General Editor's Note: Antitrust and Regulatory Update

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This issue marks the 18th year of a special feature of the *Review of Industrial Organization*: “Antitrust and Regulatory Update”. As was true in recent years, I asked the Chief Economists of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Antitrust Division (DOJ), the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the DG Competition of the European Union (DGComp), and the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) of the UK to write essays about the interesting aspects of the important antitrust and regulatory issues that confronted their agencies during this past year. I am pleased to report that all five individuals responded affirmatively.

The essays in this issue of the *Review*—all of them co-authored with career economists at their respective agencies—are thus the products of all five of their affirmative responses.

As has been reflected in previous years’ essays from the competition agencies, mergers and merger policy continue to be important, and all five essays discuss the analysis of specific mergers that came before their respective agencies. Especially noteworthy are: the DOJ’s discussion of its analysis of AT&T’s acquisition of Time Warner and the role of bargaining theory; the CMA’s analysis of the proposed merger of two leading grocery chains in the UK; DGComp’s discussion of the proposed Siemens/Alstom merger; the FCC’s analysis of the proposed Sprint/T-Mobile telecommunications merger; and the FTC’s analyses of two chemical manufacturing mergers.

Three of the five essays also address non-merger antitrust and regulatory issues: The FCC discusses its first Telecommunications Marketplace Report and also its analysis of the relationship between television broadcasting consolidation and the retransmission fees that TV broadcasters charge some distributors, such as cable networks; DGComp discusses the Google Android abuse of dominance case and also provides an analysis of French and Italian state subsidies to support the postal distribution of newspapers and other media; and the DOJ discusses its case to discourage

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a large hospital network from “steering” insurers’ enrollees to that network and away from rival hospitals.

This brief summary cannot, of course, do adequate justice to the interesting analyses and discussions that are to be found in all five essays in this issue; but I hope that I have sufficiently stimulated the curiosity and interest of readers so as to encourage them to read the complete essays. As has been true in past years, *RIO* readers will find that reading these essays at greater length will be well worth their time.

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