

**Abigail B. Ferguson**

SENIOR ECONOMIST

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**CURRICULUM VITÆ****Education**

2009 Ph.D., Economics, University of Texas at Austin

2004 M.S. Economics, University of Texas at Austin

2002 B.A. Economics, Davidson College

**Biography**

Abigail Ferguson is a Ph.D. economist specializing in industrial organization and game theory applied to antitrust matters. She is both an experienced theorist and an expert data analyst.

Dr. Ferguson has worked on matters involving real estate, search advertising, eBooks, music labels and semiconductors, and particularly health insurance and health care providers.

Examples of her work include the following:

- Creating a managing a database of real estate transactions, estimating a difference-in-difference regression model to determine the effects of a policy on real estate commission rates
- Managing a large database of inpatient visits, determining the relevant geographic market for merging hospitals' products and estimating the likely price effects of a hospital merger
- Calibrating a simple oligopoly model of market share discounts to an industry, predicting the likely exclusion and price effects of a specific market share discount scheme

Dr. Ferguson has a specific expertise in the area of bundled or 'contingent' pricing arrangements, such as market share discounts, bundled or loyalty rebates, most-favored-nation (MFN) clauses, "no steering, no tiering" clauses (common in health care provider-payer contracts), and simple bundling and requirements tying. She has co-written white papers for the Department of Justice in this area.

Before coming to MiCRA Dr. Ferguson taught introductory economics, intermediate microeconomic theory, and game theory. Her dissertation included chapters on loyalty discounts and network effects.

## **Experience**

Economist, MiCRA: Microeconomic Consulting and Research Associates, Inc., Washington, D.C.; Fall 2008 – present.

- Co-wrote white papers on “no steering, no tiering” (NSNT) and most-favored-nation (MFN) clauses for Department of Justice
- Performed statistical and theoretical analysis in the context of prospective mergers and allegations of anticompetitive behavior for U.S. and Canadian competition authorities and private litigation
- Helped to prepare expert testimony and calculate damages in matters that include prospective mergers, potentially anticompetitive behavior, and statutory rate-setting
- Developed specific theoretical and empirical expertise in analyzing loyalty-based pricing arrangements such as market share discounts, loyalty rebates, requirements tying, bundling, MFN clauses
- Acquired institutional knowledge of and experience with the health care, health insurance, real estate, semiconductor, cable television, and music industries
- Created and managed large databases of transactions, such as inpatient visits or sold real estate listings, for purposes of regression or other statistical analysis

## **Fellowships, Honors, and Memberships**

Member, American Bar Association (General Associate) Sections: Antitrust Law and Intellectual Property

Member, American Economics Association Member, American Law and Economics Association Departmental Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin

### **Working Papers**

“Anticompetitive no-steering, no-tiering (NSNT) and market share discount contracts”

“Most-favored-nation (MFN) contracts and buyer competition”

“Requirements Tying, Bundled Rebates and Product Differentiation”

“Network Effects and the Market for Secondary Education: Deciding to Home School”

### **Programming Skills**

SAS (including use of SQL and macros), Mathematica (high proficiency)

### **Research and Teaching Experience**

Research Assistant, University of Texas at Austin (with David S. Sibley)

Teaching Assistant, University of Texas at Austin

Introduction to Macroeconomics

Introduction to Microeconomics

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

Applications of Game and Decision Theory

Course Developer, University Extension, University of Texas at Austin

Introduction to Microeconomics

Instructor, Distance Education Center (through University Extension), University of Texas at Austin

Introduction to Macroeconomics

Introduction to Microeconomics