

From: Lana McGraw Boldt [mailto:lm[REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 9:07 PM
To: Read, John
Subject: re: U.S. vs. Apple, Inc. et. al., 12-cv-2826 (DLC) (SDNY)

Dear Mr. Read,

It is not just because I'm an author that I plead for you to reject the settlement referred to above. It is also because I'm a teacher, a mother and a grandmother. It's because I believe in freedom of information, freedom to read what I want and the need to keep it available locally. I love our local bookstores, the individual and knowledgeable help they give, the sense of community they create within their walls, the conversations they generate just by being there in our communities. I love that they know me and can recommend a new book I would embrace. I love that they know what is just the right book for my grandchildren. Beyond all that, I believe that large corporations should never be allowed to muscle out small entrepreneurs simply because they can afford to use their vast financial resources to undersell and destroy them financially.

Moreover, I resent the fact that Amazon has run roughshod over authors with impunity, from selling "used books" on the same day as the book is released to methodically reducing what authors are paid - because they are so big they can and will do it. It's an example of absolute power corrupting absolutely. By ignoring, enabling in fact, the new and seemingly invincible bully in today's publishing, you will be abetting in the downfall and destruction of authors, publishers, books and our very culture.

If you have ever held a book in your hands, enchanted and informed by its contents to the point you forego sleep just to enter its world, then please consider the authors who actually create those books, those who actually print and promote them and those magical centers of our communities who allow us to wander onto their premises, look, talk and buy those books. Don't let the books we all love be controlled and destroyed in a financial grab by behemoth, faceless corporations.

In the same way that it is not responsible or wise to allow our natural resources to be controlled by one mega corporation, it also is not in the interest of our nation, our culture or our children to let Amazon destroy our bricks and mortar bookstores and to appropriate the creation, selection and dissemination of our intellectual and creative treasure.

A healthy, vital and competitive book market is essential to our culture and to the very fabric of our nation. Please, do not let this ill-advised settlement go through.

Respectfully,

Lana McGraw Boldt