

George Mastoris Discusses DOJ's Antitrust Action Against Google With *InformationWeek*

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Winston & Strawn partner George Mastoris was quoted in an *InformationWeek* article discussing the Department of Justice's (DOJ) recommendation for the breakup of Google and the unknown impact of the second Trump administration on the case. A trial on potential remedies is scheduled for April following a win earlier this year by the DOJ when a federal judge ruled against Google for illegal monopoly in search and text advertising.

George said that, although there has been no shortage of articles about the incoming administration's desire to take a lighter touch when it comes to regulation, "we shouldn't forget that the investigation, which gave rise to this particular litigation arose under the Trump DOJ, and that big tech ... has been a target of both Republican and Democratic politicians."

"If the court goes along with the DOJ's recommendations and orders divestment, that would be a clear shot across corporate America's bow and an indication that the entire remedial toolbox is in play -- even if the ultimate resolution of the case falls short of so drastic a remedy," George said.

George notes that it is likely to be a high-variance administration. "I think we can likely expect an overall decrease in antitrust scrutiny ... At the same time, I wouldn't be surprised to see continued aggressive antitrust enforcement in the technology and media spheres, although I think the administration will be selective with respect to how they deploy their resources."

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