

From: RobKWilcox@aol.com [RobKWilc[REDACTED]]
To: [Read, John](mailto:John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov) [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: US vs Apple, inc., et all
Date: Thursday, June 07, 2012 2:42:33 PM

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). Comments on Proposed Final Judgment as to Defendants Hachette, HarperCollins and Simon & Schuster.

Dear Mr. Read:

As a professional author, member of the Authors Guild and Writer's Guild West, I'm writing to let you know how vital book stores are to authors, readers, and the country's intellectual way of life. Any enterprise like Amazon's monopoly on book selling that undermines this way of life is wrong and hurtful. Book selling is unlike most other types of selling. A potential buyer needs the moments of handling and looking at the book to make his choice. Internet exposure, while good in its place, is not good enough for many readers. Forcing any other way of doing business because of market capture is wrong and appears to me to be unlawful.

In addition, the price of books not only effects publishers but authors like me. The cheaper the book, the less the writer makes. Less money means less research. Less research means less knowledge. Even novelists who produce fiction depend on research. The more one side of the business forces conditions on all the others, the more the public loses.

Book production and selling needs the widest book shelf - brick and mortar book shops included. The way things are now, they are disappearing. Please take this into account in deciding your course of action in this matter before you. Amazon's position in the book buying business is that of a monopoly forcing conditions. I hope you will insure that all forms of book selling are protected and nourished.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Wilcox
author, journalist, historian.
Los Angeles