



Laurent Geelhand

Laurent is widely recognised as an authority in European antitrust law and cross-border litigation and has been listed among 'the stars of the in-house antitrust bar' by Global Competition Review.

Expertise

Prior to Hausfeld, Laurent was the European General Counsel of Michelin, where he systematically pursued actions against suppliers and secured multi-million euros settlements arising from the rubber chemicals, synthetic rubber and paraffin wax cartels using innovative litigation techniques and funding schemes. While at Michelin, he also devised a highly regarded and successful antitrust compliance programme.

Clients

At Hausfeld, Laurent leads the strongest antitrust automotive practice in Europe having achieved many settlements and recovered millions of euros on their behalf. In addition, he represents some of the best known corporates and professional associations of Belgium, France and the Netherlands.

PRACTICE AREAS

Competition Litigation

Regarded as one of the pioneers of antitrust private enforcement in Europe, Laurent has been at the forefront of many landmark antitrust cases.

Most recently, he has been building claims in the Dutch courts for European truck purchasers allegedly harmed by the *Trucks cartel* - representing over 2,100 clients across Europe with a truck count of some 275,000 - and represented PSA Group as well as BMW in the automotive bearings.

He represented Michelin in the Michelin II abuse of dominance case. At Hausfeld, he represented claimants in the following cartels or abuse of dominance cases:

Rubber Chemicals	Synthetic Rubber
Paraffin Wax	Air Cargo
Car Glass	Bearings
Wire Harnesses	Detergents
Occupant Safety Systems	Yoghurts (France)
Elevators	RoRo/Maritime Carriers
Pre-stressing Steel	Starters & Alternators
Google	

 **MANAGING PARTNER (BRUSSELS, PARIS) AND PARTNER (LONDON)**

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Previously, he:

- represented Boeing before the European Commission in the Boeing/McDonnell Douglas merger control case, and Klaus Jacobs in the Belgian Barry/Callebaut merger control case
- was part of the team working on Coca-Cola Enterprises in abuse of dominance litigation.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Legal Business Awards 2019

Hausfeld was nominated as 'Competition Team of the Year' for its work with Peugeot (PSA Group) against two European and four Japanese manufacturers found guilty of price fixing in 2014, which was a claim led by Laurent.

Financial Times Innovative Lawyers Awards 2018

Hausfeld won the 'Innovation in Legal Expertise - Dispute resolution' award at the *Financial Times* Innovative Lawyer Awards 2018 for the way it applied innovative thinking enabling Dutch truck owners bring a mass claim in the Trucks cartel. Laurent was personally commended for his role in this case, working closely with the leading truck trade association TLN in the Netherlands.

The Lawyer Top 20 Litigation 2018

Hausfeld represented PSA Group in their claim against the manufacturers of the Bearings cartel. The case, which settled before trial, was listed as one of *The Lawyer's* Top 20 Cases of 2018.

Legal 500

'Expert-level expertise' – *Competition Litigation, 2020*

Laurent Geelhand ... highly commended for their work across the 'impressive portfolio of automotive clients.' - *Competition Litigation, 2018*

Who's Who Legal

Laurent was mentioned as a leading name in European anti-trust and is 'highly regarded for his experience acting for plaintiffs' in significant private enforcement cases.' He was listed for his 'exceptional performance' by *WWL Competition 2018, Plaintiffs'* chapter which also described the European offices as 'stand out' and Hausfeld the '...leading firm in the European market'.

Furthermore, only one in seven of the individuals considered makes it on to the WWL Thought Leaders Competition, Plaintiffs list. In 2019, Laurent was included as a Thought Leader for the jurisdiction of Belgium. - *Competition Litigation, 2018*

Global Competition Review

Laurent is widely recognised as an authority in European antitrust law and cross-border litigation, listed among the stars of the in-house antitrust bar, in December 2014, listed among the Top 35 Corporate Competition Counsel by the same review. "...Using innovative litigation techniques and funding schemes, Laurent secured multimillion-euro settlements for the tyre maker arising from the rubber chemicals, synthetic rubber and paraffin wax cartels..."
– *GCR, 2018*

Listed among the stars of the in-house antitrust bar.
Listed among the Top 35 Corporate Competition Counsel. – *Competition Litigation, GCR, 2014*

EDUCATION

Master of Laws (LLM), University of Washington
Bachelor of Laws (LLB), Law and economics, Université libre de Bruxelles,
Magna cum laude and top 10%
Criminal Law, Université libre de Bruxelles, Magna cum laude and top 10%
Bachelor of Laws (LLB), Université libre de Bruxelles, Cum laude and top 10%

BAR ADMISSIONS

Brussels Bar

AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Lectures on European antitrust law at the University of Montpellier

NEWS & PRESS

Laurent is frequently interviewed by radio, TV and the quality written press such as the Financial Times and Business Week. You can access the most recent news, press releases and articles Laurent contributed to in the respective sections below. In addition, a few highlights include:

BFM Business TV, 18 September 2018: Les "cartels des camions", un dossier sans précédent pour le droit de la concurrence en Europe

Les Echos, 10 September 2018: Déjà puni par Bruxelles, le « cartel des camions » fait face à ses clients

Various interviews in Global Competition Review

PUBLICATIONS

"Guide to funding competition damages claims in England" - Law & European Affairs, 2016/1, co-authored with Stella Gartagani and Charles Laporte-Bisquit

"CDC v Akzo Nobel and Others: Clarifications on the Jurisdiction Rules in Cartel

Damages Claims" - Journal of European Competition Law & Practice, July 2015, co-authored with Stella Gartagani

« L'indemnisation du préjudice causé par une pratique anticoncurrentielle : nouvel eldorado des praticiens du droit de la concurrence et des victimes de pratiques anticoncurrentielles? » in A quoi sert la concurrence?, Institut de droit de la concurrence, October 2014

Various publications, notably on the reform of Article 102 of the EC Treaty, and on antitrust compliance programmes; of "The rise of public cartel enforcement and the seeds of potential decline" - St.Gallen ICF Conference Book, 2010, co-authored with Michael Hausfeld

PRESENTATIONS & SPEECHES

Laurent is a regular speaker at leading conferences worldwide such as the ABA, GCR, Knect and French Supreme Court.

You can access the most recent events Laurent spoke at in the dedicated 'Events' section below. In addition, other conferences are:

- Developments and economics of follow on damages, Brussels Knect CompLaw Cartel Conference, 17 September 2019
- Mass Claims – approaches to the management, coordination and bundling of large numbers of related claims, GCR 10th Annual Competition Litigation Conference in London, 4 October 2018
- Autorité de la Concurrence, La Procédure de Transaction, 2 October 2018
- Quelle Application en Europe, Rendez-vous de L'Autorite de la Concurrence Transaction in Paris, 2 October 2018
- Current developments on the implementation of the EU Damages Directive, CDR Competition Litigation Symposium, 22 February 2018
- International Corporate Counsel College in Amsterdam, 9-10 November 2017
- Knect Competition Law in the Automotive Sector in Brussels, 13 June 2017
- Knect UK Competition Law 2017 Conference in London, 28 February 2017
- Private Enforcement of Competition Law in Brussels, 27 February 2017

IN THE NEWS

September 27, 2019

Legal 500 UK Continues To Rank Hausfeld In All Its Core Practice Areas

January 28, 2019

Five Hausfeld Lawyers Recognised as Thought Leaders for Competition by Who's Who Legal

October 30, 2018

Legal 500 UK Continues to Rank Hausfeld in Virtually all its Practice Areas

October 5, 2018

Hausfeld wins at Financial Times Innovative Lawyers Awards 2018

June 20, 2018

16 Hausfeld Lawyers Recognized in Who's Who of Competition in the US and Europe

May 8, 2018

Hausfeld successfully settles bearings cartel case

EVENTS

November 29, 2019

CLS' Private Compensation Actions in Practice Seminar – 5 December 2019, Belgium

October 3, 2019

Advanced EU Competition Law Conference – 25 - 27 November 2019, Brussels

August 29, 2019

GCR's 11th Live Competition Litigation Conference – 3 October 2019, London

November 20, 2018

Advanced EU and Competition Law Conference - 19-21 November 2018, Brussels

January 6, 2017

IBC's UK Competition Law Conference 2017 - London

January 6, 2017

IBC's Private Enforcement of Competition Law 2017 - Brussels

ARTICLES

November 27, 2018

The Antitrust Damages Directive: Four Years On

November 22, 2017

Commission fines five car safety equipment suppliers €34 million in cartel settlement

August 26, 2016

Damages Claims arising out of the European Commission's Trucks Price Fixing Cartel Decision

February 4, 2015

European Commission appeals the Belgian court's judgment on damages against Elevators manufacturers