

From: Michael Litchfield [mailto:mikelit[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 9:06 PM  
To: Read, John [John,Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]  
Subject: Don't help Amazon monopolize the book industry

Dear Chief Litigator Read:

Applying anti-trust laws to Apple, Mamillan, et.al. is extremely ill-considered. The clear monopolist is Amazon, which is bullying publishers into selling books at very low prices, driving small and independent book publishers and bookstores out of business, and selling books at below cost. As an author, I see nothing good in this suit against Apple, et. al. Plus, Amazon frequently does not pay state taxes, giving it an further unfair advantage

The case has been made that Amazon's predatory low prices help consumers: Only so long as Amazon has competition. Once it gains its monopoly and forces all publishers to do its bidding, count on it: Amazon will raise prices, as it did after gobbling up diapers.com. Indeed, Amazon shareholders are pressuring Jeff Bezos to do so.

Please drop this suit against Apple, Macmillan, et. al. If you are so keen to sue, go after Amazon. Before Apple and friends fought back against Amazon, Amazon had 90% of the e-book market. If that isn't a monopoly, I don't know what is.

Sincerely,  
Michael W. Litchfield,  
Author of 12 books,  
Point Reyes, CA.