

Client Alert

March 2018

Trump Nominates Fifth New FTC Commissioner Prior nominees voted out of committee

In late January 2018, the White House announced four nominees to lead the Federal Trade Commission. This alert updates our prior [client alert](#). On March 26, 2018, the White House announced its fifth intended nomination for Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission. Assuming each of these nominees is confirmed, this would represent an unusual full replacement of the commission, as commissioners' terms are staggered so that they are not all filled simultaneously.

Joseph Simons, a Republican, has been nominated to be the chairman of the FTC. Currently Of Counsel at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, Mr. Simons served as the director of the Bureau of Competition at the FTC from 2001-2003. Mr. Simons also served at the FTC in the late 1980s, and has a range of experience in handling merger and nonmerger matters at the Commission and in private practice.

Noah Phillips, a Republican, currently serves as Chief Counsel to Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Before his work with Sen. Cornyn, Mr. Phillips was in private practice and clerked for the Honorable Edward C. Prado of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Christine Wilson, a Republican, served as Senior Vice President – Legal, Regulatory and International at Delta Air Lines. Before Delta, Ms. Wilson was a partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, and served as chief of staff to former FTC Chair Timothy Muris. Ms. Wilson cofounded [The Grapevine](#), a women's network for DC professionals in the antitrust and consumer protection arenas, with Hunton & Williams LLP partner Amanda Wait.

Rohit Chopra, a Democrat, is currently Senior Fellow at the Consumer Federation of America. Mr. Chopra's experience leans heavily toward the consumer protection side of the FTC's mission, as he previously served as the assistant director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Unlike the other nominees announced by the White House, Mr. Chopra is not an attorney; rather, he has an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, a Democrat, currently serves as Chief Counsel to Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY). A graduate of Yale University and Yale Law School, Ms. Slaughter was briefly in private practice before entering government service.

In late February, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee voted unanimously to advance nominees Simon, Phillips, Wilson and Chopra to a full Senate vote, which has yet to be scheduled. No hearing has been scheduled for Ms. Slaughter's nomination.

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