

From: Enid Shomer [mailto:eshome[REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 1:36 PM
To: Read, John
Cc: The Authors Guild
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.

Dear Mr. Read,

I am writing to you regarding the above-captioned case. I am speaking to you as both a writer and an avid reader, as a professional and as a member of the reading public.

Freedom of speech will always be impeded when one corporation, in this case Amazon, is so powerful that it virtually dictates what people read by controlling the marketplace. Our democracy—any democracy—requires the protection of minority views, of a plurality of opinions, interest groups, ideas. Amazon's marketing strategy and its declared goals are at odds with these values. Amazon's goal is to put every other bookseller out of business. (It has even stated this.) First it declared war on independent and chain booksellers. Now, it has declared war on publishers and has begun publishing books itself. I hope I do not have to connect all the dots for you and the court to understand that too much power concentrated in the hands of Amazon will virtually strangle the book marketplace and thus strangle free discussion of ideas.

In addition to the issue of freedom of speech, there is the issue of fairness. Certainly, Amazon cares nothing for fairness. The facts bear this out. Amazon is the 400-pound gorilla that can afford to sell new books—the very lifeblood of both independent bookstores and book publishers—below cost in order to lure customers away from other vendors. Amazon behaves like a monopoly and the court must surely recognize that its trade practices are simply unfair.

Respectfully,
Enid Shomer
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