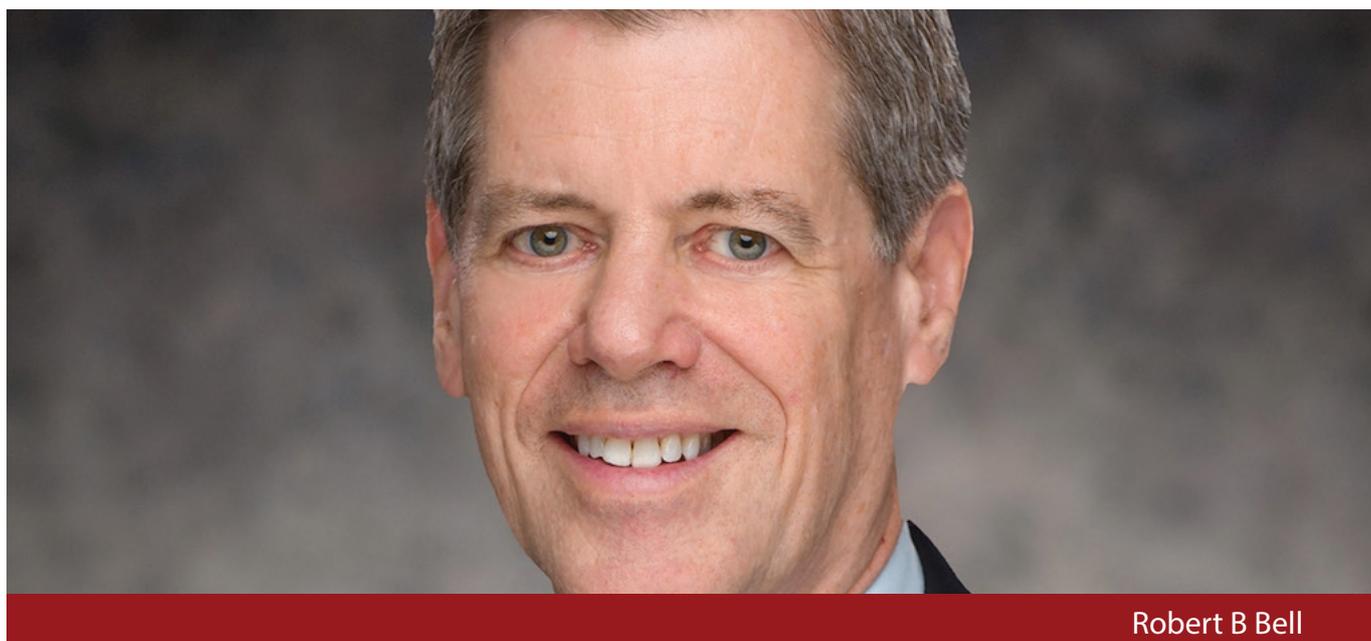


## Hughes Hubbard adds Kaye Scholer antitrust co-chair

Pallavi Guniganti  
22 June 2015



Robert Bell has joined Hughes Hubbard & Reed as a partner in Washington, DC, after previously co-chairing Kaye Scholer's antitrust practice.

He becomes the second antitrust partner in Hughes Hubbard's Washington, DC office, along with William Kolasky.

Bell and Kolasky worked together for several years at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr, where Bell was a summer associate in the early 1980s and returned in 1998, before he joined Kaye Scholer in 2009. Kolasky moved from WilmerHale to Hughes Hubbard in 2013.

"I think Robert is one of the top antitrust lawyers in Washington," Kolasky said. "He has first rate academic credentials, very sound judgment, extremely good relationships with the agencies, is highly ranked in all the league tables, and is very highly regarded by all his clients, who have praised him not only for his judgement, knowledge and effectiveness, but also for his responsiveness."

New York-based partner Ethan Litwin, who leads the firm's antitrust group with Kolasky, said Bell fits with Hughes Hubbard's culture of collegiality and behind-the-scenes client service.

"We like to think we provide sound, pragmatic, timely advice, hidden in the shadows whispering into our clients' ears," Litwin said. "Robert has had success over his career providing critical advice to clients in tough situations."

The co-chairs said their goal for rebuilding the antitrust practice was to have a minimum of four full-time antitrust partners, split between New York and Washington, DC. With the addition of Elizabeth Prewitt from the Depart-

# GCR | USA NEWS

ment of Justice's antitrust division in New York earlier this year, and Bell's hire, Kolasky said that the initial objective of a "critical mass" has been met.

Where Prewitt brought government experience, particularly in dealing with cartels, Bell is a well-rounded DC practitioner who covers the entire field of antitrust as a litigator as well as an agency lawyer, Kolasky said, "a combination you don't often find."

While at WilmerHale, Bell advised Bestfoods on its acquisition by Unilever, Rambus on a Federal Trade Commission investigation, the US government on winning cartel damages, Lufthansa and Air France on the air cargo agency and class action cases, among many others. His work at Kaye Scholer included representation of an auto parts maker and of e-books retailer Kobo.

Bell's experience across many sectors of the economy, especially for technology-dependent companies, brings an important synergy to Hughes Hubbard's investment in its intellectual property practice, Litwin said.

The antitrust practice is "growing at an exponential rate," Litwin said, and he expects that to continue with demand for Bell's services and his bringing "a wonderful group of clients" to Hughes Hubbard.

Bell, 61, said his new firm has an unrivalled stand-up trial practice and a well-reputed mergers and acquisitions practice, both of which will be helpful to his clients, as will Hughes Hubbard's Asia presence and language capability.

"I really look forward to practising again with Bill Kolasky," Bell said. "I think it's a terrific law firm with a great culture."

He said he anticipates assisting Hughes Hubbard's existing clients in defence, media, and general manufacturing sectors. Including Bell, the firm now has five partners focusing exclusively on antitrust.

Kaye Scholer managing partner Michael Solow said, "Robert Bell is a great lawyer, we are proud to have called him a partner, and we wish him the best of luck at his new firm."

Bell clerked for Supreme Court Justice Byron White and DC federal judge Thomas Flannery, after graduating from Stanford Law School. He received a master's from Cambridge, and his bachelor of arts from Dartmouth.