

From: [William Roberts](#) [willrobert[REDACTED]]
To: [Read, John](#) [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Cc: [Fairchild, Stephen](#) [Stephen.Fairchild@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: United States v. Apple, Inc. et al., No. 12-CV-2826(DLC) (S.D.N.Y.)
Date: Friday, May 11, 2012 2:09:45 PM

John R. Read, Esq.
Chief, Litigation III Section
Antitrust Division, United States Department of Justice
450 5th Street, NW, Suite 4000
Washington, DC 20530

Re: United States v. Apple, Inc. et al., No. 12-CV-2826(DLC) (S.D.N.Y.) – Comments on Proposed Final Judgment as to Defendants Hachette, HarperCollins, and Simon & Schuster

Dear Mr. Read,

I am writing regarding the Department of Justice's law suit against Apple, Hachette, HarperCollins and Simon & Schuster.

As someone who has a deep love for books, I am concerned that the recent lawsuit could be a detriment to their place in American culture. My issue is that the lawsuit will help concentrate market share for one party and ultimately make them the dominant force in the publishing industry with no viable competitors. This is not good for consumers and it's not good for books. We need a varied, competitive market and I think that books are also inherently different than most commercial products. They are still one of the most important sources of ideas, and our own understanding of our cultural heritage and deserve a higher price point. For me, someone like the author Robert Caro is a case in point: his work is tremendously valuable to American Arts and Letters but it's also almost insanely archaic and inefficient. It's spending years of one's life on a book that, at most, will cost around \$30. I feel the lawsuit's perhaps unintended, but still very real, consequence is that it concentrates power into one company whose primary mission is selling items at a very low cost; the quality of books, or their importance to our culture, become extraneous. In my mind, this makes it that much more difficult for the Robert Caros of the world to exist. It devalues the work of authors and effectively becomes a race to the bottom. Books will continue to become cheaper and cheaper and the result is that the works of writers and ideas will continue to be devalued as well. It will make it extremely difficult for most writers or publisher to survive and then I think we all lose as consumers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

William Roberts
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Brooklyn, NY 11205