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Mary Sullivan received a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago Department of Economics in 1987. She taught marketing at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business from 1987 to 1997. While at the University of Chicago she conducted research on industrial organization and marketing issues such as slotting allowances, brand names and trademarks.

In 1997 Sullivan left academia for the U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division, where she worked on a wide variety of antitrust matters and served as assistant chief of the competition policy section. In 2004 she joined the Accountancy Department of the George Washington University.

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