

From: [Courtney Urman](#) [courtney.urm[REDACTED]]
To: [Read, John](#) [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: nited States v. Apple, Inc. et al., No. 12-CV-2826(DLC) (S.D.N.Y.) – Comments on Proposed Final Judgment as to Defendants Hachette, HarperCollins, and Simon & Schuster
Date: Wednesday, May 02, 2012 11:57:52 AM

Name: Courtney Urman
Email: courtney.urm[REDACTED]
Text of your email: Dear DOJ,

I'm not a lawyer. I'm not an author, a bookseller, a publisher, or in any way involved in the production of ebooks. I'm just a consumer, an aspect of this whole to-do that seems to have been forgotten. I read books for entertainment, for escape, for general enrichment. As an owner of a Kindle, I buy the majority of my ebooks from Amazon. Over the past year and a half (since I got my Kindle), I've become frustrated with the price of ebooks. I pay as much for the ebook version of a mass market paperback as I would for the physical book, but I get far less.

If I spend \$7.99 at Amazon on a paperback, I can lend it or sell it. I can read it wherever I want. If I spend \$7.99 at Amazon on the ebook version (from a publisher engaged in retail price maintenance), I can read it only on my Kindle or its apps. If I decide to get a different company's ereading device, I cannot transfer it. In most cases, I cannot lend it. I absolutely cannot sell it. It's also much more likely to include formatting errors. That \$7.99 gets me only the right to read that book in a very specific way. I am, basically, leasing a somewhat inferior product.

I don't mind not owning an ebook the same way I own a paper book. I do mind paying the same price for both, though. Retail price maintenance and the agreement with Apple to support it makes it impossible for other retailers to respond to consumers like me when we stop buying books due to having to pay the same or more for a product that has a decreased value. I'm no expert in economics-- I really only remember the basics of supply and demand from Econ 101 in college--but as a consumer I know when I'm getting the short end of the stick, and I can draw logical conclusions.

When Amazon offers discounts, my fellow Kindle owners and I buy more books. When Barnes & Noble offers discounts to compete with Amazon, Nook owners buy more books. When ebook retailers like Fictionwise and Omnilit form frequent buyer programs that offer discounts and deals for a small membership fee, they can draw customers in and compete with Amazon and Barnes & Noble, decreasing AZN and BN's large market share. Having some control over retail pricing fosters competition, especially in an economy where we consumers have limited disposable income to spend on our favorite hobby of reading.

Perhaps I'm mistaken. Perhaps, as a lowly consumer who is neither lawyer nor economist nor publisher, I just don't know how this all actually works. I just know that this settlement will result in fairer pricing for me. Fairer pricing for me means more books bought, which can only be a good thing. I get that publishers don't like having to change their ways, but it's time for them to wake up and smell the digital age.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Regards,
Courtney Urman

Time: Wednesday May 2, 2012 at 3:57 pm
IP Address: [REDACTED]

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