission, a robust and entirely women-led antitrust authority to which we pay special tribute in this edition.

This year’s survey features in-depth interviews with competition commissioner of the European Union Margrethe Vestager; Mona El Garf, chairperson of Egypt’s Competition Authority; and Alejandra Palacios Prieto, chairwoman of Mexico’s Federal Economic Competition Commission. For the first time, we also hosted a roundtable including six top women antitrust lawyers.

Thank you to everyone who took part. **GCR**



## Romina Polley

Partner, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, Cologne

Years in antitrust: 21

Reconciling the effort and time that goes into having a sustained career in private practice with the desire to have a family and social life outside the firm has been the greatest challenge over the years.

I had several mentors and I think that it is still more important for female professionals to have a mentor than for male colleagues. My advice to junior women lawyers is to be curious, courageous and self-confident in the job. Look for a mentor, and find a supportive partner who is willing to share responsibility in your family life.

There are still barriers for women in the legal work place even though things have considerably improved in the past 20 years. When I was an associate in the late 1990s, you only went on maternity leave after you made partner. At my firm, we have now repeatedly promoted women to partner who have come back from maternity leave.