Latest Airline Merger Challenged in Court

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The Department of Justice brought an action to block the proposed merger of American Airlines and US Airways, surprising some observers of the airline industry, which has seen significant mergers approved with limited route divestitures in the last decade. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit rejected monopolization claims in a market limited to black hot rolled coil steel because the market definition failed to properly consider supply substitution by producers of other kinds of steel.