



State AGs near completion of antitrust case against Paramount-Warner merger

Description

Lawyers representing several US states are preparing an antitrust lawsuit against Paramount's planned acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery, which includes CNN. Sources involved in the legal process indicate the lawsuit may be filed next week, but this timeline could change.

If the lawsuit proceeds, it could potentially delay Paramount's plans to take over Warner Bros. Discovery this summer. Paramount has aimed to complete the deal in the coming weeks. This move also marks another instance of state attorneys general challenging a merger that has already received federal approval.

Last month, the Justice Department cleared the acquisition amid concerns about the Trump administration's connections to Paramount. However, federal approval does not prevent state attorneys from filing their own antitrust claims. Critics argue that the merger would harm competition in the entertainment and news sectors, a claim that Paramount denies.

State officials have been investigating Paramount's lobbying efforts with the Trump administration. In response to potential legal action, a spokesperson for Paramount stated they are engaging constructively with regulators and are ready to address any legitimate antitrust issues, expressing confidence that the transaction poses no such concerns.

In the UK, Paramount faces additional regulatory challenges, as culture minister Lisa Nandy has indicated a willingness to intervene in the deal. California's Attorney General Rob Bonta noted that the investigation into the acquisition is ongoing, with no immediate updates available. A court hearing related to this case will take place next week.

Vocabulary List:

1. **antitrust** //,æn.ti'trʌst// (adjective): laws that stop big companies from unfair control
2. **acquisition** //,æk.wə'zɪʃən// (noun): getting or buying something, especially a company
3. **lawsuit** //'lɔːsu:t// (noun): a claim taken to court to settle disagreement
4. **merger** //'mɜːdʒə// (noun): when two companies join to form one
5. **regulators** //'rɛgjə,leɪtərz// (noun): people or groups that make and check rules
6. **lobbying** //'lɔː.bi.ɪŋ// (noun): trying to influence government decisions for a group

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What type of lawsuit are lawyers representing several US states preparing against Paramount?
 - Option: Merger approval
 - Option: Antitrust lawsuit
 - Option: Intellectual property lawsuit
 - Option: Contract dispute
2. What is the planned acquisition that Paramount is making?
 - Option: CNN
 - Option: Warner Bros. Discovery
 - Option: NBC Universal
 - Option: Fox News
3. Who cleared the acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery amid concerns about connections to Paramount?
 - Option: State attorneys general
 - Option: Federal Trade Commission
 - Option: Justice Department
 - Option: Department of Defense
4. What reason do critics provide for opposing the merger?
 - Option: It will lead to job losses
 - Option: It will harm competition
 - Option: It will reduce content variety
 - Option: It will raise subscription prices
5. Who is the California Attorney General mentioned in the article?
 - Option: Lisa Nandy
 - Option: Rob Bonta
 - Option: Alberto R. Gonzales
 - Option: Kamala Harris
6. What has Paramount expressed confidence about regarding the transaction?
 - Option: It poses no antitrust concerns
 - Option: It will be profitable
 - Option: It will face no opposition
 - Option: It requires further negotiation



True-False

7. Paramount's acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery has already been delayed due to legal issues.
8. The lawsuit against Paramount is expected to be filed next month.
9. State attorneys general can file their own antitrust claims despite federal approval.
10. The culture minister of the UK has shown no interest in intervening in the deal.
11. Paramount is preparing to complete the deal in the coming weeks.
12. A court hearing related to the acquisition case is scheduled for this week.

Gap-Fill

13. Lawyers representing several US states are preparing an antitrust lawsuit against Paramount's planned acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery, including _____ .
14. If the lawsuit proceeds, it could potentially _____ Paramount's plans to take over Warner Bros. Discovery this summer.
15. Paramount is facing additional regulatory challenges in the _____ .
16. Paramount has stated they are ready to address any legitimate _____ issues.
17. No immediate updates regarding the investigation into the acquisition by California's Attorney General are _____ .
18. The Justice Department cleared the acquisition amid concerns about the Trump administration's connections to _____ .

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Antitrust lawsuit 2. Warner Bros. Discovery 3. Justice Department 4. It will harm competition



5. Rob Bonta 6. It poses no antitrust concerns

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. CNN 14. delay 15. UK 16. antitrust 17. available 18. Paramount

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL4

POST TAG

1. antitrust lawsuit
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. Level 4
5. paramount
6. state AGs
7. Warner Bros. Discovery

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