

From: Betsy Wittemann [mailto:betsywittema[REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 8:53 AM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: The Amazon situation

Dear Atty. Read:

Like many other readers and writers, I am appalled at the way Amazon has been allowed -- even encouraged -- to dominate the entire U. S. book market, as well as undercut local brick-and-mortar bookstores. Reading is fundamental to a literate society. Amazon is a "catalog" sales model and can not provide the splendid experience of a real bookstore: knowledgeable salespeople who give you background on books and authors; the opportunity to browse and find new titles, perhaps by little-known writers; special events such as author appearances and children's and adult book clubs/story times. Being in a bookstore is somewhat like being in a library, with a gorgeous array of treats to select from. There is a synergy between the two.

But Amazon is predatory and monolithic. Everything about it works against the independent bookstores. It is crucial in a democracy to have options. By siding with Amazon, you're practically making it the "state-run" outlet for reading matter. And what then if Amazon decides to "ban" certain books or authors. China, here we come!

Please consider favorably the suit of Hachette, Harper-Collins and Simon&Schuster, longtime, reputable book publishers who are rightly alarmed by the Amazon model.

The case is the United States v. Apple, Inc. et al, 12-cv-2826(DLC) (SDNY).

Thank you for your consideration. It is important for you to acknowledge the wide ramifications of the case.

Cordially,

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