

Ali Nikpay

Partner

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Ali Nikpay serves as co-partner in charge of the London office at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and is a co-chair of the firm's Antitrust and Competition Group. He is regularly cited as one of Europe's leading competition practitioners, with more than 25 years of EU and UK merger control and antitrust experience in both the private and public sectors.

Chambers UK 2024 ranked Ali in Band 1 for Competition Law and noted Ali Nikpay is one of the top competition law specialists in London. "He is as good as it gets. He knows about lots of areas and his ability to combine that knowledge into how an authority will view things is invaluable.", "Ali Nikpay is a great lawyer." Ali is named in Hall of Fame in *The Legal 500's 2024* edition for EU and Competition Law and Competition Litigation. In addition, he is recognised by the 2025 edition of *Best Lawyers* in the United Kingdom as a leading lawyer for Competition Law. In 2023 and 2024 he was recognized in *Who's Who Legal Competition* as one of the "Global Elite Thought Leaders". In 2021 *Chambers* described Ali as "the lawyer you want at your side when it really matters". In 2019 *The Lawyer* selected Ali, for an unprecedented second time, as one of its "Hot 100" in 2019 stating "few other practices can say they have dealt with more high-profile competition cases over the past three years." In 2018, in an opinion piece, the editor of *The Lawyer*, Catrin Griffiths, described him as "arguably one of the most significant hires" by a firm in the London market. In 2017, the *Financial Times* named him among the Top 10 Innovators in Europe at the 2017 FT European Innovative Lawyer Awards, which recognized the "ten original legal thinkers in a fast moving world." In 2016, Ali was described by the UK's leading broadsheet newspaper (the Daily Telegraph) in an editorial as "one of the world's preeminent experts in European competition law."

Under his leadership, the Gibson Dunn London competition team has become one of a handful of "destination practices" for many of the most significant and sophisticated clients in the world on "bet the company" matters including for UBS, Walmart, Viagogo, Asda, Marriott, Kimberly-Clark, Schlumberger, LKQ Corp, Energizer, and Ladbrokes Coral.

Prior to joining Gibson Dunn, Ali served at both the European Commission's DG for Competition (DG COMP) and the UK's competition authority. At DG COMP Ali acted as legal/policy advisor to case-teams in over 50 antitrust and merger cases. He was also lead case-handler for a number of high-profile competition and merger cases. In addition he was actively involved in the initiatives which reformed the EU's policy on vertical agreements and non-cartel horizontal agreements.

During his time at the UK competition Authority, Ali held a number of important positions including senior director for Merger Decisions, senior director of its Cartels and Criminal Enforcement division and senior director of Policy International (in which capacity he interacted with senior officials at agencies in the U.S., the EU, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Canada etc). He was also a member of the authority's highest decision-making organ, its Executive Committee.

Capabilities

Antitrust and Competition
Betting and Gaming
International Trade
Litigation

Credentials

Education

London School of Economics & Political Science - 1993 Master of Science
London School of Economics & Political Science - 1992 Bachelor of Science

Admissions

England & Wales - Solicitor

He is currently vice-chair of the London School of Economic's governing Council. He has also served on the Confederation of British Industry's Competition Panel and on several occasions appeared before the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Union.

He is co-editor of "Faull & Nikpay: The EU Law of Competition," which was described by *European Competition Law Review* as "... the best single volume work dealing with EU competition law that is available". He serves on the editorial boards of the following journals: "European Competition Law", "World Competition", "Antitrust Enforcement Review" and "Competition Law International".

Ali teaches competition law at University of Oxford and was a Visiting Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

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