

Garrido hires from Gibson Dunn

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Pablo Figueroa has left Gibson Dunn & Crutcher after eight years in Brussels to launch Garrido's competition practice in Madrid.

Figueroa, 41, said the opportunity to join the partnership and set up the competition practice at Garrido – which he described as “one of the finest firms in the country” – was one he could not miss. Although Garrido might not be well known outside of Spain, its client-base is impressive, he said, citing the football team Atlético Madrid as a “flagship client”.

He said he will be looking to explore damages litigation cases at Garrido, having already started working on cases for international and local defendants. “Spain is a good jurisdiction for damages claims because the court system works in a fairly predictable manner,” he noted.

Figueroa, who was a senior associate at Gibson Dunn, began his new role last month. His new team includes two associates, but he said there are plans to expand.

Figueroa started his career at Allen & Overy in 2005 in its corporate team. He then chose to specialise in competition law and joined Linklaters in 2006 as an associate in Madrid. He moved to Gibson Dunn in 2011 as a senior associate in Brussels.

While at Gibson Dunn, he represented a coalition of stakeholders – including Microsoft and the English Premier League – in the European Commission’s high-profile Google shopping investigation. The commission fined Google €2.4 billion in 2017 for illegally promoting its own shopping comparison shopping service ahead of its rivals in its search results, although Google has appealed against the decision.

Figueroa also represented Caterpillar, a manufacturer of power generators, in its €580 million merger with MWM back in 2011. The European Commission reviewed the deal after it was referred by national enforcers in Germany, Slovakia and Austria. The agency launched a Phase II probe and issued a statement of objections to the companies, but later cleared the deal unconditionally.

Garrido’s managing partner Francisco Conde said the firm is delighted to hire a lawyer of Figuroa’s calibre. “He will help us provide a premium service in all areas of law to our clients, certainly as regards merger control, but more widely in all areas of competition law,” he said.

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher did not respond to request for comment.