

People

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Lewis joins CGL

Amanda Lewis joined Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca after serving at the Federal Trade Commission as a competition attorney and detailee to the House Judiciary Committee.

Lewis worked on the antitrust subcommittee’s investigation of competition in digital markets and led the portion related to Amazon. She overlapped with Chair Lina Khan during a two-and-a-half-year stint as a counsel-detailee from 2019 to 2021. Khan served as subcommittee counsel in 2019 and worked on the congressional investigation into digital markets.

But Lewis was the only subcommittee attorney who had substantial experience practicing law, with a background in investigations and litigation.

“I did have a wealth of experience, negotiating, drafting discovery requests, drafting second requests, and then negotiating modifications and the scope and who the custodians would be, and all of that somewhat tedious, but very, I think, important work that goes into the investigations and litigation at the FTC,” Lewis said.

Khan “really brought this academic big picture, sort of fearlessness about challenging the status quo that influenced me and really helped me to think more broadly about what the scope of antitrust reform could look like,” Lewis said.

Lewis said her own detailed-oriented outlook complemented Khan’s big-picture orientation.

As a counsel-detailee, “you kind of view the committee as your client,” she said. It meant Lewis was asked to help draft legislation for a Democratic-led panel at the same time a Republican, Joe Simons, was chair of the FTC. Wherever she could, she gave the agency a heads-up about coming events or issues they might want to weigh in on.

During her tour of duty at the subcommittee, Lewis oversaw preparation for several hearings related to competition in the healthcare sector that led to enactment of legislation, the CREATES Act and the Competitive Health Insurance Reform Act.

Lewis told *FTCWatch* she was grateful for the opportunity to work alongside Chief Counsel Slade Bond for Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler and Antitrust Subcommittee Chairman David Cicilline.

David Balan, managing director of Econ One, was an FTC staff economist for more than 20 years and worked with Lewis.

“She is a smart, effective antitrust lawyer. She is also committed to the idea of effective antitrust enforcement, which is why she chose to start her post-FTC career at a plaintiff-oriented law firm rather than a defense one. She has already done a lot of good and more is coming,” Balan said.

As an attorney in the FTC’s Mergers IV division, Lewis worked on the Staples/Office Depot and Sysco/US Foods litigation teams. In *FTC v. Phoebe Putney*, she deposed a key witness in a challenge to the hospital merger in Southwest Georgia, authored discovery motions and handled economic experts.

Lewis managed offensive and defensive discovery in the 2014 case alleging collusion between propane suppliers Blue Rhino and AmeriGas. The FTC, which accepted a settlement, alleged that they illegally coordinated on reducing the amount of propane in tanks sold to a key customer.

“One of the things I am really proud of at the FTC was my ability to build relationships and bridges across different parts of the bureau, between economists, lawyers, the policy office, and commissioner attorney-advisers through mentoring and organizing social events outside of work where everyone was invited and welcome,” she said.

Lewis started at the FTC in June 2012 and left in April this year.

“I had thought about going to DOJ. I thought about going in-house. I had thought about going to a think tank,” Lewis said. “Doing the detail, I think, also really opened up kind of this broader world to me to see that there were a lot of other opportunities and places that I might want to go to get new experience and have different and new challenges.”

Lewis has joined CGL, a firm founded by Jon Cuneo, also an FTC alum, to work on behalf of aggrieved individuals, consumers and businesses. The firm’s practice areas, consumer protection and antitrust, mirror the bureaus of the FTC. Its attorneys pursue similar cases using state and federal laws.

She’s filling a role previously held by Assistant Attorney General Jonathan Kanter by serving as senior policy counsel for the Coalition for App Fairness, a group of developers focused on app competition, conduct and legislation.

Lewis interned for Democratic New York Governor Mario Cuomo in college at New York University. After earning her law degree from Columbia Law School in 2008, she served as law clerk for Judge Lawrence McKenna of the Southern District of New York. Before completing law school, Lewis was communications director for Democracy 21, run by Fred Wertheimer, formerly of Common Cause.

For fun, Lewis said she enjoys scuba diving and aerial yoga with suspension hammocks.

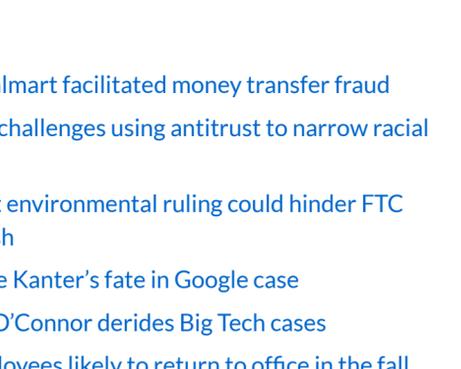
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– Kathleen Murphy

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