

# MICHAEL KADES

## NLG NACHAWATI LAW GROUP

Public Entity  
Partner

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As a partner in Nachawati Law Group's Public Entity Litigation Division, Michael leads the firm's new antitrust practice, expanding its ability to represent governments in complex civil enforcement actions. His practice focuses on anticompetitive conduct, monopolization, unfair methods of competition, and merger enforcement, complementing the firm's robust consumer protection, public nuisance, fraud, and data privacy work.

Michael joins the firm from the U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division, where he served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Enforcement from 2022 to 2025. At DOJ, he supervised high-profile investigations and litigation against Apple, Visa, American Airlines, JetBlue, United Healthcare, and Agri Stats, and spearheaded the Division's successful effort to revitalize enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act. He also helped develop major policy initiatives, including the 2023 Merger Guidelines and new approaches to labor monopsony and digital platform competition.

Before DOJ, Michael was Director of Markets and Competition Policy at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, where he built a leading program on the impact of market power on consumers, workers, and innovation. He frequently testified before Congress and co-authored influential reports that helped shape the modern competition policy agenda.

Earlier, Michael spent nearly two decades at the Federal Trade Commission, serving in senior litigation and policy roles. As Deputy Chief Trial Counsel, he was a lead architect of the Commission's strategy in *FTC v. Actavis*, the Supreme Court case that redefined pharmaceutical patent settlement law. He also directed numerous pharmaceutical, healthcare, and merger investigations that secured landmark settlements for consumers. Michael also served on detail as Antitrust Counsel to Senator Amy Klobuchar, drafting and advancing key bipartisan antitrust legislation, including the CREATES Act and the Merger Filing Fee Modernization Act.

Michael began his legal career as a law clerk to the Honorable John W. Reynolds of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, before joining the FTC as a trial attorney. He also served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia, where he tried six cases to verdict.



### PRACTICE AREAS:

Public Client Representation  
Antitrust & Competition Enforcement  
Consumer Protection  
Public Nuisance  
Fraud Against Taxpayers / False Claims

### EDUCATION:

J.D. University of Wisconsin Law School, *cum laude* 1995  
B.A. Yale University, *magna cum laude with honors in History*, 1991

### LICENSED IN:

Wisconsin

### ADMITTED TO PRACTICE BEFORE:

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin  
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

### ASSOCIATIONS:

Wisconsin Bar Association  
American Bar Association  
American Antitrust Institute

## NOTABLE CASES:

- *United States v. Apple Inc.* – Supervised DOJ Antitrust Division's litigation challenging Apple's conduct in digital markets.
- *United States v. Visa Inc.* – Oversaw DOJ enforcement action addressing competitive harms in the financial services sector.
- *United States v. American Airlines and JetBlue* (Northeast Alliance) – Directed DOJ's successful challenge to the airlines' joint venture. American Airlines and JetBlue had eliminated all competition between them on flights originating or terminating in Boston or New York. The District Court terminated the agreement, and in a landmark decision, the Court of Appeals affirmed.
- *United States v. JetBlue and Spirit Airlines* – Directed DOJ's review and successful enforcement against the proposed airline merger. The District Court block the transaction because the acquisition would eliminate competition on hundreds of routes that benefits consumers and would eliminate roughly half of ultra low cost airline capacity in the United States.
- *United States v. UnitedHealthcare and Amedisys* – Oversaw DOJ's investigation and challenge of United HealthCare's proposed acquisition of Amedisys for home health and hospice services.
- *United States v. Agri Stats* – Supervised DOJ's case addressing anticompetitive information-sharing in agricultural markets.
- *United States v. Cargill* – Directed the antitrust division's case that challenged information-sharing that limited compensation for poultry processing workers and the use of the tournament system to compensation farmers that raised chicken. Case resulted in a consent decree that prevents information sharing among competing chicken processors, insures workers receive restitution for pass harm, and protects chicken growers from unfair and deceptive compensation schemes.
- *Federal Trade Commission v. Actavis* – Architect of the FTC's strategy in the landmark Supreme Court decision that reshaped pharmaceutical patent settlement law.
- *FTC v. Cephalon* – Represented the Federal Trade Commission in its challenge to four patent settlements that delayed generic competition and costs consumers billions of dollars in higher prescription drug costs. Michael oversaw the economic expert and disgorgement calculation. The Federal Trade Commission settled for \$1.8 billion in disgorgement that was returned to states and consumers.
- *In re South Carolina State Board of Dentistry* – Lead Attorney in an administrative action that challenged the Board's restrictions on dental hygienists' scope of practice. The Fourth Circuit determined that the state action doctrine is an affirmative defense and not an immunity from suit.
- *In re Schering-Plough and Upshur-Smith* – Represented complaint counsel in first pay-for-delay case for patent settlement. Successfully argued appeal before the full Commission.
- *Federal Trade Commission v. Mylan* – Represented Federal Trade Commission in case alleging that Mylan Pharmaceuticals and its coconspirators illegally cornered the market on critical ingredients for three prescription drug products and increased prices by 2400 percent. The Commission obtained \$100 million in consumer redress, at the time the largest consumer redress the Commission had obtained.