

From: [Rebecca Pruslin](#) [rebecks[REDACTED]]
To: [Read, John](#) [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Cc: [Fairchild, Stephen](#) [Stephen.Fairchild@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: United States v. Apple, Inc. et al., No. 12-CV-2826(DLC) (S.D.N.Y.)
Date: Friday, May 11, 2012 9:56:26 AM

John R. Read, Esq.
Chief, Litigation III Section
Antitrust Division, United States Department of Justice
450 5th Street, NW, Suite 4000
Washington, DC 20530

Re: United 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

Dear Mr. Read,

I am writing to express an opinion on the Department of Justice's law suit against Apple, Hachette, HarperCollins and Simon & Schuster.

As a regular consumer of books and many other things, I am interested in getting the best price possible, whenever possible. That said, I also feel strongly that when it comes to culture, "products" fall into a different category.

In many places around the world, writers are considered the epitome of a culture's core identity. In Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, France, India and many other places, governments have mature cultural institutes that provide financial support directly to writers and partner with publishing houses to keep the cultural conversation driven by writers and writing healthy. I'm sure you're aware that in many places, there is fixed pricing on books, separating them from other products in the marketplace, to protect their value. In Norway, fixed pricing on books to date has simply been industry practice and the Norwegian government is currently considering turning this practice into law, to further ensure a viable income for writers and their place in the definition of Norway's culture in the future.

I am a proud American and know there are programs in place in the U.S. to support writers, but such efforts will be made almost moot should the decisions about the value of writers and books be stripped from those who produce them and put so clearly in the hands of one dominant retailer whose core business is not the furtherance of culture.

I own a Kindle, and I appreciate all of the wonderful advantages that come with e-books. For me price is at the bottom of that list of advantages. I fear that this case, while on the surface meant to fight for the rights of consumers, will wind up punishing them, by enabling one retailer to drive prices of e-books so low that ultimately, the number of writers and quality of writing that is made available to consumers in ways that they can most easily find them, is tragically reduced.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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