

From: Paula Longhurst [mailto:paulajlonghur[REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, June 23, 2012 4:26 PM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Cc: D[REDACTED]
Subject: U.S. vs. Apple, Inc., et al., 12-cv-2826 (DLC) (SDNY)

Dear Mr Read,

I feel I have to comment on this matter because I work in one of the independent bookstores that Amazon are seeking to wipe out. When e-books first came out our customers came to us asking for e-books which we couldn't provide so they went elsewhere-usually to Amazon. We have been selling e-books using the google books model for less than a year but we can now compete with Amazon albeit on a less than level playing field because we still have to collect sales tax and Amazon do not.

The agency model has allowed us to compete in this brave new e-book world. One unexpected result, customers are buying e-books and printed books too. They are reading *more* now than they were before. In a time when money is tight people are still spending money on books. A local bookstore like ours is a community resource. We host events, have authors in to sign their books and meet their many fans. We provide a launching pad for local authors some of whom are finding their way onto bestseller lists. We have reading programs and story times for kids and we provide donations for local charities and we know a lot of our customers by their first names.

As a bookseller I don't get paid a lot, but I'm passionate about putting people and books together. Amazon just uses books as a loss-leader to sell more expensive products like flat screen TVs. They don't care about writers, authors, publishers, publicists, or sales reps. All they care about is their bottom line.

Regards

Paula J Longhurst

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Paula Longhurst.

<http://englishrosesloverain.blogspot.com/>