

Pate joins Chevron

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Energy company Chevron Corporation today hired the former assistant attorney general at the US Department of Justice's antitrust division, R Hewitt Pate, as vice president and general counsel from 3 August.



Pate, 47, joins the company from Hunton & Williams LLP, where he was head of the firm's global antitrust practice. He returned to Hunton & Williams in 2005 when he left the DoJ. He had practised at Hunton & Williams from 1999 to 2001 before he entered the government.

As chief legal officer, Pate will direct Chevron's worldwide legal affairs and serve on the company's executive committee.

"Leaving good friends and our work together building a growing and successful team is difficult, but the chance to take a leadership role at Chevron is a once in a lifetime opportunity," Pate says. "Hunton & Williams has been a great and supportive professional home, and I look forward to watching its continued success."

Pate's antitrust litigation clients include the US government, Delta Air Lines and TWA. At the DoJ, he was responsible for antitrust enforcement in sectors such as energy, transportation and telecommunications.

Bruce Hoffman, the firm's new head of competition says: "Hew has done a phenomenal job building and leading our competition group. It has been my great pleasure to work with him for many years. Hew has left the group in great shape for the future and I look forward to its continued growth and success."

Michael Rosenthal, chair of the firm's European competition practice and managing partner of the firm's Brussels office says: "Hew devoted substantial time to building a strategic international competition law practice and supporting the growth of the firm's Brussels office. It has been a challenging and very rewarding venture that we look forward to carrying on."

Susan Creighton at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati in Washington, DC, says: "Hew is an outstanding attorney, and this is a great move for him. He has tremendous judgment, and is well known and well regarded not just in Washington, DC, but around the world, particularly in the EU and Asia. That judgment and global vision will be a wonderful asset for Chevron."

"He has built a great antitrust team at Hunton during his time there, led by Bruce Hoffman and David Higbee," Creighton continues. "I'm sure he's very proud of what they've been able to accomplish and is confident that they will be able to continue that momentum."

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Gerwin Van Gerven at Linklaters LLP in Brussels says Pate was instrumental in developing a “top tier” transatlantic antitrust practice at Hunton & Williams. “No doubt his colleagues at Hunton, in D.C. and Brussels, will miss him but I am sure that the practice will continue to be very successful,” he says. “It has always one of Hew’s many strengths to surround himself with very capable colleagues and to give them the opportunity to thrive.”

Joseph Simons at Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison LLP in Washington, DC says: “Hew has been extremely successful wherever he’s been. He did a superb job running the Antitrust Division at the DoJ, and has built a very successful practice at Hunton & Williams. The Chevron general counsel position is a very challenging one, but he is more than up to that challenge.”