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Sent: Sunday, June 24, 2012 9:43 PM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: U.S. v. Apple, Inc. 12-CV-2826 (DLC) (SDNY)

With the Internet mentality that everything should be free if its digital and Amazon's quest for domination by charging as little as possible to lure in as many buyers as possible, this case should really be U.S. v. Amazon and have no mention of Apple.

What Apple and the five large publishers were doing was valuing the creative talents and labors that authors like me invest in our books. They were trying to do the fair and right thing by offering agency pricing for an ebook, which still costs much less than a printed book. Amazon's quest to be Goliath and dominate the bookselling industry by lowballing ebook prices is unfair to authors and undermines community bookstores which are the Davids that benefit neighborhoods and serve as important literacy hubs.

The ludicrously low pricing of ebooks proposed by Amazon is almost akin to Napster, which ignored the creators of the music that they pirated and offered songs for free which threatened to ruin the music industry. In that case, Apple valued musicians' work and did the right thing by creating iTunes. People willingly pay to listen to and appreciate particular songs, putting value on the musicians' work and enabling the artists to earn some kind of a livelihood to keep creating.

Now with ebooks, again, Apple did the right thing in working with publishers to put a legitimate price on ebooks that reflected a creative work's value. Just because an ebook doesn't require paper, binding and a cover doesn't make it worth as little as Amazon wants to charge. It's the years of thinking, writing, originating, and revising that should be considered when setting a book's price, not its final form.

Please do the right thing. Do not punish Apple and the publishers for coming to bat for authors. They deserve to be commended for respecting and valuing our books enough to compensate us fairly for our creativity and hard work.