

Tuesday, May 19, 2009 New York 28° | 21°

More

Search Sponsor:

GET 2 WEEKS FREE SUBSCRIBE NOW! THE PRINT JOURNAL THE ONLINE JOURNAL

Log In

U.S. Edition Home Today's Paper Video Blogs Journal Community

World U.S. New York Business Markets Tech Personal Finance Life & Culture Opinion Careers Real Estate Small Business

LETTERS | MAY 19, 2009

Justice's Antitrust Policy Returns to the Moderate 1990s

Article

Comments

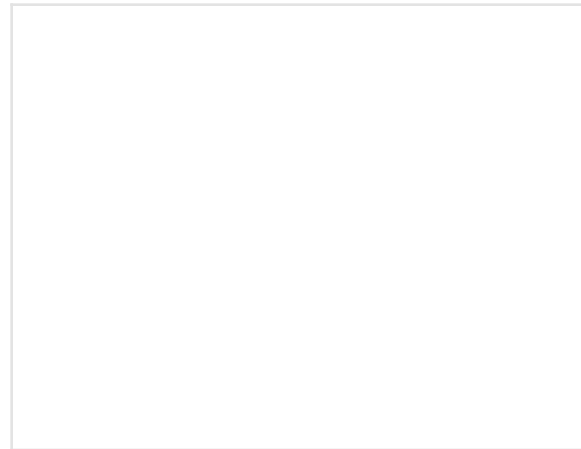
Email Print Save This Like + More Text

Regarding your editorial "Target: Intel, and Competition" (May 14): In withdrawing earlier Department of Justice guidance on monopoly conduct, the new Assistant Attorney General Christine Varney is not "returning to the 1970s" on antitrust policy and enforcement as the editorial alleges. If anything, the new head of the Department of Justice's antitrust division is returning to the more moderate 1990s, when our economy was booming and competition was flourishing. In fact, the DOJ's earlier report was even repudiated by the Department's sister antitrust-enforcement agency, the Federal Trade Commission. William Kovacic, the Bush-appointed chairman of the FTC at the time, stated, "I hoped that if the agencies were to publish something based on the deliberations, they would prepare one document that reflected their common views. That did not come to pass." The new AAG's decision represents a necessary first step in bringing the DOJ's guidance in line with that of the FTC and providing businesses operating in the U.S. legal clarity.

The AAG was also doing her job in committing to enforce the law. In a radical break from former Republican and Democratic administrations, the DOJ failed to bring any monopoly cases over the past eight years. I sincerely doubt companies radically improved their behavior across the board in the span of a few short years.

In this vein, the Intel case represents the lowest of the low-hanging fruit. Even a cursory reading of the many recent decisions against Intel would illustrate that the company was not merely "offering a discount." There are numerous well-documented instances of Intel paying companies to delay the launch of product lines with Advanced Micro Devices Inc.'s chips, paying distributors not to not sell AMD computers to big businesses and paying retailers not to stock AMD computers. These actions have no pro-competitive justification.

Competing aggressively on price and quality is great for our economy. However, when companies use their excessive market share to distort free markets and block other companies from even competing, everyone loses -- except the monopolist. Indeed, Intel's actions led to higher prices and slowed innovation. This is exactly the type of clear-cut case U.S. authorities should pursue.



Give the Gift of Living in the Know. Purchase a gift subscription to The Wall Street Journal for the gadget lovers on your list. ORDER TODAY!

Editors' Picks



Ed Black

President & CEO

Computer & Communications Industry Association
Washington

Printed in The Wall Street Journal, page A16

Email Printer Friendly Order Reprints

Share:

Be the first of your friends to like this.

Reverse CellPhone Lookup

Reverse Any Cell Phone - Get Name, Address & More ,100%Guaranteed.
www.ReversePhoneDetectives.com

Mortgage Rates Hit 2.99%

With rates lower than ever, now is the time to refinance your home.
www.SeeRefinanceRates.com

Penny stocks soaring 900%

Come experience penny stock gains with our free & accurate newsletter
www.PennyStocksUniverse.com

Add a Comment

JOURNAL COMMUNITY

We welcome your thoughtful comments. Please comply with our [Community rules](#). All comments will display your real name.

Want to participate in the discussion?

Or log in or become a subscriber now for complete Journal access.

Track replies to my comment

[Go to Comments tab](#)

Video

Zuckerberg on Facebook's Impact, and Assange
3:37

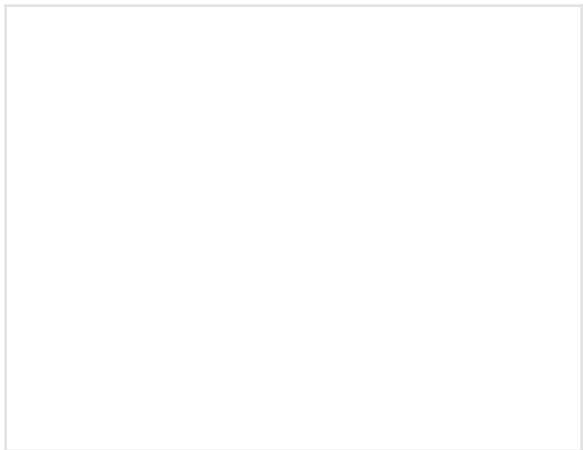
Obama Tax Compromise Passes
0:25

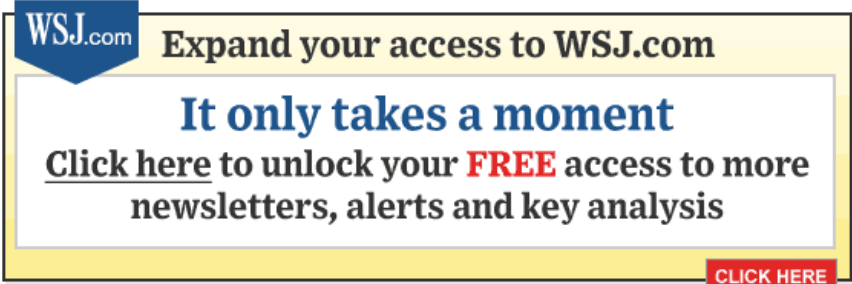
Woman Aids Cop Attacked By Suspect
0:34

Most Popular

1. [Opinion: McGurn: 'Billionaires On the Warpath'?](#)
2. [Opinion: Best of the Web Today: The Stupidity Defense](#)
3. [Air Force Blocks Media Sites](#)
4. [Police Hunt for Possible Serial Killer](#)
5. [Tax Deal Shapes 2012 GOP Race](#)

[Most Read Articles Feed](#)





WSJ.com Expand your access to WSJ.com

It only takes a moment

Click here to unlock your **FREE** access to more newsletters, alerts and key analysis

[CLICK HERE](#)

Copyright ©2010 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved

BACK TO TOP

WSJ.com Account:

- [My Account](#)
- [Subscriber Billing Info](#)

Create an Account:

- [Register for Free](#)
- [Subscribe to WSJ.com](#)
- [Sign up for WSJ Professional](#)

Help & Information Center:

- [Help](#)
- [Customer Service](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [New on WSJ.com](#)
- [Tour the new Journal](#)

About:

- [News Licensing](#)
- [Advertising](#)
- [Advertise Locally](#)
- [Conferences](#)
- [About Dow Jones](#)
- [Privacy Policy - Updated](#)
- [Subscriber Agreement & Terms of Use - Updated](#)
- [Copyright Policy](#)
- [Jobs at WSJ.com](#)

WSJ.com:

- [Site Map](#)
- [Home](#)
- [World](#)
- [U.S.](#)
- [New York](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Markets](#)
- [Market Data](#)
- [Tech](#)
- [Personal Finance](#)
- [Life & Culture](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Autos](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Small Business](#)
- [Student Journal](#)
- [Corrections](#)

Tools & Formats:

- [Today's Paper](#)
- [Video Center](#)
- [Graphics](#)
- [Columns](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Topics](#)
- [Guides](#)
- [Alerts](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
- [Mobile](#)
- [Tablet Edition](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
- [RSS Feeds](#)
- [Journal Community](#)
- [WSJ on Twitter](#)
- [WSJ on Facebook](#)
- [WSJ on Foursquare](#)
- [My Journal](#)
- [Portfolio](#)



Digital Network

- [WSJ.com](#)
- [Marketwatch.com](#)
- [Barrons.com](#)
- [SmartMoney.com](#)
- [AllThingsD.com](#)
- [FINS: Finance, IT jobs, Sales jobs](#)
- [BigCharts.com](#)
- [Virtual Stock Exchange](#)
- [WSJ Radio](#)
- [ProfessorJournal.com](#)
- [WSJ U.S. Edition](#)
- [WSJ Asia Edition](#)
- [WSJ Europe Edition](#)
- [WSJ India Page](#)
- Foreign Language Editions:**
- [WSJ Chinese](#)
- [WSJ Japanese](#)
- [WSJ Portuguese](#)
- [WSJ Spanish](#)