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TOP ANTITRUST LAWYERS 2024



**CHRISTOPHER
DUSSAULT**

GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER
LOS ANGELES

Practicing for nearly 30 years, Christopher Dusseault said his passion for antitrust law stems from his love for sports, as he finds many parallels between the two.

He said in both arenas, rivals strive to win within the rules of the game, and he thrives on determining whether

his clients have won through talent, creativity and hard work or if they have committed a foul.

“But unlike sports, in antitrust litigation, you are often evaluating the challenged conduct years after it happened, when memories have faded and people have moved on,” he said.

Dusseault has represented Berkshire Hathaway affiliate HomeServices of America in two significant antitrust matters. In one of the matters, a class of home sellers alleged that they paid inflated commissions to the buyer’s broker, resulting in a \$1.8 billion verdict against HomeServices.

Dusseault said he and his team were brought in for post-trial briefing, appeals and settlement negotiations, ultimately securing a nationwide settlement that mitigated the risk of further judgments and lawsuits.

Following this success, he was appointed lead counsel in a separate matter, representing home buyers who claimed to have paid inflated home prices due to these commissions.

“These real estate commission price-fixing cases are significant because of their high stakes and nationwide

implications, and also because the sale or purchase of a home is such a significant event in the lives of so many Americans,” Dusseault said.

Dusseault also led a team hired by the National Football League to handle post-trial motions and appeals. The plaintiffs alleged that the NFL inflated the price of its Sunday Ticket by pooling television rights and granting exclusivity to DirectTV. Despite a \$4.7 billion verdict against the NFL, the district court overturned the jury’s verdict and granting judgment in favor of the NFL on all claims. The case is currently on appeal to the Ninth Circuit.

“This case is significant because of the size of the jury’s verdict, the public interest in the NFL and its television broadcasts, and the important legal issues that it presents,” Dusseault said.

Discussing current antitrust trends, he said there is increased enforcement by the government while there are an increasing number of private class actions seeking treble damages.

“These two factors, in tandem, keep antitrust defense lawyers like me busy and on our toes,” Dusseault said.