

From: John David Mann [mailto:jdma[REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, June 23, 2012 1:35 PM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: In Defense of My Publishers

Dear Mr. Read,

I'm taking a moment to let you know my thoughts and convictions concerning the DOJ antitrust action against Apple, Penguin, et al., which Justice Cote will be reviewing this summer.

I am a published author and have published more than a dozen books in the past ten years, including books with Portfolio (Penguin), HarperCollins, Atria (Simon & Schuster), and St. Martins (Macmillan). I am not a hugely successful author, but managing to do alright, and in fact I earn my living and support my family through my publishing income with these books, and plan to do so for the rest of my life.

I am very concerned about this suit and its implications for the future of free-market, competitive publishing -- and for the future of my income and that of others like me. A thriving, competitive book market is not only vital for our culture and the health of the nation, it's also vital for MY future.

Apple and the publishers are not the bad guy here. Amazon has used strong-arm and unfair tactics to muscle others out of the e-book market.

Concerning price-fixing and monopolistic behavior: This is exactly what *Amazon* did (not Apple or the publishers) when they force-sold ALL our books for \$9.99, regardless of content, length, etc. They commodotized us authors. I and my colleagues cheered from the sidelines when Apple and the publishers were able to break the stranglehold and get those e-book prices to start floating free again!

There was a time when I feared Barnes & Noble would put smaller independent bookstores out of business. Now it looks like Barnes & Noble has become the only thing standing between a healthy brick-and-mortar environment -- which is *critical* for the launching and growth of new authors -- and oblivion.

I strongly urge you and your colleagues NOT to allow Amazon to resume its predatory pricing policies that so badly -- and unfairly -- undermine their competition.

Sincerely,

John David Mann

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