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LITIGATION III, ANTITRUST DIV.
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

Dear Mr. Read,

I have been part of the publishing industry for 25 years- as an editor, a publisher, a literary agent, and the former wife of the former CEO of Simon & Schuster- so I know it well. I am astounded by this case. Collusion is irrelevant. The CEO's were stupid to meet, but the agency model was not the only reason they did. And the entire industry had been discussing the financial models for months. Why? Because the existence of Barnes & Noble and the independent bookstores depends on the agency model existing. Look what has already happened to Borders.

And after the next 2 years, if the agency model is not in place, then not only will all of the retailers be out of business, but authors will suffer terribly- because publishers will not be able to afford paying them when Amazon sells their books on line for \$9.99 or less. The real issue here is about Amazon being a monopoly and putting so many others out of business- not whether 5 publishers colluded on this pricing issue, which absolutely everyone in the industry *except* Amazon agrees with.

Please re-evaluate the DOJ decision. It is penalizing the wrong parties at great damage to retailers now, and authors later. Amazon sells lots of thins, not just books. And yet they are an unregulated monopoly. They are bankrupting this industry.

Thank you,


Laura Yorke