

June 5, 2012

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John R. Read, Esq.
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LITIGATION III, ANTITRUST DIV.
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

Reference: United States v. Apple, Inc., et al., 12-cv-2826 (DLC) (SDNY). Comments on Proposed Final Judgment as to Defendants Hachette, HarperCollins and Simon & Schuster

Dear Mr. Read:

I trust that the United States Department of Justice will reconsider its settlement with three large publishers that would require the publishers to allow Amazon (and other e-book vendors) to sell e-books at below cost, so long as the vendors do not lose money on the publisher's entire list of e-books over a 12-month period. Amazon, a far richer and more powerful corporation than it was even two years ago, has every motivation to take losses on the books that bring customers into bookstores, and then recover those losses on less popular and backlist books.

The proposed settlement is not in the public interest, because it needlessly imperils brick-and-mortar bookstores while it backs an online monopolist and discourages competition among e-book vendors and e-book device developers.

Surely the Justice Department will not sanction the destructive, anticompetitive campaign of a corporate giant with billions in cash and boundless ambitions. The situation is bizarre and without precedent. It appears in fact that the Justice Department is intervening to help entrench a monopolist.

Please understand that brick-and-mortar bookstores play a vital role in our literary ecosystem. The public depends upon the Justice Department to protect those bookstores from predation and unfair practices. I implore you to do so.

With best regards,



Dick Grote
President