



Israel's antitrust bar

In Israel, antitrust lawyers are kept on their toes by a competition authority that is both active and novel in its enforcement. **Katy Oglethorpe** explains



Tal Eyal-Boger

Israel today is one of the world's most interesting places to practise competition law. The criminal regime means the stakes have always been high for companies and individuals suspected of cartel activity, while the class-action culture emulates the US in its vigour and pervasiveness. The new enforcement avenues being explored by Israel's Antitrust Authority – measures regulating excessive pricing, concentration groups and information sharing – generate novel cases for lawyers to get their teeth into, while constantly evolving legislation makes their compliance advice all the more sought after.

Elite

When asked what competition groups are doing the most and the best work, the name **Fischer Behar Chen Well Orion & Co** is never far from practitioners' lips. The firm boasts the largest antitrust practice in the country with four partners and 12 associates. Tal Eyal-Boger and Reuven Behar are both entrants in *Who's Who Legal: Competition Lawyers and Economists*; Eyal-Boger heads the practice, while Behar, one of the firm's founding partners, has become one of Israel's pre-eminent arbitrators and rarely appears competition matters. Completing the partnership are Talya Solomon and litigation specialist Tamar Turjeman-Kedem, both of whom are previous members of the IAA.

The firm counts an impressive number of major national and foreign companies as clients.

Last year saw the addition of Google to its books, and the firm is now taking on a range of confidential matters for the technology giant. Dairy giant Tnuva brings in a large volume of work; Eyal-Boger last year negotiated a 3 million shekel settlement for the company in an information exchange case; and the firm is now involved in a fresh administrative hearing as well as five civil cases brought by plaintiffs seeking damages from inflated cheese prices.

Israel Discount Bank takes up the team's time in a range of antitrust matters. The bank is appealing against the decision of the general director that it illegally exchanged information, and it is involved in a class action relating to the alleged coordination of interest rates. Turjeman-Kedem is representing two executives of Ashdod Port in the IAA's first attempt to impose an administrative fine. The firm is also involved in each of the three ongoing, controversial damages cases that follow on from European rather than Israeli decisions. It is acting for ABB, the leniency applicant in the *Gas Insulated Switchgear* cartel that is being sued by Israel Electric; for Lufthansa and Swiss International Air Lines in air cargo; and for Samsung in LCD panels.

| FIRM | HEAD(S) OF COMPETITION | SIZE | WHO'S WHO LEGAL NOMINEES | CLIENTS |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| ELITE | | | | |
| Fischer Behar Chen Well Orion & Co | Tal Eyal-Boger | 4 partners 12 associates | Tal Eyal-Boger, Reuven Behar | Google, Tnuva, ABB, Swiss International Air Lines, Boeing, Visa Cal, The First International Bank of Israel |