

**From:** Peter Gethers [mailto:gush[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 25, 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** Read, John  
**Subject:** Amazon/law suit against publishers

As an author and member of the board of the Authors' Guild as well as a longtime book editor and publisher, I'm shocked at the DOJ suit against key publishers. This is actually a perversion of justice, prosecuting (as well as persecuting) the people who are actually trying to keep the book business alive and prevent a monopoly from taking over and destroying a business that is already in a precarious financial position. Strengthening Amazon will actually be the end of any choice and advantage that readers and book buyers will have. The range of books being published will narrow. And although prices will, in the short term, go down, in the long term Amazon will have so much leverage and will become so dominant that they will be able to charge the public anything they wish to charge -- because there will be no competition. As they also move more and more into actual book publishing rather than book selling, they will also be able to pay authors less and less.

The decision by the DOJ to go after publishers is as wrong-headed as it can possibly be. It is a disastrous decision for publishers, writers and the reading public.