

Brian Martinez

Scott Tash

Business Law

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Homework Week 3

Do some online research regarding the Sherman Antitrust Act or the Robinson-Patman Act. Give a one page summary of a situation where either Act was cited in a prosecution of a case. Be sure to properly cite your sources.

In 1890 Congress passed the Federal Antitrust Act, also known as the Sherman Antitrust Act. This law and several amendments to it are still vigorously enforced against large and small businesses. It forbids certain agreements that tend to unreasonably inhibit competition, fix prices, allocate territories, or limit production[ CITATION Ant19 \l 1033 ]. During our reading I suddenly started to tie things together that I had heard through various media outlets, or the random documentaries one watches when you cannot sleep. There is a list of famous cases in regards to violations of the Sherman Antitrust act. It has big names that include AT&T, Kodak, Standard Oil, and the largest and most recent, Microsoft. Microsoft is easily the most recognizable and biggest name (at least in this generation... millennials am I right?) on this list to discuss that violated the Sherman Act. The case hinged on the issue of a monopoly in operating system and browser sales for Intel Chip based personal computers[ CITATION Tho \l 1033 ]. Essentially, Microsoft was bundling their OS (Windows) with the browser, Internet Explorer[ CITATION Ant19 \l 1033 ]. What this did was eliminate any need for a typical user to go out and find another browser application, and thusly forced them out of having any competition. Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson of the Department of Justice issued his findings in the month of November, 1999. In his legal opinion, Microsoft had a

monopoly on PC Operating Systems and had tried to ensure that it retained it through various tactics [ CITATION Ant19 \l 1033 ].

## References

Liuzzo, A. L. (2019). *Essentials of Business Law*. McGraw-Hill.

Nowland, T. F. (n.d.). *Famous Antitrust Cases of the Last Century*. Retrieved from nowlandlaw.com: <https://www.nowlandlaw.com/famous-antitrust-cases-of-the-last-century/>