

Filmmakers Collaborative SF

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Film Project Spotlights Precedent-Setting Use of Antitrust Law to Challenge Big Tech Labor Practices

*Featuring more than a dozen legal and labor experts,
half-hour film, short videos and related resources
available free online at www.whenrulesdontapply.com*

SAN FRANCISCO, CA [April 10, 2019] - With concern growing about anti-competitive practices among big tech firms, a new film highlights earlier successful antitrust legal actions brought against Google, Apple, eBay and other major technology companies.

When Rules Don't Apply explores the “no-poach” wage suppression conspiracy that swept Silicon Valley from 2005 to 2015, and the precedent-setting legal battles that challenged these practices. Leading tech CEOs, including Apple’s Steve Jobs and Google’s Eric Schmidt, secretly agreed not to recruit one another’s employees, thus restricting employee job opportunities and limiting their wages.

As the 28 minute film shows, the US Department of Justice applied antitrust law in 2009 for the first time on behalf of labor to prosecute the companies involved for their anticompetitive practices. A separate class action lawsuit was filed in 2013 on behalf of 64,000 tech employees for an estimated \$3 billion in lost wages. The case was settled for \$435 million in 2014.

Funded by a grant resulting from a settlement between eBay and the California Attorney General’s office, ***When Rules Don't Apply*** features a dozen leading experts in the field of antitrust and labor law, including participants in the legal actions. The film is co-hosted by Rachael Myrow, KQED’s Silicon Valley chief, and Veena Dubal, Associate Professor of Law at UC Hastings.

“An engaging look at how Apple, Google, and other tech companies in Silicon Valley conspired against their own workers, and got busted,” said Robert Reich, former Secretary of Labor and current Chancellors Professor of Public Policy, UC Berkeley.

Produced by Filmmakers Collaborative SF, the full film and three video shorts are available to view free on the project website – www.whenrulesdontapply.com. A DVD and download of the film and video shorts will be available to purchase in mid-April.

The website also includes in-depth resources on the legal cases, antitrust law, and links to

relevant organizations and agencies. A study/discussion guide to accompany the film will be available in late April, written by Donald Polden, Emeritus Dean and Professor of Law at Santa Clara University.

ABOUT THE PRODUCERS

When Rules Don't Apply is produced and directed by David Donnenfield of Full Frame Productions and coproduced by Kevin White of Filmmakers Collaborative SF. Donnenfield and White have won numerous awards for their films, including Emmys and CINE Golden Eagles. Their films have been broadcast on PBS, National Geographic, Discovery, Bravo and ABC.

FILM ADVISORS

The two film advisors are: Dr. Chris Benner, Dorothy E. Everett Chair in Global Information and Social Entrepreneurship at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and director of the Everett Program for Technology and Social Change; and Donald Polden, Emeritus Dean and Professor of Law at Santa Clara University, who previously practiced antitrust and corporate law.

EXPERTS IN THE FILM

Among the interviewees in the film are: Gene Kimmelman, former Chief Counsel, US Department of Justice, Antitrust Division; Ro Khanna, California Member of Congress, 17th District; Franklin Foer, Author and Journalist; Ed Colligan, former CEO Palm, Inc.; Barry Lynn, Executive Director, Open Markets Institute; Joseph Saveri and Dean Harvey, Plaintiff Attorneys; Neil Haran, Class Action Plaintiff; and AnnaLee Saxenian, Dean, UC Berkeley School of Information.

ABOUT THE FUNDING

When Rules Don't Apply was made possible by a grant to Filmmakers Collaborative SF, a nonprofit organization, from the eBay Settlement Fund, created as a result of the 2014 antitrust litigation settlement agreement between eBay and the Attorney General of the State of California. The purpose of the Fund is to enhance Californians' ability to gain technology related skills, education, and employment.

Film Producers, Advisors and Experts are available for interview.

Contact Filmmakers Collaborative SF:
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For more information and press images:
www.whenrulesdontapply.com