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**How long have you been at your current firm and who has been an important mentor thus far in your career?**

I have been with Edgeworth Economics for almost 15 years and throughout my time here, an important mentor to me has been my partner, and our chief executive, John Johnson. I have learned a tonne from John – not only about economics, data analysis and antitrust, but also how to approach problems creatively and how to distil technical material in a way that is understandable and useful to different audiences.

The type of analysis we do can become quite complex and from my first day working with John, he has helped me hone my skills in getting to the essence of what a case is really about, where we as economists can add value, and how to make compelling and data-driven arguments as an expert economist. Throughout my career, John has also encouraged me to challenge myself by developing new expertise and working on new types of matters. He is an important reason why even after 15 years, I continue to feel excited about learning and growing in the antitrust space.

**What's the most important competition matter you've worked on during your career to date?**

A formative matter in my practice as a competition economist has been the *Broiler Chicken* antitrust litigation. I have spent the last seven years working on this matter, and when I take a step back, I'm in awe of its sheer magnitude and complexity: almost two dozen defendants, many different groups of plaintiffs – each with their own claims, strategies, and economic arguments – mountains of data and bet-the-company stakes.

It is also one of the very few antitrust matters that went all the way to trial and a verdict. We rarely have the opportunity to see how a jury reacts to the economics work we do – and to craft a strategy and deliver a message that is as rigorous and compelling as possible to a group of people that don't spend their days thinking about antitrust.

**What are the biggest competition concerns in your jurisdiction(s) and how are you advising clients on those issues?**

There is no question that a major emerging issue is how sophisticated computing tools affect – and are going to affect – competition among companies. These are issues around the potential for algorithmic pricing to lead to anticompetitive outcomes, or for businesses to engage in unfair competition practices using vast volumes of proprietary data, artificial intelligence tools, or other cutting-edge technologies.

Advising on these issues presents an interesting challenge since there is little precedent in the area and the regulatory frameworks (and even the technologies themselves) are evolving rapidly. Nonetheless, the same kinds of economic tools we apply to other areas of competition can help us understand the pro-competitive benefits of emerging technologies, as well as where the potential anticompetitive pitfalls may be.

**How has competition enforcement risk evolved during your time as a competition lawyer or economist? Do you expect that direction of travel to continue or change?**

It's interesting to reflect on the evolution of the key issues in competition enforcement over the course of my career. In the present environment, we are certainly seeing more focus on labour market issues than we have in the past – for example, with respect to non-compete clauses in labour agreements. Certain industries, like real estate and pharmaceuticals, are also seeing more enforcement scrutiny – as are online platforms and other sectors of the digital economy. I also expect the scrutiny and analysis of issues at the intersection of antitrust and data privacy to persist.

**Are new-age technologies such as generative artificial intelligence impacting antitrust enforcement in your jurisdiction(s) and/or your antitrust practice?**

I am yet to see an expert report written by AI (I think). However, our profession requires us to study large volumes of varied and complex data to make sense of what that data tells us about how a given market works and how claims of anticompetitive conduct apply. In that context, AI has already shown a lot of promise, as we have been able to harness advanced statistical and data analysis tools to develop data-driven insights. While I don't think anyone is ready to let AI generate expert opinions, the way we work with data – and even what data is available to help assess a particular antitrust issue – has been evolving quickly.

**What advice would you give to someone at the start of their career as a competition lawyer or economist?**

The best advice I can give to someone at the start of their career as a competition economist is to be open to, and to take advantage of, opportunities that arise. As economists, we have a broad toolkit with which to study data to better understand the world around us. However, you never know what situations may call for you to apply that toolkit. I have worked in industries and on issues that I could not have imagined existed when I was starting my career, and have gained a lot of interesting experience by simply saying “yes” to unexpected opportunities that had come up.

You can also help “make your own luck” – whether by offering a colleague to help with a new type of case, attending a conference on a topic you are interested in or generally being proactive in other ways to generate opportunities to try new things.

**What do you hope to achieve in the next phase of your career?**

It goes without saying that I am excited to continue helping my clients understand the antitrust issues they face, as well as continuing to grow and expand my expertise in the space. However, as I reflect on my journey as a competition economist so far, I think that I have gained a great deal of insight that would be valuable to the next generation of practitioners. I am excited about continuing to develop my role as a mentor both at my firm and in the antitrust community more broadly – and can't wait to see which of my colleagues will be on the next 40 Under 40 list!

**What are your hobbies outside of work?**

My kids are now nine and eight, so we are at a stage where we spend a lot of time travelling, playing sports and trying new activities as a family. One recent adventure was a road trip up the east coast to hit several of our favourite beaches and hiking spots.

I have also been coaching my son's soccer team for the past few years, which exercises a completely different part of my brain than my day-to-day as a competition economist. The first thing you learn in Econ 101 is that “people respond to incentives” and it couldn't be more true when coaching a group of eight-year-olds. Each player approaches being on the team – and sport, in general – so differently, and it is very rewarding to find different ways to get each one of them to give their best (and to have fun while doing it).



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