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TOP ANTITRUST LAWYERS 2025



Meet the practitioners shaping how markets compete in a year of landmark antitrust actions.



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Brent Snyder has practiced law for 32 years, building a career focused on criminal antitrust defense. His path to the field began as a fourth-year associate working on a price-fixing class action involving Alaska sockeye salmon.

"I found it fascinating to learn about the fish processing industry and the Japanese chain of distribution," Snyder said. "That stoked my interest in doing more antitrust work, and I have continued to be drawn to it by my interest in learning about how different industries — everything from paving to international legis-

tics to financial services to designer fashion — operate."

Snyder credits mentors who gave him early courtroom experience and taught him the balance between advocacy and candor. "I was able to take and defend depositions as a first-year associate and question my first trial witness as a second-year associate," he said. Those mentors demonstrated "that while we can be zealous advocates for our clients, which can involve advancing challenging and even novel arguments, we must not forget our duty of candor to the court and the importance of maintaining credibility."

Snyder's core practice centers on defending companies and individuals in criminal antitrust investigations. "My paramount goal is keeping my clients and matters confidential — which means that no criminal charges have been brought," he said. One matter involved representing a global automobile manufacturer that self-reported conduct in multiple jurisdictions. The company could have avoided reporting without detection risk, but its compliance culture supported disclosure. Snyder helped the company navigate self-reporting across jurisdictions to outcomes that reinforced its compliance approach.

Individual representation holds particular significance for Snyder. "Individual clients are especially meaningful to me because they have made the decision to trust me to guide them through what is one of the most difficult and stressful things they

will experience in life," he said. "It is an honor that I do not take for granted and makes obtaining positive outcomes for them especially meaningful."

The practice presents distinct challenges. "In any criminal defense representation, whether representing a company or an individual, the main challenge is gaining trust and developing credibility with the client," Snyder said. Clients must trust their attorney before sharing facts with full candor, a process requiring time and patience.

Snyder has observed shifts in antitrust enforcement. Criminal authorities pursued large, multi-jurisdictional investigations involving mass consumer harm from the early 2000s until around 2019, he said. Enforcement has since focused on domestic government procurement collusion matters. Individual accountability has become a higher priority, with companies gaining more opportunity to avoid conviction through deferred prosecution agreements or declinations, Snyder said.

"There are fewer significant investigations involving old-fashioned, 'smoke-filled room' cartel behavior," he continued. "Instead, the investigations have increasingly involved new theories (e.g., no-poaching), new technologies (i.e., algorithmic pricing tools, ephemeral messaging) and more nuanced conduct. This has resulted in more defendants being willing to defend cases and the antitrust enforcers obtaining less cooperation than in the past."