

From: Ryan, Regina [mailto:reginary[REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 7:10 PM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: The publishing settlement - Civil Action No. 1:12-CV-2826

Friday, June 22, 2012

John R. Read
Chief, Litigation III Section
United States Department of Justice
450 5th St. NW
Suite 4000
Washington DC 20530

Dear Mr. Read:

As a literary agent for 35 years, I want to add my voice to those who are protesting the Department of Justice's proposed settlement with Hachette, HarperCollins and Simon & Schuster. It seems crystal clear that the settlement will allow discounting by these three publishers that other publishers will not be able to match legally. It is creating an uneven playing field and will almost certainly adversely effect the authors I represent as well as thousands of others.

In addition, I take issue with the claim that the Apple licensing arrangement is harmful to the consumer. I find that none of my author's e-books changed in price after the Apple option entered the marketplace. (Note: These are not best selling titles.) It seems that the DOJ's claims are based on very selective and faulty information, based mainly on discounting of best sellers that are used by some merchants as loss leaders. Indeed, there have been several important surveys that show that e-book prices have stayed the same or even falling and that confirm my experience. The average price of e-books hasn't changed and, if anything, has gone down.

This is a matter of extreme importance for our intellectual life in this country. I trust and hope that you will expand your horizons and look at what happened to books beyond the bestseller list which are the vast majority of published works.

Sincerely,

Regina Ryan, President

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