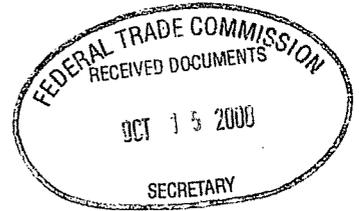


ORIGINAL



October 13, 2008

Donald S. Clark
Office of the Secretary
Federal Trade Commission
Room H-135
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

Re: Proposed Consent Order
In the Matter of Reed Elsevier and ChoicePoint,
FTC File No. 081-0133

Dear Mr. Clark:

The membership of the New Jersey Licensed Private Investigators Association (NJLPIA) does not approve of the acquisition of Reed Elsevier and ChoicePoint until respondents can divest themselves of public records services provided to private industry as well as to law enforcement.

Our association represents the interests of more than 2,000 licensed private investigators in New Jersey. Our membership is comprised of licensed investigators who provide critical services to our clients, including government agencies, attorneys, state and US courts and consumers. We rely extensively on services provided by both Reed Elsevier and ChoicePoint and their subsidiaries to assist us in serving our clients.

We have seen a consolidation among data providers of public records services over the last several years. This proposed acquisition will further reduce competition in the industry. Although there are several providers of data services in the marketplace, the respondents are the main source of data to other resellers.

As the Legislative Director for the NJLPIA, I agree with the Commission's complaint that found where this acquisition would be anticompetitive and a violation of antitrust law in the market for the sale of public records information to law enforcement agencies. The same effects would be felt in the market for sale of public records to the private sector.

It is imperative that private investigators have continued access to data from several suppliers during the conduct of an investigation. Limited resources reduce both the quality and quantity of information available. And our members, many of whom are small businesses, do not have the financial weight to bargain effectively with large entities in a non-competitive environment.

The membership of the NJLPIA and I strongly urge that the Commission not approve the acquisition until respondents can divest themselves of public records services provided to private industry as well as to law enforcement.

Unless an appropriate remedy is offered, our members and their clients will suffer irreparable harm. When competition is reduced, incentives for innovation are reduced, prices rise and service suffers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jimmie Mesis
Legislative Director