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Phone: (800) 356-6547 | customerservices@ftcwatch.com

People — Former DOJ economist Goldstein moves to Charles River Associates

By **Dwight A. Weingarten**

(November 18, 2025) -- A 23-year veteran economist from the Department of Justice joined Charles River Associates, the Boston-based consulting company announced.

Nate Goldstein, former chief of the economic litigation section of the DOJ's Antitrust Division, didn't start his decades-long antitrust work at the Justice Department, however. He started in the summer of 1994 by way of an unpaid internship at the Federal Trade Commission.

"I was brought in to help work on a divestiture retrospective project," Goldstein, the former Duke University economics student, recalled during a Nov. 10 interview with FTCWatch. "I realized then that antitrust really brought together all my loves, professionally speaking."

By that point, the rising senior had already decided to pursue a doctorate degree in economics.

"For someone mathematically inclined and inclined toward logic problems, it is a wonderful space to be in," Goldstein said. When finishing a PhD program at Stanford University in the early 2000s, the choice between working in academia and working on policy presented itself.

After interviewing with the Justice Department and the FTC, Goldstein said, "I really developed an appreciation for the dedication that they have to their mission."

Ultimately, he started at the Antitrust Division in 2002, becoming a part of what he called the "largest department of industrial organization economists in the world."

For years, American Express advertisements urged: "Don't leave home without it" — and for years, the economics team of the Antitrust Division didn't leave home without Goldstein. He led the economics team that brought a complaint against Visa last year and even played a part in a case against American Express initiated in 2010.

In his tenure at the department, Goldstein looked into everything from aluminum manufacturers to the market for kitchen appliances. The team also brought litigation in 2021 against the proposed merger of book publishers Penguin Random House and Simon & Schuster that was ultimately stopped.

"Having led more than 150 federal investigations, Nate has a rare combination of subject matter expertise, executive talent and practical experience," Margaret Sanderson, Charles River's vice president and global practice leader of the Antitrust and Competition Economics Practice, said in a November release. The company's chief executive and president, Paul Maleh, called him "a skilled leader."

What brought him to Charles River Associates, Goldstein said, was the company's work product, which he saw during his experience at the Department of Justice. "I had never looked for a job in 23 years," he said. He started at Charles River Associates on Oct. 20.

Goldstein is one of more than 200 employees at the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division alone who has departed the agency in the last couple of years, according to DOJ budget documents.

As for Goldstein's new employer, which got its start in 1965, the firm has in recent months announced the addition of both Goldstein and, according to a September announcement, another former federal antitrust economist, Alison Hole, who served for over a decade as the deputy director for antitrust in the Bureau of Economics at the FTC.

And while the agencies' tools to obtain information have not changed in the course of the economist's career, what has changed, Goldstein said, is the "scale of information" that is generated by a typical company.

Initially, a "large production" to sort through was 10 or 20 gigabytes, Goldstein said. Now, a technology company can have more than 1,000 times that with data in the terabytes, or even petabytes.

Goldstein said the change "speaks to the importance for the agencies themselves to have the tools, to have the capabilities, to ingest and analyze and produce useful insights from these large volumes of data."

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