

From: John Coats [mailto:johnrcoal[REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 12:14 PM
To: Read, John
Cc: sta[REDACTED]
Subject: re: U.S. vs. Apple, Inc., et al., 12-cv-2826 (DLC) (SDNY)

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re: U.S. vs. Apple, Inc., et al., 12-cv-2826 (DLC) (SDNY)

Dear Mr. Read,

Born in 1946, I am more than a little acquainted with the phrase, *Times change*: From the Bakelite-encased telephones of my childhood to the iPhone; from the typewriter I purchased in '64 (Ancient even then, it carried me through college and graduate school), to the laptop on which I type this appeal; from Sputnik and the Mercury Seven and America's landing men on the moon, to the coming dominance of the private sector in space exploration. From "Made in America" to "Made in China." From the day of the local bookstore, to the mega-bookstore, to the online superstore; from the time when booksellers were part-and-parcel of the web of citizens whose lifework was the stewardship of our literary heritage, past, present, and future, to the bookseller whose sole motivation is market dominance, and profit. History, both of nations and of markets, shouts the lesson that, for these latter, the predators, there has never been enough. They have always wanted more. And more.

Yes, times change. Whether it has arrived at the terms of its proposed settlement through misunderstanding of the issues, misunderstanding of its historical purpose, or another reason, we find ourselves faced with

a situation in which The United States Department of Justice, the lifeguard/overseer, if you will, mandated to look after the welfare of the whole—both the swimmers *and* the sharks—has proposed a settlement that would remove the net that keeps the sharks at bay. What does Justice imagine will happen next? Again, history is straightforward: Remove the net, and the sharks will make a feast of the swimmers. Then they'll demand more.

The Justice Department's proposal, in effect, would place the future of book distribution, pricing, printing—perhaps, in time, even the leverage to decide what will and will not be published—into the hands of a single entity. No individual or entity is to be trusted with such power. Therefore, on behalf of the past and present stewards of our literature, and on behalf of those past, present, and future writers whose work has been and will be its bone and sinew, I ask that the settlement presently proposed by Justice be denied.

Sincerely,

John R. Coats