

# Orrick Hires Longtime Weil Partner as New Head of Antitrust Litigation

By Samson Amore

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### What You Need to Know

- Orrick added Eric Hochstadt as partner and head of its antitrust litigation department.
- Hochstadt was previously a partner at Weil, where he worked for 21 years.
- The incoming Trump administration is expected to increase demand for antitrust work, Hochstadt said.

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe has hired former Weil, Gotshal & Manges partner Eric Hochstadt as head of its antitrust litigation practice and a member of the management committee.

Hochstadt, who joined the firm Thursday, was previously at Weil for more than 21 years. He said he was motivated to change firms because the new role “presented a great special opportunity to build and lead antitrust and to lead across their entire sector-focused platform by joining the management committee.”

“That was an unparalleled opportunity, really, to advance as a lawyer and as a business person,” he added.



Eric Hochstadt, Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP.

Hochstadt’s practice spans an array of issues including civil antitrust, class action and general antitrust advisement. He also has litigated in state and federal courts nationwide and has experience navigating antitrust class action jury trials and commercial arbitrations. In addition to his antitrust work, Hochstadt has also worked on investigations into criminal cartels and civil merger and non-merger conduct.

His past clientele includes Meta, which he represented while at Weil in a lawsuit

by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission that challenged Meta's purchase of a virtual reality fitness app developer Within Unlimited. The FTC's challenge was denied after a seven-day bench trial. Hochstadt's other clients include Visa, food delivery app GrubHub and H&R Block.

Hochstadt wouldn't disclose specifics but indicated most of his clients will move with him to Orrick and said client feedback has been "really positive."

"The goal here is to build a market-leading antitrust litigation practice," he told the *New York Law Journal*. He hinted that growth might come in the form of hiring, adding that "clients retaining counsel for bet-the-company litigation or transformational deals need a team and I am confident that a number of talented lawyers both at Orrick already as well as externally will find this a really attractive opportunity."

In the next four years under the Trump administration, Hochstadt said he expects ample antitrust activity. "If there is any

pullback at a federal level with the Department of Justice or FTC—and it remains to be seen if there is going to be any—certainly states will be there to pick up any sort of perceived gaps that occur [under] Trump 2.0," he said, adding that states like California, Colorado and New York are "very active partners" in antitrust litigation.

"From the federal perspective, I would say, I mean, I'm certainly expecting counseling clients that antitrust enforcement is going to continue to be aggressive," until proven otherwise, Hochstadt added.

Orrick chair and CEO Mitch Zuklie said, "Eric checks an awful lot of boxes—he's a deeply respected, forward-thinking commercial advisor ... he's worked with a number of our existing clients and we think he has deep sector experience. He's a great first-chair trial lawyer, and so we think he's not only a great lawyer but a really nice fit and people are excited to work with him."

A Weil spokesperson said of Hochstadt in a statement, "We wish him well."