

Antitrust Law: Hornbooks and Other Antitrust Study Aids

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No book systematically covers merger antitrust law, much less how and in the depth we will do it. That said, if you are looking for something that will give you more background, the general antitrust hornbooks and other study aids might be helpful. Here are my thoughts on them:

Christopher L. Sagers, Antitrust (Examples & Explanations) (3d ed. 2021). This book provides a treatise-like treatment of antitrust law with many examples and has just been updated. If you are looking for supplemental material, I think you will find this an excellent investment.

Herbert Hovenkamp, Principles of Antitrust (Concise Hornbook Series) (2d ed. 2020)
Hovenkamp is an insightful and prolific antitrust scholar and is rightly considered the “dean” of the U.S. antitrust academic community. Written in the traditional hornbook style. Another very good investment and current.

Daniel A. Crane, Antitrust (Aspen Student Treatise Series) (2014). I have not reviewed this in detail, but Crane is a serious antitrust scholar, and at only 200 pages, Crane’s book is half the length of Sagers. Like Sagers, it is reasonably current. Crane is quite conservative in its approach to antitrust law, and I no doubt that perspective has found its way into the book.

Herbert Hovenkamp, Antitrust (Black Letter Outlines) (7th ed. 2021)

Mark A. Lemley & Christopher Leslie, Antitrust (Gilbert Law Summaries) (11th ed. 2011)
Antitrust (Casenote Legal Briefs) (6th ed. 2010)

Hovenkamp and Lemley/Leslie are the standard commercial outlines. However, they are both written by serious scholars. Hovenkamp is current, but unfortunately Lemley/Leslie is seriously out of date.

The Antitrust Casenote Legal Briefs is what it says it is: a page or so summarizing each of the major cases in antitrust law. There is no author listed, so I suspect it was compiled by the legal editorial staff of Wolters Kluwer. I often disagree with some point or another on a particular case (and I suspect that you will too), but if you need something to jog your memory about the facts or result of a case, this is not a bad resource. Just do not rely on it too much.

Herbert Hovenkamp, Federal Antitrust Policy, The Law of Competition and Its Practice (6th ed. 2020). This is a real hornbook written by one of the best antitrust scholars around today. It is very balanced. With a publication date of 2020, it is reasonably current. If you want a more concise hornbook, go for Hovenkamp’s Principles of Antitrust in the Concise Hornbook Series. This hornbook is available online through your West Academic account.

Antitrust Law Developments (Ninth) (2022). This is a two-volume treatise published by the ABA Section on Antitrust Law and updated with a new edition every four or five years. The ABA published a new edition in March 2022. ALD is without doubt the best single source on “black letter law” propositions and supporting cases. ALD is nonideological and a great book for brief writers and counselors who want to know the current state of the law. Even if you use the 2022 edition, you should be sure to research the law from the beginning of 2021 forward given the time lag between writing and publication. ALD should be available online through your LEXIS-NEXIS academic account. In addition, the law library should have a hard copy (although perhaps not the current edition).