

ORIGINAL

WALL INVESTIGATIONS, LLC

W. R. Wall Owner/Mgr., Cal. PI 15617 (1992)

E-Mail: wrwallpi@acsol.net

Tel./Fax (970) 434-5469

<http://www.wallinvestigations.com>

P.O. Box 1022, Clifton, Colorado 81520-1022

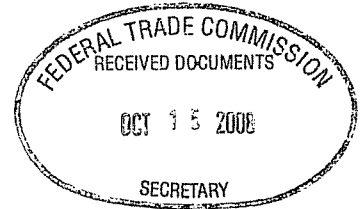
Senior Member, Professional Private Investigators Association of Colorado (1996 - Pres)

Associate Member, Colorado Criminal Defense Bar (1999 - Pres)

Member, National Council of Investigative & Security Services (2008 - Pres)

October 11, 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:

I'm writing on behalf of myself and other professional investigators in Colorado, regarding the proposed consent order and acquisition of ChoicePoint by Reed Elsevier. Many of the services provided investigators such ourselves rely extensively on services provided by both Reed Elsevier and ChoicePoint and their subsidiaries/resellers 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 provided by the respondents.

The Commission's complaint found that this acquisition would be anti-competitive 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. Small businesses such as mine, do not have the financial weight to bargain effectively with large entities in a non-competitive environment.

I 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, businesses such as mine and therefore my clients, will suffer irreparable harm. When competition is reduced, incentives for innovation are reduced, prices rise and service suffers.

Sincerely,

Wm. Robert Wall
Licensed Private Investigator