

ELIG snaps up chief economist from Turkish enforcer

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(Credit: iStock)

Ekrem Kalkan, one of Turkey's leading competition economists, yesterday joined ELIG Attorneys-at-Law as counsel, leaving Turkey's Competition Authority after more than 18 years at the enforcer.

Kalkan joined the authority as an assistant competition expert in 1997, becoming its chief economist in 2012. He held several senior positions at the authority during his 18 years of service, rising to head the department of economic analysis and research.

Ekrem described ELIG as "in a league of its own" as far as competition law in Turkey is concerned.

"It is well known, both in Turkey and globally," he said. "Gönenç Gürkaynak [the firm's managing partner] is a leading lawyer and a highly respected academician, and I am sure both he and his team at ELIG will keep me busy with cutting edge matters."

Ekrem said he looked forward to a new phase of his professional life in private practice, where he hopes to continue integrating economic analysis and the law.

During his time at the enforcer, he worked on investigations and mergers in a number of sectors, including telecommunications, television and the print media, cement, food and drinks, aviation and finance.

Kalkan is the first economist to join ELIG. In addition to providing economic analysis and comment, he will train the firm's lawyers on competition economics.

Gönenç Gürkaynak said Kalkan's appointment as a competition economics counsel would reinforce the 36 specialists who already make up the firm's competition team.

"We are happy to see Ekrem as a part of our team going forward. ELIG is striving to secure ways of keeping its lawyers well learned and guided, and our clients well satisfied," he said.

"This appointment is yet another solid step in that direction, and will gain ELIG access to further avenues of high-quality thought and analysis through adding Ekrem to our ranks."

He added that it is rare for competition economists or lawyers to move into private practice from Turkey's public sector. ELIG now has five competition partners, two counsel and 30 associates dedicated to Turkish competition law.