

From: Carol B. Chittenden [mailto:cous[REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, June 16, 2012 4:58 PM
To: Read, John
Cc: Dan Cullen
Subject: 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.

John R. Read, Esq.
Chief, Litigation III
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Dear Mr. Read:

re: 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.

Allegedly there has been "collusion" among the defendants to "restrain trade." But if members of an industry confer to *promote* competition, why would the Department of Justice not wish to support their efforts? Assenting to the legalistic fiction that the Agency Plan of e-book distribution is somehow supporting competition -- when the opposite is so obviously true -- will not only further shrink the channels of book distribution, but also make a mockery of antitrust law across the entire economy.

In 1986 when I opened my small independent bookstore, it was the seventh bookstore in a community of about 30,000 people. It is now the only bookstore in town -- indeed the only one offering new books on upper Cape Cod. That same emaciation has occurred across the country, and continues today as Amazon.com proceeds in its march toward monopoly of book distribution. The march has been fully and eloquently described by others, and it would be self-serving to argue strictly for the preservation of my own business. But I do have to say that the free and vigorous exchange of information through many channels, organized by many different minds and segments of society, is one of the things that distinguishes and nourishes American vitality. As a proud citizen, I would like to think that my government acts in ways that nourish our cultural, economic, and social vitality.

Sincerely,

Carol B. Chittenden, President

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