

Stand-alone group? No.

No. of ex-enforcers: 1.

Percentage of the competition group located outside 'home' jurisdiction: 0 per cent.

Breakdown of work: Merger filing (35 per cent); cartel (50 per cent); litigation-investigation (5 per cent); compliance (5 per cent); regulatory work for specific industries (5 per cent).

Most increased area of work: Cartel defence.

No. of lateral hires: 1 (a).

No. of internal promotions to partner: 0.

No. of partners who left: 0.

Largest matters handled: For Solvay in cartel investigation (price fixing, market allocation and bid rigging). Required: preparing the defence before the SDE.

For United Medical in blood products cartel investigation (price fixing, market allocation and bid rigging). For Aga in gases cartel investigation.

For Associação Nacional de Transportadores de Veículos (ANTV) in cartel investigation. Required: defence before SDE and federal attorney.

For Melhoramentos in toilet paper cartel. Required: defence before SDE.

For Merck in investigation of a boycott against distributors. For Petroquímica União, in refusal to supply case.

Key competition clients: Behavioural cases: Solvay, United Medical, Aga, Merck, ANTV, Melhoramentos and Petroquímica União.

Merger control: Solvay, Hewlett-Packard, ChevronTexaco, Alcoa, Esterline, Pitney Bowes and Hitachi.

No. of new clients: 5.

Policy work: One member of the group is chair of an antitrust specific bar association.

Rafael Adler was hired after his internship.

New clients include: United Medical, Hitachi, Esterline, Pitney Bowes, Tektronix.

Commentary: Not a practice that every Brazilian competition specialist instantly connects with competition work but one that GCR considers a hidden gem.

The group may initially seem

small in local terms but the appearance is slightly deceiving, as its members are all purists. They don't do any other forms of work. Thus they match bigger teams where per person fewer hours are billed.

Competition accounts for 20 per cent of the wider firm. The group grew by one member this year, recruiting an associate who had been there as an intern.

Its practice breakdown reflects the changing face of Brazilian enforcement. All its largest items are cartels. There are considered five key cartel investigations underway in Brazil at present, and the group is a part of all of those.

125. Darrois Villey Maillot Brochier

France

Percentage of firm specialised in competition: 13 per cent.

4 specialists (1 p*, 3 a).

*Firm did not distinguish between equity partners and non-equity partners.

Stand-alone group? No.

No. of postgraduates qualified in competition: 4 (law).

No. of ex-enforcers: 1.

Percentage of the competition group located outside 'home' jurisdiction: 0 per cent.

Breakdown of work: Merger filing (40 per cent); cartel (20 per cent); litigation/investigation (15 per cent); compliance (5 per cent); regulatory work for specific industries (20 per cent).

Most increased area of work: Regulatory work.

No. of lateral hires: 1 (a).

No. of internal promotions to partner: 0.

No. of partners who left: 0.

Largest matters handled: For Caisse d'Epargne in the acquisition by Caisse d'Epargne of CDC Ixis (banking industry; valued at €16 billion). Required: merger control filing with the French and German authorities and coordination of worldwide merger control verifications.

For Bouygues with respect to the €9 billion state aid promised to France Telecom.

For Groupe Barrière, 51 per cent shareholder of a JV between Groupe Barrière, Accor and

Colony. Required form CO notification with the European Commission and, later, a partial referral to the French authorities. Negotiations of remedies with the French authorities.

Key competition clients:

Bouygues, Caisse d'Epargne, Carlyle, EADS, La Poste (French post office), PPR, Publicis, RTL, TF1, TPS.

No. of new clients: 3.

Commentary: The smallest of the groups with France as home jurisdiction.

The group is one member larger than a year ago. One of its members is an ex-enforcer. All members have higher qualification specific to competition work, so it comes top in the '100' in that category, with Schönherr Rechtsanwälte, Martínez Lage & Asociados, Van Bael & Bellis and AM Pereira, Sáragga Leal, Oliveira Martins, Júdice & Asociados.

Its breakdown of work mirrors that of Bredin Prat. Merger-work is the biggest category (40 per cent). The 'largest matters handled' section shows that it is also at the heart of events in the behavioural area.

126. Santos & Quijano

Mexico

Percentage of firm specialised in competition: 75 per cent.

3 specialists (2 eq p, 1 a).

Stand-alone group? No.

No. of ex-enforcers: 0.

International strategy: Best friends.

Percentage of the competition group located outside 'home' jurisdiction: 0 per cent.

Breakdown of work: Merger filing (50 per cent); compliance (10 per cent); regulatory work for specific industries (40 per cent).

Most increased area of work: The firm is newly founded.

No. of lateral hires: 0.

No. of internal promotions to partner: 0.

No. of partners who left: 0.

Largest matters handled: For Minera México in Southern Peru Copper Corporation (SPCC)/Minera Mexico (MM). Required: analysis of the transaction and of the competition rami-

fications, filing of Mexican Commission notification, coordination with the American antitrust advisers to comply with US antitrust requirements.

In the divestiture of a leasing subsidiary from a state-owned development bank. Required: counselling on competition and merger control aspects of the transaction, negotiation and filing of the Mexican Commission notification.

Key competition clients: Companies in the gas industry, Apollo International, leading Mexican railway company, Minera México, state-owned development bank.

Policy work: One member attended the Seoul ICN meeting as a non-governmental adviser.

Commentary: The third and smallest (by one) of three Mexican groups we selected this year. Santos & Quijano is a spin-off from Von Wobeser y Sierra. It isn't completely focused on competition work (there is a trade practice) but nearly. Its practice is too recently established to read much into the breakdown of work. The founder members are among the more active in policy circles of the Mexican competition bar's next generation. One member is on an ICC 'task force' on arbitration of competition matters.

127. Epstein Chomsky & Co

Israel

Percentage of firm specialised in competition: 40 per cent.

3 specialists (1 eq p, 2 sa).

No. of postgraduates qualified in competition: 1 (econ).

No. of ex-enforcers: 1.

Percentage of the competition group located outside 'home' jurisdiction: 0 per cent.

Breakdown of work: Merger filing (25 per cent); cartel (30 per cent); litigation/investigation (10 per cent); compliance (10 per cent); regulatory work for specific industries (25 per cent).

Most increased area of work: mergers and counselling.

No. of lateral hires: 1 (a).

No. of internal promotions to partner: 0.

No. of partners who left: 0.

Largest matters handled: For Air France and KLM in Air France/KLM Merger, For Synthelabo and Aventis in Sanofi-Synthelabo/Aventis Merger.

For JV in the establishment of a new (second) Cargo Terminal in Ben Gurion Airport (Swissport Israel).

Key competition clients: MasterCard, Swissport Israel, Tempo Beer Industries, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Laufer Aviation, S Schestowitz, Cable TV companies, Israel Rail.

No. of new clients: 2.

Policy work: One member is vice-chair of the Antitrust Committee of the Israeli Bar.

128. Miranda & Jaramillo Ltda

Colombia

Percentage of firm specialised in competition: 50 per cent.

3 specialists (2 eq p, 1 a).

Stand-alone group? Yes.

No. of ex-enforcers: 0.

Breakdown of work: Merger filing (50 per cent); cartel (30 per cent); compliance (20 per cent).

Most increased area of work: Mergers; general compliance; industry specific advice (telecommunications).

No. of lateral hires: 0.

No. of internal promotions to partner: 0.

No. of partners who left: 0.

Largest matters handled: For the parties in merger of Pavco and Ralco.

For Holcim in an investigation carried out by SIC for distribution of markets and price fixing.

For unnamed clients in the supermarket sector over an investigation by SIC.

For CARREFOUR, CARULLA EXITO and OLÍMPICA, and their directors, for unfair competition. (Settled without any sanction applied.)

No. of new clients: 6.

Policy work: One member of the group chairs an antitrust specific bar association; one member of the group is sitting on several current law reform bodies (one on Colombian social security law; and one on telecoms regulatory framework).

New clients include: Ciba and Raisio Schering de Colombia SA, Cementos Paz del Río, Sidor and Diaco.

129. Wiercinski, Kwiecinski, Baehr

Poland

Percentage of firm specialised in competition: 20 per cent.

3 specialists (1 eq p, 1 p, 1 a).

Stand-alone group? no.

No. of postgraduates qualified in competition: 0.

No. of ex-enforcers: 0.

Percentage of the competition group located outside 'home' jurisdiction: 0.

Per cent change in revenue on previous year: The firm was established in January 2004.

Breakdown of work: Merger filing (25 per cent); litigation/investigation (50 per cent); compliance (25 per cent).

No. of lateral hires: 0.

No. of internal promotions to partner: 0.

No. of partners who left: 0.

Largest matters handled: For defence in antimonopoly proceedings against energy producers.

For complainant in antimonopoly proceedings against coal distributor.

For an appeal against the Polish authorities' decision by which one the highest fines in Poland has been imposed.

Key competition clients: No client consent.

No. of new clients: No client consent.

Commentary: Our second Polish selection this year—although we consider the Linklaters's Warsaw office a Polish member of the '100'.

The group is a spin-off by one of the founders of Wardynski & Partners (which we have had in previous editions of the '100' but now have a 'watching brief' on since key members left). It was founded early in 2004. The group's practice is weighted at present towards litigation (50 per cent). It appears to have no cartel work. Competition accounts for 20 per cent of the firm's resources.

130. M & P Bernitsas

Greece