

From: John Stephens [mailto:J[REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, June 23, 2012 8:50 AM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: Increasing Amazon's Monopoly

Mr. Read,

The DOJ has really lost its marbles on this one. It didn't do anything when Barnes & Nobles' monopolistic practices decimated the independent book stores. Then it sat there while Amazon set up its monopoly that thrashing the entire book industry. Because the DOJ failed to act, publishers were forced to attempt to correct things on their own. Statistics on ebook sales clearly show that the agency model *increased* competition. The publishers didn't want to take this step--they were forced to. Like something out of *Alice in Wonderland*, the DOJ sided with the Amazon anaconda and is helping it become even more of a monopoly. That's totally insane.

I've been holding my breath for the DOJ to charge Amazon since it has now become a publisher. Such vertical integration has always been found to be a clear violation of anti-trust law. Amazon now does everything. It publishes its own books; it distributes them; and it sells them. It handles everything between author and buyer. They intend to put all publishers and distributors and bookstores out of business. I'm turning blue here from holding my breath. The DOJ had better do something soon about Amazon or it's the end of the world as we know it.

Cheers,
John Stephens
Author/Editor/former publisher