

Karen Sharp

SENIOR COUNSEL

Antitrust and
Competition
San Francisco

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FOCUS AREAS

Antitrust Compliance and
Business Strategy

Antitrust Criminal
Enforcement

Antitrust Litigation

Antitrust and Competition

EXPERIENCE

Karen Sharp is senior counsel in the San Francisco office of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, where she is a member of the antitrust practice.

Prior to joining the firm, Karen was a trial attorney and prosecutor in the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for more than 20 years. As a trial attorney, she investigated and prosecuted national and international antitrust matters, including price-fixing, bid-rigging, and customer/market allocation. She also prosecuted related offenses, including obstruction of justice, false statements, mail and wire fraud, and government contract fraud. Karen successfully led the DOJ's first prosecution of government fraud under the federal E-Rate program. She also served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of California for a multimillion-dollar tax fraud trial.

Karen began her legal career in the Office of the General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she was Branch Chief of the Dallas regional office.

CREDENTIALS

Education

- J.D., Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law
Member and Associate Editor, Southwestern Law Journal; Associate Justice, Moot Court Competition
- B.F.A., Journalism, Southern Methodist University
Magna Cum Laude

Associations and Memberships

- Member, Section of Antitrust Law, American Bar Association
- Member, California Lawyers Association

Honors

- Recipient, Assistant Attorney General's Award of Distinction, 2007 (E-Rate Program Fraud Prosecution Team) and 2014 (Auto Parts Prosecution Team)
- Recipient, FBI Award of Recognition for Outstanding Prosecutorial Skills

Admissions

- State Bar of California

INSIGHTS

Select Publications

- Co-author, “California Gets Tough on Algorithmic Pricing and Lowers Conspiracy Pleading Standards,” Wilson Sonsini Alert, October 9, 2025
- Co-author, “Ninth Circuit Clarifies (Somewhat) the Antitrust Risk of Pricing Algorithms,” Wilson Sonsini Alert, August 18, 2025
- Co-author, “Blowing the Whistle on Antitrust Crimes: DOJ’s Antitrust Division Announces First Whistleblower Rewards Program,” Wilson Sonsini Alert, August 4, 2025
- Co-author, “Cartel Facilitated by a Minority Stake in a Competitor Sanctioned by the European Commission,” Wilson Sonsini Alert, June 5, 2025
- Co-author, *Wilson Sonsini Global Cartel Law Quarterly, Q4 2024 / Q1 2025*, Wilson Sonsini Newsletter, March 4, 2025
- Co-author, “FTC on the Job: Chairman Ferguson Announces Labor Task Force,” Wilson Sonsini Alert, March 3, 2025
- Co-author, “2025 Year in Preview: Trends and Key Decisions in Global Cartel Enforcement,” Wilson Sonsini Alert, January 29, 2025
- Co-author, “DOJ and FTC Withdraw Antitrust Guidelines for Competitor Collaborations,” Wilson Sonsini Alert, December 16, 2024
- Co-author, “Latest Ruling Relating to Pricing Software Highlights Antitrust Risks,” Wilson Sonsini Alert, December 9, 2024
- Co-author, “U.S. Supreme Court Lets Stand Fourth Circuit’s *Brewbaker* Decision,” Wilson Sonsini Alert, November 22, 2024
- Co-author, “DOJ and FTC ‘Signal’ That Companies Cannot ‘Slack’ on Preserving Ephemeral Messages,” Wilson Sonsini Alert, February 21, 2024
- Contributor, *Antitrust Cartel Leniency and Sentencing Handbook*, Antitrust Law Section, ABA, March 15, 2023
- Contributor, *Criminal Antitrust Litigation Handbook*, ABA Section of Antitrust Law, Second Edition

Select Speaking Engagements

- Panelist, “WWCDA San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Event on Voluntary Self-Disclosures,” Women’s White Collar Defense Association, April 23, 2024
- “Antitrust Update for the ABA Corporate Counseling Committee,” ABA webinar, June 30, 2022
- Guest Lecturer, Yeshiva University Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, February 2022
- Moderator, “ABA Bi-Monthly Cartel and Criminal Practice Update,” American Bar Association, Antitrust Section, February 21, 2019
- Panelist, “Criminal Antitrust—Issues of Law from Indictment to Trial,” ABA program, 2011
- Speaker, Conference of the Russian Federal Anti-Monopoly Service (FAS), the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Office of the Prosecutor General, Moscow, 2009
- Speaker, National Association of Corporate Counsel and ACC chapter meetings
- Guest Lecturer, SMU School of Law annual antitrust seminar, Dallas, Texas
- Presenter, antitrust training programs for federal and state procurement officials

VIDEO

“Criminal Antitrust Investigations,” February 9, 2022