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Timothy F. Knowlton, Chief Executive Officer

June 21, 2012

Mr. John R. Read  
Chief, Litigation III Section  
United States Department of Justice  
450 5th St NW, Suite 4000  
Washington DC 20530

Dear Mr. Read:

Curtis Brown, Ltd. is one of the oldest literary agencies in the United States. We employ 27 people in our New York and San Francisco offices. All fourteen of the literary agents at our firm who have signed this letter below are also members of the Association of Authors' Representatives (the AAR) and our company was one of the founding organizations of the Society of Authors' Representatives, which merged with the Independent Literary Agents Association to form the AAR. Since Curtis Brown's inception in 1914, we have handled more than 60,000 publishing contracts on behalf of our authors.

We believe that the proposed settlement between the Justice Department and the three major publishers in the e-book collusion suit is irreparably unsound, will stifle competitive growth, is not to the benefit of the general public and will seriously diminish the value of the intellectual property of authors in general. There are myriad reasons for this position, many of which have been articulated in other letters you have already received. Here are some brief examples:

We are skeptical that a publisher could ever prevent a retailer from exceeding its permitted discounts during the negotiated period, or have any way to realistically monitor this.

We wonder exactly how publishers will be prevented from retaliating against retailers for perceived slights.

We are concerned that a number of publishers, most notably Random House, will suffer a significant competitive disadvantage, causing harm not only to such publishers, but also to authors and, of course, to the consumer.

By signing below we also endorse the opinions and positions presented in the letters regarding this settlement that you received from Simon Lipskar, Brian DeFiore and Bob Kohn.

In short, we unanimously and unequivocally oppose the proposed settlement.

Sincerely yours,

Timothy F. Knowlton

Peter L. Ginsberg  
(Read, but signed in his absence)

Maureen Walters

Ginger Knowlton

Elizabeth Harding

Dave Barbor

Laura Blake Peterson

Mitchell S. Waters

Holly Frederick

Katherine Fausset  
(Read, but signed in her absence)

Ginger Clark

Anna Webman

Sarah LaPolla

Steve Kasdin  
(Read, but signed in his absence)