



# NEWSLETTER

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## Weekly Competition Law News

By Lifang & Partners

### Domestic News

Jiangsu AMR: Collusion, Output Restriction and Market Allocation Strictly Prohibited

### Overseas News

FTC Antitrust Victory on Qualcomm Questioned by Appeals Court

Google Takes on EU in Court Over Record Antitrust Fines

FTC to Examine Past Acquisitions by Large Technology Companies

DOJ Seeks 71% Bump from Congress for Antitrust

## **Domestic News**

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### **Jiangsu AMR: Collusion, Output Restriction and Market Allocation Strictly Prohibited**

On 11 February 2020, the Jiangsu Administration for Market Regulation (“**Jiangsu AMR**”) released a public letter and called on companies and associations to comply with relevant price laws and regulate their own behaviors during the control and prevention of the 2019-nCoV coronavirus outbreak. In the public letter, Jiangsu AMR emphasized that collusion, price manipulation, output restriction, market segmentation and other behaviors that would harm other companies or consumers’ interests are strictly prohibited. ([More](#))

## **Overseas News**

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### **FTC Antitrust Victory on Qualcomm Questioned by Appeals Court**

On 13 February 2020, *Reuters* reported that the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in a closely watched case that the Federal Trade Commission (“**FTC**”) brought against Qualcomm in early 2017. The company was fighting a May 2019 decision by U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh who sided with antitrust regulators. A decision in the appeal could take anywhere from several months to more than a year. ([More](#))

### **Google Takes on EU in Court Over Record Antitrust Fines**

On 12 February 2020, *Reuters* reported that Europe’s second-highest court, the General Court, had begun a three-day hearing on a landmark case in relation to Google. Google sought to overturn EUR 2.4bn fine handed out by the European Commission (“**EC**”) during the hearing. The EC said this penalty was for Google’s favoring its own price comparison shopping service to the disadvantage of smaller European rivals. Google said in a statement that the decision was wrong on the law, the facts, and the economics. In recent years, the EC has fined Google a total of EUR 8.25bn in three separate cases. ([More](#))

### **FTC to Examine Past Acquisitions by Large Technology Companies**

On 11 February 2020, the FTC announced that it had issued Special Orders to five large technology firms, requiring them to provide information about prior acquisitions not reported to the antitrust agencies under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act. The orders require Alphabet Inc. (including Google), Amazon.com, Inc., Apple Inc., Facebook, Inc., and Microsoft Corp. to provide information and documents on the terms, scope, structure, and purpose of transactions that each company consummated between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2019. The FTC issued these orders under Section 6(b) of the FTC Act, which authorizes the FTC to conduct wide-ranging studies that do not have a specific law enforcement purpose. ([More](#))

### **DOJ Seeks 71% Bump from Congress for Antitrust**

On 10 February 2020, *Politico* reported that the Trump administration was asking Congress for 71% more money for the Justice Department (“**DOJ**”)’s antitrust division in the fiscal year that starts October 1, 2020. The DOJ’s fiscal 2021 budget proposal seeks USD 53m in appropriations for the antitrust division, up from USD 31m this fiscal year. The proposed increase comes as the DOJ is conducting an inquiry into technology markets. The DOJ’s officials said the antitrust division’s authorized staffing would jump by 87 positions to 782 under the proposed budget. ([More](#))

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