

ECONOMISTS INCORPORATED

Home jurisdiction:	USA
Total size of firm:	50
No. of competition economists:	32
% of firm specialised:	64
<i>Who's Who</i> nominees:	3
Group one:	10
Group two:	4
Group three:	10
Group four:	4
Part-time consultants:	4
No. of lateral hires:	0
No. of departures:	0
No. of internal promotions:	1

US consultancy Economists Incorporated boasts three nominees to *The International Who's Who of Competition Economists* – Barry Harris, William Myslinski and Philip Nelson. This year it promoted Jonathan Neuberger to principal in its office in Emeryville, California.

Almost two-thirds of its specialists focus on competition and antitrust work. This year the group advised MediaNews in relation to accusations that its acquisition of daily newspapers in San Jose and Contra Costa County, California would reduce competition. Economists Inc argued that the deal was pro-competitive because the merged newspapers could achieve significant cost savings and make the newspaper group more attractive to advertisers, in the face of competing electronic media. The parties settled before trial at the district court for the Northern District of California.

Economists Inc also provided advice to the firms representing the world's largest funeral company, Service Corporation International, and its closest US rival, Alderwoods, in SCI's US\$1.2 billion acquisition of Alderwoods' funeral home and cemetery assets. The proposed deal had possible overlaps in over 130 locations. The US Federal Trade Commission approved the deal after the companies proposed divestitures in 13 locations.

The firm also advised herbicide producer Monsanto in relation to accusations that it had precluded entry to the licensing of transgenic corn seed, and monopolised four corn seed markets. Economists Inc showed that Monsanto's shares of the alleged markets were too low to achieve a monopoly. The district court of Delaware denied class certification; the decision is under appeal.