

MLS Restrictions, Geographic Markets and Google

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The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit ruled that a real estate multiple listing service violated the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Act by restricting the distribution of discount brokers' listings. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit decided that, as a pleading matter, the relevant geographic market for a globally manufactured product may be limited to the United States, to the exclusion of foreign countries where the product is made.

Other recent antitrust developments of note included several cases involving Google — the rejection of the Google Books settlement and the approval, with conditions, of Google's acquisition of a travel software firm — as well as a district court's grant of the FTC's request to preliminarily enjoin a hospital merger in Ohio.