

## FTC Challenge to Natural Supermarket Merger Justified

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The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled that a district court erred when it denied a request by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to block the combination of two natural and organic supermarket chains. The FTC also challenged the merger of sellers of two leading brands of superpremium vodka and required the implementation of procedures to prevent improper postclosing information exchanges with a joint venture partner.

Other recent antitrust developments of note included the European Court of First Instance's (CFI) ruling that a consulting firm was liable for its supporting role in a cartel among chemical producers.