

**Statement of FTC Bureau of Competition Director Ian Conner
on the Facebook Enforcement Action**

Today, the Federal Trade Commission authorized a complaint alleging that Facebook has engaged in an anticompetitive course of conduct to illegally maintain its monopoly position in personal social networking. The Commission's complaint alleges that Facebook undertook a years-long effort to maintain its monopoly through anticompetitive acquisitions and actions that target potential and nascent rivals. Today's enforcement action aims to restore competition to this important industry and provide a foundation for future competitors to grow and innovate without the threat of being crushed by Facebook. The Commission's requested relief includes unwinding Facebook's prior acquisitions of Instagram and WhatsApp, and barring Facebook from engaging in additional anticompetitive practices that have helped it dominate the personal social networking market.

We bring these claims in coordination with Attorneys General from across the country, and we greatly appreciate the cooperative efforts of all the enforcers involved in this investigation. I want to thank the staff of the Commission for their exceptionally hard work to bring this complaint forward, especially those in the recently formed Technology Enforcement Division. What the Commission staff has accomplished in the last eighteen months is remarkable. We look forward to prosecuting and winning this case in court, not in the press, and we therefore will not be commenting further at this time. The American public deserves a competitive and vibrant personal social networking market, and we are taking this action to restore the competitive vigor necessary to foster innovation and consumer choice.