

**From:** [david shapiro](#) [writ[REDACTED]]  
**To:** [Read, John](#) [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]  
**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.  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 05, 2012 10:20:11 AM

---

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

Re: United States v. Apple, Inc., et al., 12-cv-2826 (DLC) (SDNY).  
Dear Sir:  
I wish to comment on the proposed Final Judgment as to Defendants Hachette, HarperCollins and Simon & Schuster.

My wife and I are Amazon Prime members and buy a great many books through Amazon. We appreciate not only the convenience but the substantial discounts we often can obtain through Amazon.

While I buy both hardcovers and paperbacks through Amazon, one type of publication I will not buy from them is the ebook. Despite the fact that ebooks can be remarkably convenient--my wife has stored hundreds on her reading device--I find Amazon's tactics in this realm repugnant. This choice is based on our having been aware of the issue; I believe that most Amazon purchasers lack the benefit of such knowledge. Therefore, it is up to the competition, via the courts, to remedy the situation. Up to this point, they have been supported in doing so.

The latest ruling may be based on a wish to allow Amazon do business its way, just as the publishers that use the agency model can do business their way--so long as they are not cornering the market and thus hindering open competition. Unfortunately, Amazon has shown itself more than willing to destroy the competition by improper practices. By this I mean behaviors other than providing a better product or service, or one provided through greater efficiency, or even better advertising. When a company seeks a near-monopoly position by anti-competitive practices such as Amazon's, the courts need to do more than just provide the superficial appearance of a level playing field.

Sincerely,

David Shapiro