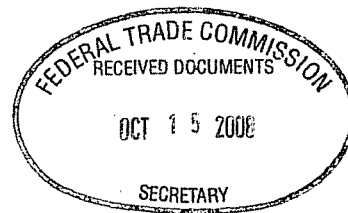ORIGINAL

**VASYLIONIS
INVESTIGATIONS**

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:

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed consent order and acquisition of ChoicePoint by Reed Elsevier. I am a private investigator providing investigative services to attorneys, banks and small businesses and I rely extensively on the services provided by Reed Elsevier, ChoicePoint, and their subsidiaries.

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 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. The accuracy and type of information from suppliers can differ greatly, and therefore impact the results of the investigation; the information available to me will affect whether a witness in a court case can be located, or a fraudster's past can be revealed.

Limited resources reduce both the quality and quantity of information available. Small businesses like me 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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Suzi Vasylionis, CFE
President