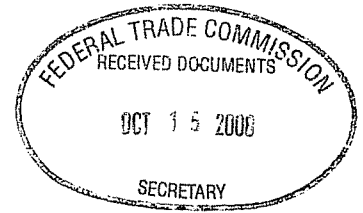




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NFRUSTEENCOMPANY

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

October 10, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Clark:

I'm writing on behalf of California Licensed Private Investigators (CALI) regarding the proposed consent order and acquisition of ChoicePoint by Reed Elsevier. Our association is comprised of investigators who provide critical services to government agencies, attorneys, state and US courts and others. We rely extensively on services provided by both Reed Elsevier and ChoicePoint and their subsidiaries to assist us in serving these clients.

Over the past several years there has been tremendous consolidation among providers of public records services. This proposed acquisition will further reduce competition in the industry. Although there are several providers of data services in the marketplace, they are resellers of data resellers of data provided by the respondents.

The Commission's complaint found 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 important to have access to data from several suppliers during the conduct of an investigation. Limited resources reduce both the quality and quantity of information available. Our CALI members, many of whom are small businesses, do not have the financial weight to bargain effectively with large entities in a non-competitive environment.

We urge the Commission to 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. What Accurant, a Lexis-Nexis company, is not telling us is they are now in the background check business and are cutting off anyone who competes with them and they see PIs as their competition. When competition is reduced, incentives for innovation are reduced, prices rise and service suffers.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Norene Fambrini-Rusteen
CA PI License #25238

CA PI LICENSE #25238

W.650.299.9733 F.650.369.5782

www.nfrinvestigations.com

1017 el camino real, #328, redwood city, ca 94063