

A GUIDE TO THE WORLD'S LEADING COMPETITION LAW AND ECONOMICS PRACTICES

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United States: Massachusetts

Antitrust practices in Boston are a mix of local firms that have made Massachusetts their home for years, and major national and international practices that have branched off into the more traditional antitrust hubs of New York and Washington, DC

Elite

Practitioners in Boston and elsewhere say that for local firms, few have stronger antitrust teams than **Choate Hall & Stewart**. Robert Buchanan splits the firm's heavy workload with three other antitrust partners, who together handle mergers, counselling work and major litigations for the firm's corporate clients whenever they approach antitrust issues. Partner Robert Frank, the firm's former chairman and managing partner, remains one of the pre-eminent names in Boston antitrust litigation.

Buchanan says that the practice's depth and diversity allow it to guide its stock of private equity, life sciences and health-care clients through whatever antitrust issues it may encounter. "If you picture a private equity firm looking at a deal, you want someone who can size it up when first giving advice and can then follow it on through," he says.

The Choate antitrust practice has been doing just that for major clients for years. The past 12 months have seen the group advise Sunbeam Television Corp in a Section 2 monopolisation case against Nielsen Media Research before the 11th Circuit court of appeals. The firm is also advising Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare and Tufts Health Plan through merger talks that would combine two of the three leading health plans in Massachusetts. Other clients include Hewlett-Packard, Cape Cod Healthcare, Spectrum Equity and Riverside Partners.

FIRM	HEAD OF COMPETITION	SIZE	CLIENTS
ELITE			
Choate Hall & Stewart	Robert Buchanan	3eq p, 1p, 1a	Manulife/John Hancock, Tufts Health Plan, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Hewlett-Packard, Sunbeam Television, Cape Cod Healthcare

Key: p = partner, eq p = equity partner, c = counsel, a = associate