

From: Katherine Keenum [mailto:kkeer[REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2012 10:56 AM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: US v Apple

Dear Mr. Read,

As an author whose first book will be published in February 2013 (*Where the Light Falls* from Berkley Press), I want to register a comment on the proposed final judgment in the case of US v Apple, Inc., et al., 12-cv-2826. I oppose the Justice Department's proposal.

Allowing a near monopoly like Amazon.com to engage in the predatory practice of selling lead items at a loss undermines independent bookstores and is completely contrary to antitrust protection. New authors like me need the availability of knowledgeable sales staff and displays of physical books to gain readers. It is well established that walk-in customers who can actually pick up and handle a book by a little known author are much more likely to buy it than are customers who go online. For my government to help drive independent bricks-and-mortar bookstores out of business strikes me as a betrayal.

The public at large is served by a vital market of ideas. Bookstores are very much the diversity and opportunity needed to keep the arts, political discourse, science, and all manner of intellectual activity healthy in America.

Please reconsider the proposed settlement.

Thank you,
Katherine Keenum

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