

Client Alert

April 2018

Five Confirmed as New FTC Commissioners

On April 26, 2018, the U.S. Senate confirmed five nominees for the Federal Trade Commission. This is an unusual full replacement of the commission, as commissioners' terms are normally staggered. Outgoing Acting Chairman Maureen Ohlhausen has been nominated to become a judge on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims and intends to remain as a commissioner until confirmed as a judge.

Joseph Simons, a Republican, has been confirmed to be the new chairman of the FTC. Most recently Of Counsel at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, Mr. Simons served as the director of the Bureau of Competition at the FTC from 2001-2003. Mr. Simons also served at the FTC in the late 1980s, and has a range of experience of handling merger and nonmerger matters at the Commission and in private practice.

Noah Phillips, a Republican, most recently served as Chief Counsel to Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Before his work with Sen. Cornyn, Mr. Phillips was in private practice and clerked for the Honorable Edward C. Prado of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Christine Wilson, a Republican, was most recently Senior Vice President – Legal, Regulatory, and International at Delta Air Lines. Before Delta, Ms. Wilson was a partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, and served as chief of staff to former FTC Chair Timothy Muris. Ms. Wilson cofounded [The Grapevine](#), a women's network for DC professionals in the antitrust and consumer protection arenas, with Hunton Andrews Kurth partner Amanda Wait. Ms. Wilson's seat as commissioner is contingent on outgoing Chair Maureen Ohlhausen being confirmed as a federal judge.

Rohit Chopra, a Democrat, was a Senior Fellow at the Consumer Federation of America. Mr. Chopra's experience leans heavily toward the consumer protection side of the FTC's mission, as he previously served as the assistant director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Unlike the other nominees announced by the White House, Mr. Chopra is not an attorney; rather, he has an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, a Democrat, served as Chief Counsel to Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY). A graduate of Yale University and Yale Law School, Ms. Slaughter was in private practice before entering government service.

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