

From: lionsto[REDACTED] [mailto:lionsto[REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 6:15 PM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: DOJ Lawsuit against Apple and other publishers in regard to e-book pricing.

Dear Mr. Read,

I am writing to you as a small independent publisher/author who has been in business for 15 years. Let me make it clear at the outset that I have absolutely no interest in ever publishing e-books. In addition, I do not do business through Amazon.com or with any of the defendants in this suit.

However, I do have an interest in stopping the monopolist trend of Amazon. They have openly stated that they wish to be the sole distributor of books in this country. Many of the policies, including but not limited to their e-book/Kindle policies, are aimed in that direction. Hence, I find it astonishing that DOJ has pursued a suit that might well give support to this monopolistic goal. Is DOJ's intent to give the control of information in the form of books in this country to one entity by bringing this suit against Apple and the five other publishers? It seems to me that if you successfully squelch an attempt on the part of independent entities to stop Amazon's rush to monopoly, you will be doing the exact opposite of what the suit purports to be doing. You will be supporting Amazon.com, a business that quite arrogantly states that it has monopolistic goals.

I do wonder how much you know about the book business? If you have not noticed, Amazon has done great damage to local businesses and economies by using its clout and size and secrecy to do basically whatever it wants to, but always with the goal of putting everybody else out of business. In addition, by discounting the books that it sells by so much, it effectively devalues the worth of a book in the public's eye. Most people know little to nothing of Amazon's many predatory policies and hence purchase blindly from an entity devoted to dominating every aspect of the book world. I am sure there are many legal arguments coming to you, but I believe that there is a cultural and societal value that is at stake here: the free the exchange of ideas through books from many sources. Without such exchange, we may well become less than a democracy.

Thank you very much.

Sallie Lowenstein
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