

Katherine M. Bennett  
Undercover Books & Gifts  
5030 Anchor Way  
Christiansted, St. Croix  
U.S. Virgin Islands 00820  
340-719-1567  
[undercoverbooksvi@gmail.com](mailto:undercoverbooksvi@gmail.com)  
[www.undercoverbooksvi.com](http://www.undercoverbooksvi.com)

RECEIVED *Kmw*

MAY 16 REC'D *2012*

LITIGATION III, ANTITRUST DIV.  
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

May 10, 2012

John Read  
Chief Litigation III Section  
Antitrust Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
450 5th Street, NW, Suite 4000  
Washington, DC 20530

Re: The U.S. antitrust lawsuit against Apple (AAPL) and five major book publishers

Dear Mr. Read:

As a bookseller I was shocked to see the Department of Justice (DOJ) taking issue with the agency model of the e-book. The agency model allows independent booksellers the opportunity to compete with Amazon for a market share of e-books. If the DOJ prevails and the publishers no longer have the right to set the retail price of e-books, then you might as well kiss the independent bookstores good-bye. Not only does Amazon undercut the independents on all of their print titles, but the DOJ ensures the inability for independents to compete for their customers' e-book business and we will merely become showrooms for Amazon's customers. (At least until we are finally put to rest.)

It's a well-known fact that Amazon operates yearly at a loss despite its incredible sales volume. Amazon sells its products for less than what they pay for them. Why? Ultimately, Amazon wants to put everyone else out of business and then, once it does, it will have a monopoly. Without any competition, they will then be free to raise the prices and start operating at any profit level they see fit. Then, no one will have the choice of where to buy their books. Amazon will decide who gets published, and how much it will cost the consumer. The problem is not just with bookstores. The problem lies within the entire publishing industry. I believe this ruling could potentially bring down the entire industry and thereby reduce our culture to one which puts little value on good literature. Writers, publishers, editors and booksellers deserve more respect than to be completely devalued by Amazon. The industry is so important to our culture. It is our duty as a society to protect it, not destroy it. I don't know if you are lucky enough to have an

independent bookstore in your community. If you are, then you understand how a bookstore is a place where people come together, share ideas and nurture the thirst for knowledge and experience through the written word.

I would ask that the DOJ reconsider and drop the suit against Apple and the publishers. It is literally a matter of life and death for many of us in the industry.

Sincerely,

  
Katherine M. Bennett  
Owner, Undercover Books