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TRAILBLAZERS

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS and ANTITRUST

MARK D. GERSTEIN

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

PIONEER SPIRIT Mark Gerstein began his career as a finance lawyer. "I was working on what were then called junk bonds for one of the original Drexel raiders as part of a hostile takeover bid for West Point Capital. I later moved over to more traditional M&A and loved that."

TRAILS BLAZED After moving to Latham & Watkins, Gerstein began doing a variety of public M&A work, including deals involving the consolidation of radio and cellular industries and industrial deals centered in the Midwest. He also served as counsel to investment banks. One significant deal involved the merger of the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. "I represented the special committee of the directors of CBOT. It was probably the most important financial merger in Chicago in the past 20 years. When the Intercontinental Exchange tried to top CME's bid, we advised the special committee in evaluating and rejecting the bid and completing the CME deal." A large part of his firm's success has involved antitrust work. "For example, we represented Globe Specialty Metals and Orbitz. We received a lot of inquiry in the press and from antitrust officials, and we were able to get those deals closed." Gerstein is part of the team advising FMC Technologies in the recently announced merger with Paris-based Technip, and he was on the team that advised Sirona Dental Systems Inc. in its merger of equals with DENTSPLY International Inc.



FUTURE EXPLORATIONS Cross-border work from Europe and Asia will continue to grow. "We will continue to see companies try to accelerate growth and earnings through M&A."