

Client Alert

February 2018

Trump Nominates Four New FTC Commissioners Fifth seat would go to to-be-determined nominee

On January 25, 2018, the White House announced four nominees to lead the Federal Trade Commission, with one additional nomination pending. Assuming each of these nominees is confirmed, this would represent an unusual full replacement of the commission, as commissioners' terms are normally staggered.

Joseph Simons, a Republican, has been nominated to be the chairman of the FTC. Currently 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, currently serves 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, is currently 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 & Williams partner Amanda Wait.

Rohit Chopra, a Democrat, is currently 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.

By statute, the fifth nomination must go to a Democrat or Independent. News reports suggest that Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer has recommended his Chief Counsel, Rebecca Slaughter, for the fifth commissioner's seat.

The Senate Commerce Committee has [scheduled a hearing](#) on the nominations for Wednesday, February 14.

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