

From: JJ Indeliclae [mailto:jenandezerpar[REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2012 12:00 AM
To: Read, John
Subject: another voice in favor of the agency model for e-books

June 25, 2012
John Read
Chief of Litigation III Section,
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice

Dear Mr. Read,

I'm writing at all-too-literally the eleventh hour to add my voice to the chorus of dismay regarding the alleged collusion between Apple and five major publishers to adopt the agency model for pricing e-books. I'm writing so late not out of indecision, but because I have read reams of articles from both sides of this debate and its myriad tangents, and feel that my anti-collusion argument is better expressed by better-informed professionals in this debate.

However, as an independent bookseller I can't conscientiously neglect to add my voice, however small, because these allegations and the possible settlement could directly affect my livelihood. The stakes are high, not just for me and others in my profession, but for our culture.

It is my hope that the justices will take into account the credibility of the opposing parties, their track records as citizens, corporate citizens and culture-makers, for good and ill. It is my hope, however you must adhere to the letter of the law, that you will take into account the spirit of the law and consider the public good.

You will hear from authors, and you will hear from "authors." There will be a small number from each group who adopt the opposite point-of-view, but by and large the authors will stand up for their rights, and those who choose to self-publish will continue to undervalue the important work of editors, book designers, publishers and marketers. It's a shortcut that will ultimately fail them, but why should the rest of us pay? It is the tiny minority of good writers who feel forced to self-publish because the online monopoly has been allowed to undercut print publishers' real world pricing with a despicable loss-leading strategy that *should* be illegal that best illustrate the real travesty of not only dismantling the agency model for e-books, but not legislating one for print books as well.

I wish I could be more articulate. I can only hope that we, as a country, will stop abetting monopolies, value books for something more important than their profit potential, and see our way back to valuing those whose intellectual work can benefit us all.

I fail to see how coming to a common-sense agreement, independent of profit motives (as one defendant so eloquently states) can constitute collusion. I hope that the proposed settlement will be overturned and the case dismissed.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Indeliclae

Ebenezer Books