

From: Linda Bubon [mailto:wcflin[REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 3:24 PM
To: Read, John
Cc: d[REDACTED]
Subject: DOJ suit against Apple & 5 major publishers

Dear Mr. Read,

I want to weigh in on the suit against Apple and five major publishers for "colluding" to set the price of e-books. I am an independent bookseller in Chicago, co-owner of Women & Children First bookstore, est. 1979. It was not until last year that Google agreed that their e- books would be available to read on a variety of devices and could be sold by diverse booksellers. This is the Agency Model which promotes diversity and choice and protects a competitive marketplace. Until then we had to tell our customers that they'd have to buy their e- books from our fiercest competitor. (That is still true if their device is a Kindle. Amazon sells Kindles and Kindlebooks EXCLUSIVELY).

We want to continue to sell books in all the formats our customers want. The only way we brick-and-mortar stores can compete with online giants is if prices are set by the publishers and adhered to by all sellers--as has always been the case with physical books.

Amazon already competes unfairly by refusing to collect and remit sales tax, while brick-and-mortar stores contribute to state revenues. Allowing them to set unsustainably low prices will guarantee their increasing monopoly of the book industry. Monopolization never benefits consumers. We, and thousands of bookstores like ours, cannot continue to provide author events, book clubs, storytimes for children, and community forums if we are merely a showroom for Amazon.

Sincerely,
Linda Bubon, co-owner
Women & Children First
5233 N Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60640

Sent from my iPhone