

Lifetime Achievement Award 2013



Winner

William J Kolasky, Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr partner William Kolasky has spent his working life supporting the growth of antitrust at home and abroad. The results of that work are clear: the private practice group he led for years is now one of the top practices in the United States, and antitrust is now a cornerstone of economic regulation around the world. *Global Competition Review* is proud to present Kolasky with our third annual

Lifetime Achievement Award for his service to the antitrust community.

Since beginning his antitrust practice in 1977 – two years after he joined WilmerHale as an associate from the US Army's general counsel office – Kolasky has been at the forefront of antitrust law as it has developed since then. One of his earliest projects at the firm was advising on the first ever US Department of Justice second request

under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act. Since then, he has focused his practice on a host of top antitrust matters, both before the agencies, in private litigation and before grand juries in criminal antitrust investigations.

His body of work in private practice is extensive and impressive. The highlights, he says, include his work on a joint venture between Ford and the company that would eventually



become Mazda – one of the first such alliances of its kind, in which one car company would make components to be placed in another company's vehicles, to be reviewed by the US Federal Trade Commission. He also played a leading role in the merger of Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand, which created the world's largest professional service firm in PricewaterhouseCoopers and one of the "big four" accountancy firms. The deal was one of the first to be exposed to a true multinational merger review; Kolasky filed the deal in dozens of jurisdictions and helped navigate it through five in-depth antitrust examinations, including in Europe and the US.

Another highlight, he says, is his work for Hartford Financial Services Group and others in the insurance brokerage antitrust litigation that concluded in

April this year. The complex class action included antitrust and federal racketeering claims; the defendants eventually reached settlement agreements with the class and opt-out plaintiffs, the last of which settled this year.

Between 2001 and 2002, Kolasky was called into government service to be the deputy assistant attorney general for international at the US Department of Justice's antitrust division, then under the leadership of Charles James. Kolasky and others, including James Rill, Deborah Majoras, Doug Melamed and Mario Monti, helped to transform the ICPAC report in 2000 into what eventually became the International Competition Network, now the most influential and active international antitrust enforcement organisation in the world.

At the time, Kolasky helped to push the organisation to become a "virtual network" of antitrust enforcers with no governing body or secretariat, in part to silence critics who predicted the organisation would simply add another layer of bureaucracy to international antitrust enforcement. "A great attraction and distinguishing feature of the ICN is that it is a virtual network, flexibly organised around geographically diverse working groups," Kolasky said in a 2002 speech. With that structure in place, the ICN has grown into an organisation with more than 130 member agencies that builds consensus around best practices in antitrust enforcement through those working groups and close interaction with the business community and the private bar. "That", Kolsasky says now, "was a very gratifying experience."