ANTITRUST

CASES, ECONOMIC NOTES AND OTHER MATERIALS Second Edition

Richard A. Posner
Frank H. Easterbrook

American Casebook Series



ANTITRUST CASES, ECONOMIC NOTES, AND OTHER MATERIALS

SECOND EDITION

By

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West's Review Covering Multistate Subjects

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Keeton and Keeton's Cases and Materials on Torts, 2nd Ed., 1200 pages, 1977 (Casebook)

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Jean's Trial Advocacy (Student Edition), 473 pages, 1975 (Text)

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WATER LAW

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Averill's Uniform Probate Code in a Nutshell, 425 pages, 1978 (Text)

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PREFACE

The first edition of this casebook was published six years ago, and it is out of date as a result of the many important judicial decisions and statutory amendments since then. A major purpose in preparing a second edition has been simply to bring the book up to date, but we have used the occasion to recast the first edition in a number of important respects unrelated to new developments in the law. We have made room for more legal notes and references by a more thorough editing of the cases. Several substantive areas omitted in the first edition, such as effect on commerce, have been added. There is also a more thorough treatment in this edition of antitrust procedure (particularly in private cases) and the antitrust exemptions, both areas of growing importance in the practice of antitrust law.

We have retained, however, the most distinctive attributes of the first edition:

- 1. Economic analysis remains a major focus of the book. The economic concepts most relevant to antitrust law—the theory of monopoly, price discrimination, elasticity of demand and supply, oligopoly pricing, natural monopoly, dominant firm, free riders, durability, and many others—are developed, primarily in notes that follow, and discuss, cases illustrating the concept. This approach serves to anchor the economic concept to a concrete legal context. The notes assume no prior knowledge of economics on the part of the student.
- 2. Most antitrust casebooks are organized around a combination of legal categories (mergers, monopolization, exclusive dealing, etc.) and subject areas (patents, distribution). We believe that there is a natural order for developing the student's understanding of the antitrust field, one based on a division of the practices challenged under the antitrust laws into two groups. The first consists of practices by which competing firms eliminate competition purely among themselves. The second consists of practices by which a firm (or group of firms) seeks to exclude actual or potential competitors. (The distinction is not simply that between horizontal and vertical practices—most boycotts, for example, are horizontal, but their purpose is to exclude competitors of the parties to the boycott.)

Using this division, we have distributed cases usually found lumped together in chapters on mergers, monopolizing, monopolistic use of patents, and restricted distribution among the principal chapters in this book (cartels, mergers among competitors, and exclusionary practices) in a way that groups like practices together and avoids treating essentially identical problems under different names in different chapters.

PREFACE

- 3. In selecting and editing cases, we have tried to preserve a sense of the historical and jurisprudential character and development of the field. The evolution of the antitrust rules provides many illuminating examples of how law fashioned by judges changes over time—of the devices by which judges seek to preserve a sense of continuity and consistency while radically altering the actual shape and content of a field. That antitrust is a body of law fashioned largely by the Supreme Court increases the interest in this process. Many of the older antitrust cases, moreover, have great interest because of the intertwining of antitrust questions with issues of social policy. The historical and jurisprudential dimensions of antitrust law, no less than the economic and the strictly doctrinal, should, in our opinion at least, be a part of the law student's education.
- 4. We have been selective in citing lower court cases and secondary material. Instead of citing all available sources and leaving in question whether any is worth reading, we have confined the citations to cases and articles that cast significant illumination on the subject. We hope that the student will try to read as many of these as possible.

This casebook is a (now rather distant) successor to mimeographed materials first prepared by Edward H. Levi and used by him and Aaron Director in the course on antitrust law that they taught jointly at the University of Chicago for many years. On the last class of each week of the course, Professor Director would present an economist's comments on the cases discussed during the week. The economic notes scattered throughout this casebook attempt to do what Professor Director's lectures did: expound the relevant economic concepts against the background of particular cases that illustrate the relevance of the concepts to the issues of antitrust law. Much of the economic analysis expounded in these notes is based on ideas first proposed by Director. A number of these ideas were later developed and published by other economists whose work we do cite, but these citations conceal Director's seminal role in the development of the economics of competition and monopoly presented in this book.

An important contribution to the economic analysis in this edition also was made by William M. Landes, Clifton R. Musser Professor of Economics in the University of Chicago Law School (and thus a successor to Director). Landes, like Director before him, has co-taught the antitrust course at the Law School, and we have drawn shamelessly on his economic lectures in revising the economic notes for this edition. Landes also read and commented helpfully on this edition in manuscript, as did Dennis Carlton, Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago Law School.

The first edition recommended as general background readings in antitrust economics the following: Ward S. Bowman, Jr., Patent and Antitrust Law: A Legal and Economic Appraisal (1973), and George J. Stigler, The Organization of Industry (1968). These books are by no