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

May 9th, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Read,

I'm writing to register my serious concern over the Department of Justice settlement with three Publishers for alleged collusion regarding ebook pricing.

I've carefully read the complaint and I strongly disagree that Publishers committed illegal acts with respect to the establishment of the agency model. We are indebted to Amazon for introducing the first viable e-reading device. But their insistence on a loss-leading pricing model threatens not just to change how books are bought and sold but to permanently degrade the public's perception of the value of an Author's work.

I write not as a Publisher but as an advocate for Authors. In order to create books of lasting cultural and commercial value Authors need the support of a diverse group of publishing professionals who compete for the right to offer Authors their services. The steps taken by Publishers to establish the agency model were necessary to insure a thriving ebook marketplace that now enables multiple e-tailing outlets to reach a wide readership, creating a dynamic and new source of income for Publishers and Authors.

This Department of Justice action will severely limit the abilities of Authors to generate the revenue their work deserves and will jeopardize the landscape that allows Publishers to invest in new works by new and established Authors in a way that will continue to enable the creation of cultural works of lasting value. Allowing this settlement empowers a multi-billion dollar company to continue to degrade prices and undermines the value Authors are due for their work. I urge you to reject it.

Sincerely,


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