

AMENDED Exhibit 1023

PLAINTIFFS' OMNIBUS OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS' MOTIONS FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

Case No.: 4:22-md-03047-YGR

MDL No. 3047

In Re: Social Media Adolescent Addiction/Personal Injury Products Liability Litigation

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 8

1 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now on the video
2 record. My name is David Kim. I'm a videographer
3 for Golkow Litigation Services. Today's date is
4 December 11, 2024, and the time is 9:12 a.m.

5 This video deposition is being held in
6 San Francisco, California, in the matter of in Re:
7 Social Media Adolescent/Addiction Personal Injury
8 Products Liability Litigation, MDL 3047, for the
9 United States District Court of the Northern
10 District of California.

11 The deponent is Sharon Stovezky.

12 Counsel in the room, please identify
13 yourselves for the record.

14 MR. DRAPER: My name is Glenn Draper. I'm
15 an attorney on behalf of the -- sorry, I'm appearing
16 on behalf of the plaintiffs.

17 MS. TRUONG: An Truong, Simmons Hanly
18 Conroy on behalf of plaintiffs.

19 MS. LEWIS: Faith Lewis, Lieff Cabraser
20 Heimann & Bernstein for plaintiffs.

21 MR. CHIOU: Christopher Chiou from Wilson
22 Sonsini representing YouTube and Google.

23 MS. DAVIDSON: Callie Davidson from Wilson
24 Sonsini for YouTube and Google.

25 MR. KEYES: Andrew Keyes from Williams &

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 9

1 Connolly on behalf of YouTube and Google.

2 MR. BERKLEY: Demarron Berkley, in-house
3 counsel for YouTube and Google.

4 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: And on Zoom?

5 MR. FLASTER: Eben Flaster from Shook,
6 Hardy & Bacon, along with my colleague Hannah
7 Sanchez on behalf of the Meta defendants. I am from
8 Philadelphia and she is in Kansas City. Thank you.

9 MS. FRANKLIN: Lyndsey Franklin, Munger
10 Tolles & Olson on behalf of Snap, in Washington D.C.

11 MS. KUMAR: Good morning, Poonam Kumar,
12 Gibson Dunn, on behalf of the TikTok defendants. I
13 am in Los Angeles.

14 MS. URBAN: Marissa Urban, YouTube
15 in-house counsel.

16 MR. ARRIAGA: Tomas Arriaga, Wilson
17 Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati for YouTube and Google in
18 Los Angeles, California.

19 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Our court reporter
20 today is Elaina Bulda-Jones, and she will now swear
21 in the witness.

22 SHARON STOVEZKY,
23 called as a witness by the Plaintiffs herein, being
24 first duly sworn by the Certified Shorthand Reporter
25 was thereupon examined and testified as is

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 10

1 hereinafter set forth.

2 EXAMINATION

3 BY MR. DRAPER:

4 Q. Good morning, Ms. Stovezky. My name is
5 Glenn Draper. I am one of the attorneys for the
6 kids and families and school districts and other
7 local government agencies who have brought claims
8 against the social media companies including
9 YouTube.

10 I had a chance to introduce myself before
11 the deposition started. We are here today in
12 San Francisco to take your deposition. You are
13 appearing pursuant to an amended notice of
14 deposition.

15 MR. DRAPER: I'll go ahead and mark that
16 as Google-YouTube-Stovezky Exhibit 1. I'll hand you
17 a copy of that now.

18 (Whereupon, Google-YouTube-Stovezky
19 Exhibit 1 was marked for identification.)

20 MR. DRAPER: If anybody else wants a copy.

21 BY MR. DRAPER:

22 Q. We're going to look at this a little bit
23 more in a minute, but I thought I would go ahead and
24 get it marked.

25 This deposition is being taken in what is

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 11

1 called an MDL. That stands for Multidistrict
2 Litigation in federal court. And it will also be
3 used in what is called a JCCP, which stands for
4 Judicial Commission Coordinated Proceedings in
5 California state court. It's just the way that
6 these cases are grouped together.

7 And you might hear me use both of those
8 terms today, MDL and JCCP, okay?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Have you ever had your deposition taken
11 before?

12 A. No.

13 Q. All right. Ever testified in court
14 before?

15 A. No.

16 Q. All right. Let me cover some basic ground
17 rules for this deposition, okay?

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. You have been sworn in by the court
20 reporter which means you are under oath, right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. All right. That means you are testifying
23 just as though you were sitting in a courtroom
24 before a jury and a judge. In fact, you may hear me
25 or one of the other attorneys refer to the jury even

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 12

1 though they are not physically present today, okay?

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. And that's because this deposition is
4 being recorded. Obviously you can see the camera.
5 That video and the written transcript that the court
6 reporter is making may be presented later in court
7 or used for any other purposes authorized under the
8 state and federal rules.

9 Do you have any questions about that?

10 A. No.

11 Q. All right. It's important that you answer
12 my questions verbally today -- and you are doing a
13 great job so far -- because the court reporter is
14 taking down everything that we say. So if you nod
15 or answer with something like "uh-huh" or "huh-uh,"
16 it doesn't come through on the transcript very
17 cleanly.

18 So please make sure you answer my
19 questions verbally, okay?

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. And it's really important that we not talk
22 over each other because it's hard for the court
23 reporter to take down two people talking at once. I
24 will do my best to let you complete your answer
25 before I ask the next question. And if you could do

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 13

1 your best to let me complete the question before you
2 begin your response, that will help make sure we
3 have a clean transcript.

4 Understand?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Great. I'll tell you right now, I'm
7 terrible at that part. So there will be times when
8 your attorney will tell me to not step on your
9 answer today. So it happens to all of us. Don't
10 worry about it, okay?

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. If you don't understand my question today,
13 just ask me to repeat it or rephrase it, and I'm
14 happy to do that, okay?

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. You are represented by an attorney today,
17 correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Chris Chiou?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. All right. Your attorney might have some
22 objections to some of my questions today. Let him
23 complete the objection before you give the response.
24 I think most of the time, your attorney will tell
25 you to go ahead and answer the question despite the

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 14

1 objection.

2 And that's so we can take the transcript
3 to the judge later, we can get a ruling on the
4 objection. But if the objection is overruled, we
5 don't have to come back and ask the question again.
6 We already have the response.

7 So there may be a few times when your
8 lawyer tells you not to answer the question. And
9 that's another reason to make sure you let Mr. Chiou
10 finish the objection before you answer, okay?

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. And I expect there will be a few times
13 today when we are all talking at once and we will
14 have to stop and do it all over again sequentially,
15 right, question, objection, answer. That happens
16 most every deposition.

17 It doesn't mean you are doing anything
18 wrong, I'm doing anything, or Mr. Chiou is doing
19 anything wrong. It's just the way it is, okay?

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. All right. You can take a break at any
22 time today. I generally like to take breaks about
23 every 90 minutes, but if you want one sooner, just
24 ask, okay?

25 A. Okay.

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 15

1 Q. All right. The only rule about breaks is
2 you have to answer the pending question. Do you
3 understand?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. All right. Anything that would affect
6 your memory or your ability to tell the truth today?

7 A. No.

8 Q. You haven't taken any medications that may
9 make it difficult for you to concentrate or
10 remember?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay. All right. Do you have any
13 questions about kind of the ground rules for the
14 deposition?

15 A. No.

16 Q. All right. Mr. Chiou, you mentioned, is
17 representing you today. He also represents Google
18 and YouTube. You understand that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. All right. Have you ever met with
21 Mr. Chiou or other attorneys representing Google and
22 YouTube to prepare for this deposition?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. All right. I don't want to ask about the
25 content of any of your meetings with the attorneys,

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 16

1 but I want to ask a little bit about the
2 circumstances of those meetings, all right?

3 When was the first time that you met with
4 attorneys for Google and YouTube to begin preparing
5 for this deposition?

6 A. A few weeks ago. I don't recall the exact
7 date.

8 Q. Okay. How many times have you ever met
9 with them?

10 A. A handful.

11 Q. Less than five?

12 A. Maybe about five.

13 Q. Okay. And how long total would you say
14 you have spent with the attorneys for Google and
15 YouTube preparing for this deposition?

16 A. Maybe about 15 to 20 hours.

17 Q. All right. If we can go ahead and look at
18 the document that we have marked as Exhibit 1. This
19 is the amended notice of deposition for your
20 deposition today.

21 Have you seen this document before?

22 A. I have.

23 Q. Okay. When is the first time you saw it?

24 A. Last week.

25 Q. Okay. And if you look at page 2 and 3,

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 17

1 you will see there is a list of documents that you
2 are requested to bring to this deposition.

3 Do you see that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. All right. The first item on the list is:
6 All documents and communications used to refresh the
7 witness's recollection.

8 Did you review any documents to refresh
9 your recollection for today's deposition?

10 A. Not outside of my preparation meetings.

11 Q. Okay. But at your preparation meetings
12 you did?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. About how many documents did you look at?

15 A. Maybe between 10 and 20 pieces of
16 materials.

17 Q. Okay. And did you bring any of those with
18 you today?

19 A. I did not.

20 Q. Okay. I think we have a stipulation in
21 place where as long as those documents have been
22 produced in discovery, you're not required to
23 disclose them specifically.

24 MR. DRAPER: So have all of the documents
25 that she relied on to refresh her recollection been

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 18

1 previously produced in this case?

2 MR. CHIOU: That's correct, Mr. Draper.

3 MR. DRAPER: All right.

4 Q. We asked you for a copy of your CV, and we
5 were provided a copy of your LinkedIn profile. Why
6 don't we go ahead and just mark that as Exhibit 2
7 for the time being. I'll have some questions on
8 this in just a minute, but we will go ahead and get
9 it marked?

10 (Whereupon, Google-YouTube-Stovezky
11 Exhibit 2 was marked for identification.)

12 MR. DRAPER: I say Exhibit 2. It's
13 actually Google-YouTube-Stovezky Exhibit 2. We have
14 a great protocol. Anybody else want one?

15 MR. CHIOU: Sure.

16 BY MR. DRAPER:

17 Q. All right. Continuing on with the
18 document requests in the exhibit notice, Number 3 is
19 the employee or former employee custodial file. And
20 I'll represent to you that we have produced or
21 Google and YouTube has produced a large number of
22 documents and designated them as your custodial
23 file. You will hear me refer to those documents
24 today during the deposition, okay?

25 But you don't have to bring those, thank

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 19

1 God, because there are like 37,000 of them. So --
2 but we're going to talk about those.

3 Did you take any notes in -- to prepare
4 for this deposition? That's Item Number 5?

5 A. I did not.

6 Q. Okay. And I don't think for -- any of the
7 rest of them are applicable. All right. So we can
8 put this away for the time being.

9 And let's go ahead and I'm going to ask
10 you a couple of questions about your background, and
11 some information that is on your LinkedIn profile
12 that we have marked as Google-YouTube-Stovezky
13 Exhibit 2.

14 So you have a bachelor's degree in
15 economics and computer science from Harvard
16 University that you obtained in 2015; is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. And it looks like you might have
19 done an internship with Facebook in the summer of
20 2013?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. All right. And then in the summer of
23 2014, you, again, did what looks like an internship
24 with Bain Capital which is a private equity firm?

25 A. No. Bain & Company is a consulting firm.

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 20

1 Q. Oh, okay. Is that the outfit that Mitt
2 Romney used to run or is it not?

3 A. Separate.

4 Q. Separate, all right.

5 And then you went back to work for Bain
6 Consulting after graduating from Harvard?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. All right. What kind of work did you do
9 in that year after you graduated when you were
10 working for Bain Consulting?

11 A. I was working in the private equity group
12 conducting due diligence for clients wishing to buy
13 private companies.

14 Q. Okay. So there would be merger and
15 acquisition, and then you would look at the
16 company's documents to make sure everything that
17 they were representing was true and just to get a
18 better idea about the company that was being
19 acquired?

20 A. No. I was doing the business diligence
21 and whether they should buy it at all.

22 Q. Okay. All right. And then in June of
23 2016, you went to work for Google as an associate
24 product manager for Google Calendar?

25 A. Yes.

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 21

1 Q. Did you work with Jyoti Ramnath at all on
2 Google Calendar?

3 A. I have.

4 Q. On Google Calendar? I know you have
5 probably worked with her at YouTube.

6 A. She left a few months after I joined
7 Google Calendar.

8 Q. Oh, okay. And then in 2017 you started
9 working on Google Assistant and did that
10 approximately for a year?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. All right. And it looks like you have a
13 patent related to your work for Google Assistant; is
14 that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What -- tell me about that patent.

17 A. It's a patent that relates to the ability
18 of a machine learning model to break up a
19 conversation that has multiple intents in the
20 sentence and rewrite them as two separate queries.
21 So that the Google Assistant could respond to
22 queries such as turn on the lights in the kitchen
23 and in the bedroom.

24 Q. I see.

25 A. Instead of failing.

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 22

1 Q. Okay. And then in 2018, you went to work
2 for YouTube?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. All right. Your first job was on the news
5 feature for YouTube?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did that for about a year?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And then your next job at YouTube was as
10 product manager for borderline content, correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. All right. And this was an effort by
13 YouTube to reduce recommendations of videos that
14 could misinform users in harmful ways, yes?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And also to reduce recommendations of
17 content that comes close, but does not quite violate
18 YouTube community standards?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. All right. And it says your work in this
21 area led to YouTube cutting recommendations of
22 videos like these by two-thirds?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. When did you achieve that goal?

25 A. I personally didn't achieve that goal. It

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 23

1 was a team goal.

2 Q. Okay. When did the team achieve that
3 goal?

4 A. Around 2019 -- 2018 to 2019.

5 Q. How long had they been working on that; do
6 you know?

7 A. Before -- prior to the achievement?

8 Q. Yeah.

9 A. About a year and a half or so.

10 Q. And then in August of 2019, you became
11 senior product manager for health and mental health
12 at YouTube. Is that the right title?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. And in that job, you were trying to
15 raise the information quality around health and
16 mental health content, both by reducing the harmful
17 content and raising high-quality evidence-based
18 content, right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. All right. And you did that job until
21 fairly recently, January of 2024?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. All right. And your current position
24 which you have had since January 2024 is senior
25 product manager for search and discovery?

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 24

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. All right. Can you tell me a little bit
3 about that position, please, kind of what is your
4 job there?

5 A. Yes. I work on developing machine
6 learning models, identify content that may be
7 off-putting or -- to some users or harmful to other
8 brands such as overly sexualized content or
9 clickbaited content.

10 Q. Okay. Since you are working for search
11 and discovery, search and discovery are the surfaces
12 for YouTube where algorithmic recommendations are
13 made?

14 A. Mostly discovery.

15 Q. Okay. And so search is where the user
16 inputs something into a search box, right? And then
17 based on that input and other information that is
18 available to the algorithm, the algorithm recommends
19 what it thinks the user is searching for, what it
20 thinks the user wants to view?

21 MR. CHIOU: Objection to form.

22 You can go ahead and answer, Ms. Stovezky.

23 THE WITNESS: Based on the query there
24 would be a rank list of results based on the
25 relevance to that specific username.

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 25

1 BY MR. DRAPER:

2 Q. But if you and I type the same query into
3 a search box on YouTube, we will get different
4 results, won't we?

5 MR. CHIOU: Objection to form.

6 You can answer, Ms. Stovezky.

7 THE WITNESS: It depends on the query.

8 BY MR. DRAPER:

9 Q. Right. So if, for example, we both type
10 in Egypt into a search box, and I am really
11 interested in travel and I might get some results
12 that talk about different sites to see in Egypt.

13 But if you are really interested in
14 politics and have a history of looking at videos
15 related to Middle East politics, you are probably
16 going to get something that is more focused on that
17 area, right?

18 MR. CHIOU: Objection to form.

19 You can answer, Ms. Stovezky.

20 THE WITNESS: I don't work on search
21 ranking, so it really depends on the query. I don't
22 know how to answer that affirmatively.

23 BY MR. DRAPER:

24 Q. Okay. Can you tell me how the ranked list
25 is generated?

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 36

1 BY MR. DRAPER:

2 Q. Uh-huh.

3 A. And so I think it would really depend on
4 whether you have a meaningful way to warn, whether
5 you know enough to warn. So I would need to do more
6 research on that specific application to see what
7 the available options are.

8 Q. Okay. All right. You have a strong
9 interest in mental health that predates your work in
10 this area for YouTube, correct?

11 MR. CHIOU: Objection to form.

12 You can answer, Ms. Stovezky.

13 THE WITNESS: Aligns with the same
14 timeline about my interest and my work.

15 BY MR. DRAPER:

16 Q. Okay. One might even say it's been a
17 passion for you?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. You were hand-selected by YouTube
20 to be the senior product manager for health and
21 mental health in September of 2018, a role that did
22 not exist before you filled it?

23 MR. CHIOU: Objection to form.

24 You can answer, Ms. Stovezky.

25 THE WITNESS: I wouldn't say that is

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 37

1 accurate.

2 BY MR. DRAPER:

3 Q. Okay. In your role as senior product
4 manager for health and mental health, you relied on
5 expert clinical review and opinions to categorize
6 harmful content on YouTube?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. You developed machine learning
9 models to make predictions at scale about what
10 content would be harmful to users?

11 A. Not me personally, but I was on a team
12 that did that.

13 Q. Okay. And across all of your projects
14 involving mental health, you had to leverage
15 clinical expertise from reputable sources?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You conducted in-depth literature reviews,
18 deep dives with YouTube search and discovery teams,
19 and intensive user experience research?

20 MR. CHIOU: Objection to form.

21 Ms. Stovezky, you can answer.

22 THE WITNESS: I collaborated with the user
23 research team that did those things.

24 BY MR. DRAPER:

25 Q. Okay. And you did in-depth literature

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 38

1 reviews?

2 A. Not my -- not personally, but I
3 commissioned them and worked with researchers.

4 MR. DRAPER: Okay. Let's go ahead and
5 mark as exhibit -- Google-YouTube-Stovezky
6 Exhibit 3.

7 (Whereupon, Google-YouTube-Stovezky
8 Exhibit 3 was marked for identification.)

9 BY MR. DRAPER:

10 Q. A document with the Bates number 01526486.

11 A. Okay.

12 MR. DRAPER: You want a copy? You can
13 have a copy.

14 MR. CHIOU: Thank you.

15 MR. DRAPER: I got multiple copies here.
16 It's a surprise.

17 BY MR. DRAPER:

18 Q. Ms. Stovezky, the document that we have
19 just identified and marked as an exhibit, I will
20 represent to you was produced by the attorneys for
21 Google and YouTube. And there is a -- what is
22 called a slip sheet on the back, tells us where the
23 document came from, and you will see that you are
24 listed as the custodian.

25 A. Uh-huh.

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 83

1 search and discovery wants to reduce filter bubbles.
2 That's what they list as their responsibility,
3 correct?

4 A. That was a proposal at the time.

5 Q. Okay. And what happened with that
6 proposal, if you know?

7 A. I wasn't working on it directly, so I
8 wouldn't be able to give a full answer.

9 Q. Okay. Did YouTube do anything in 2018 to
10 warn child users and their parents that they could
11 be exposed to this borderline or gray content on the
12 YouTube application?

13 MR. CHIOU: Objection to form.

14 Ms. Stovezky, you can answer.

15 THE WITNESS: I wasn't working on the kids
16 or youth team, so I wouldn't be able to answer that
17 question.

18 BY MR. DRAPER:

19 Q. Okay. You were working on the mental
20 health team in 2018. Actually you were senior
21 product manager for health and mental health, right?

22 A. Not in 2018.

23 Q. 2019. Okay. So in 20 -- let's see. In
24 April of 2019, you were the product manager for
25 borderline content, right?

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 84

1 A. Yes, for that first project here.

2 Q. This first project team that they are
3 talking about reducing harmful and gray content?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So in 2019, when you were working as the
6 product manager to reduce harmful or gray content,
7 what did YouTube do to warn child users and their
8 parents that they could be exposed to quantities of
9 this borderline or gray content on the YouTube
10 application?

11 MR. CHIOU: Objection to form.

12 Ms. Stovezky, you can answer.

13 THE WITNESS: Yeah. Again, I was working
14 on -- my role was in the content side. I wasn't
15 working on the user side or on the kids or youth
16 team, so I wouldn't be able to answer that.

17 BY MR. DRAPER:

18 Q. Who would I ask that question to?

19 A. The kids team, the youth team.

20 Q. And tell me who would that individual be
21 in 2018/2019.

22 A. I would start with James Beser.

23 Q. Okay. All right. Can we go back to what
24 we marked as Exhibit 8, please, the teen well-being
25 document.

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 94

1 the algorithm's tendency to focus a user's feed on
2 this particular type of content that makes them
3 harmful?

4 MR. CHIOU: Objection to form.

5 Ms. Stovezky, you can answer.

6 THE WITNESS: I wouldn't say that that is
7 accurate. I believe the harm is in the
8 concentration of the messages.

9 BY MR. DRAPER:

10 Q. Right. And the concentration is a
11 function of the algorithm recommending many of those
12 videos rather than it's a function of the content of
13 any one of those videos?

14 MR. CHIOU: Objection to form.

15 Ms. Stovezky, you can answer.

16 THE WITNESS: I believe -- I believe it's
17 a combination of the user choice to watch this
18 content over and over again, and then the algorithm
19 getting signal that the user is particularly
20 interested in this type of content.

21 BY MR. DRAPER:

22 Q. Okay. If you could go back to 01372620,
23 which is the document that we looked at that had the
24 pictures of the -- of the negative social comparison
25 related to shading of a person's nose, right?

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 95

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. There are, on the back of that page of
3 2620, there are notes, speaker notes.

4 A. Right.

5 Q. Okay. And you will see on the example, it
6 says, "Social comparison video, which is okay on its
7 own" -- right? -- "but sometimes the Watch Next feed
8 may have many more videos that repeatedly make
9 negative social comparison of physical features."
10 Right?

11 A. Right.

12 Q. Do you know who the speaker was for this
13 presentation?

14 A. I'm not sure.

15 Q. Okay. Do you agree that the potential
16 mental health harm comes from the Watch Next feed
17 having many more videos that repeatedly make the
18 same negative social comparison?

19 MR. CHIOU: Objection to form.

20 You can answer, Ms. Stovezky.

21 THE WITNESS: I would say it's a
22 combination of the user kind of urged to watch or
23 choice to watch more content this way. And then the
24 loop of it feeding that signal into the
25 recommendation system.

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 96

1 BY MR. DRAPER:

2 Q. Are teens more likely to seek out this
3 type of content?

4 MR. CHIOU: Objection.

5 BY MR. DRAPER:

6 Q. Negative social comparison content?

7 MR. CHIOU: Pardon me, Mr. Draper.

8 Objection to form.

9 You can answer, Ms. Stovezky.

10 THE WITNESS: The only accurate thing I
11 know for sure is that teens seek to watch content
12 from other teens.

13 MR. DRAPER: Okay. Okay. I'm going to
14 show you a document now that we will designate as
15 Google-YouTube-Stovezky Exhibit 10.

16 (Whereupon, Google-YouTube-Stovezky
17 Exhibit 10 was marked for identification.)

18 MR. DRAPER: This is a really long one.
19 So I have included a couple of tabs in it to help us
20 get located here. Obviously the tabs are mine.
21 They are not part of the original document. For the
22 record, this is Document 00793501.

23 BY MR. DRAPER:

24 Q. So this is a document that unhelpfully
25 doesn't have a title page. The title page is blank

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 1

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE: SOCIAL MEDIA)
ADOLESCENT ADDICTION/)
PERSONAL INJURY PRODUCTS) Case No.
LIABILITY LITIGATION) 4:22-MD-03047-YGR

This Document Relates To:) MDL No. 3047
ALL ACTIONS)

- - - -

CONFIDENTIAL

VIDEO-RECORDED

DEPOSITION OF SHARON STOVEZKY

(Pages 1 - 267)

Held at the Law Offices of
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

One Market, Spear Street Tower

San Francisco, California

Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 9:12 a.m.

- - - -

REPORTED BY: ELAINA BULDA-JONES, CSR 11720

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 144

1 A. Yeah, yes.

2 Q. Okay. Actually, I want to be precise and
3 make sure that we are correct here. If you look at
4 the description of the project, it actually says,
5 "potentially negative interaction videos."

6 But that's a mistake, right? It should be
7 potentially negative impact videos?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Okay. All right. Got another long one
10 for you.

11 MR. DRAPER: This one we will mark as
12 YouTube-Google-Stovezky Exhibit 12.

13 (Whereupon, Google-YouTube-Stovezky
14 Exhibit 12 was marked for identification.)

15 BY MR. DRAPER:

16 Q. I'm going to see if I can find my
17 highlighting. All right. I'm going to go for it
18 here. For the record, this document is 00808421.

19 A. You did give me your copy. Do you want
20 it?

21 Q. Yeah. What the heck. I'll swap with you.
22 Okay. You can have that one.

23 A. You are sure? This is still the
24 highlighted one.

25 Q. Did I highlight both of them, or did I

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 156

1 BY MR. DRAPER:

2 Q. And, if anything, those numbers are
3 understated because there is a whole additional
4 category of VIBE videos that was added later that
5 may not be counted in this count?

6 MR. CHIOU: Objection to form.

7 Ms. Stovezky, you may answer.

8 THE WITNESS: That's possible.

9 BY MR. DRAPER:

10 Q. Did YouTube warn youth users and their
11 parents that if they watched a recommended video
12 that had a potentially negative impact on their
13 mental health, there was a two-thirds chance that
14 the YouTube algorithm would recommend an additional
15 potential negative impact video in their Watch Next
16 panel?

17 MR. CHIOU: Objection to form.

18 Ms. Stovezky, you may answer.

19 THE WITNESS: Not to my knowledge.

20 BY MR. DRAPER:

21 Q. Did YouTube warn youth users and their
22 parents that if they watched a recommended video
23 that has potentially negative impact on their mental
24 health, there was a 45 percent chance that the
25 YouTube algorithm would recommend another two of

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 157

1 those potential negative impact videos to the user?

2 MR. CHIOU: Objection to form.

3 Ms. Stovezky, you may answer.

4 THE WITNESS: Not to my knowledge.

5 BY MR. DRAPER:

6 Q. Okay. So if we could look at the next
7 page, please. It's a slide entitled "What does high
8 volume or concentration look like according to
9 OWLS?"

10 Do you see that?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Owls is how YouTube refers to outside
13 experts that it consults with, correct?

14 A. Owls is a specific group of child experts
15 that the youth team uses.

16 Q. Okay. They are outside experts, meaning
17 they are people that YouTube contracts with but they
18 are not YouTube employees?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. Okay. All right. And this slide has
21 several examples of Watch Next panels. And in the
22 first one on the left, five of eight of the videos
23 recommended in the Watch Next panel contain
24 potential negative impact, social comparison of
25 physical features videos, right?

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 158

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. All right. And underneath that, it says,
3 "All Owls said this volume was too much," right?

4 A. Yes, that's what it says here.

5 Q. All right. And that means that of the
6 outside experts that YouTube consulted, all of them
7 agreed that having five of eight of these potential
8 negative impact VIBE videos in a Watch Next panel
9 was too many, meaning that this could potentially
10 have a negative impact on the user's well-being?

11 MR. CHIOU: Objection to form.

12 Ms. Stovezky, you may answer.

13 THE WITNESS: That's correct.

14 BY MR. DRAPER:

15 Q. All right. And the center example shows
16 three of eight of these potential negative impact
17 VIBE videos in a Watch Next panel, and underneath
18 that, it says, "Many of the Owls said that there was
19 no difference between the first feed and this feed.
20 Both sent the same social comparison message."

21 I read that correctly?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. All right. So all of the outside experts
24 that YouTube consulted agreed that three of eight
25 potential negative impact VIBE videos in a Watch

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 159

1 Next panel was too many and could have a potential
2 negative impact on the user's mental health?

3 MR. CHIOU: Objection to form.

4 Ms. Stovezky, you may answer.

5 THE WITNESS: You said "all." It says
6 here "many."

7 BY MR. DRAPER:

8 Q. Right. "Many said that there was no
9 difference," fair enough. All right.

10 And then on the right side -- well,
11 scratch that.

12 I said "all." I should have said the
13 consensus was that it was too many because that's
14 what it says at the top of the -- top of that
15 example. Do you agree?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. All right. On the right side is
18 another example of a Watch Next panel. And it
19 indicates that there was split feedback on this
20 Watch Next panel. This example has two of these
21 potential negative impact VIBE videos out of eight.
22 And the Owls' responses were split. Some thought it
23 was neutral while some thought it was slightly
24 negative.

25 So two of eight might have a potential

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 160

1 negative impact on the user's well-being, correct?

2 A. Correct.

3 MR. CHIOU: Objection to form.

4 Ms. Stovezky, you may answer.

5 THE WITNESS: Correct.

6 BY MR. DRAPER:

7 Q. All right. If you look at the next slide,
8 it's entitled "Goal, reduce amount of VIBE
9 concentrated panels in Watch Next." And it says,
10 "On Watch Next, the VIBE panel either has three
11 plus VIBE videos or two plus if the watch video is
12 VIBE," right? I read that correctly?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And what that means is, the video that the
15 user is watching counts, right? So if that user is
16 watching a potential negative impact video, and
17 three of those videos in total is too many, then the
18 video they are watching counts as one and having two
19 others in the Watch Next panel would be too many?

20 MR. CHIOU: Objection to form.

21 Ms. Stovezky, you may answer.

22 THE WITNESS: Yes.

23 BY MR. DRAPER:

24 Q. Okay. Did YouTube ever warn young users
25 or their parents that if they watched a potential

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 161

1 negative impact VIBE video on these topics, like
2 social comparison or social aggressions, that there
3 was a 45 percent chance that the YouTube algorithm
4 would expose them to a number of similar videos that
5 YouTube's consulting experts had determined could be
6 harmful to their mental health?

7 MR. CHIOU: Objection to form.

8 Ms. Stovezky, you may answer.

9 THE WITNESS: Not to my knowledge.

10 BY MR. DRAPER:

11 Q. That was fast. We got through that one.
12 Move on to the next one.

13 You will be glad to know I'm getting to
14 the bottom of the barrel there.

15 MR. DRAPER: Okay. So this document we
16 will mark as YouTube-Google Exhibit 13. Thankfully
17 there is no highlighting on it.

18 (Whereupon, Google-YouTube-Stovezky
19 Exhibit 13 was marked for identification.)

20 BY MR. DRAPER:

21 Q. You can have that one.

22 Okay. If you look at the slip sheet on
23 the back, this is a document that was produced by
24 Google and YouTube. The sole custodian is
25 Ms. Stovezky, and it is actually -- it's in the kind

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 267

1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)

2 COUNTY OF YOLO)

3 I, ELAINA BULDA-JONES, a Certified Shorthand
4 Reporter of the State of California, duly authorized
5 to administer oaths pursuant to Section 2025 of the
6 California Code of Civil Procedure, do hereby
7 certify that

8 SHARON STOVEZKY,
9 the witness in the foregoing deposition, was by me
10 duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and
11 nothing but the truth in the within-entitled cause;
12 that said testimony of said witness was reported by
13 me, a disinterested person, and was thereafter
14 transcribed under my direction into typewriting and
15 is a true and correct transcription of said
16 proceedings.

17 I further certify that I am not of counsel or
18 attorney for either or any of the parties in the
19 foregoing deposition and caption named, nor in any
20 way interested in the outcome of the cause named in
21 said deposition dated the _____ day of
22 _____, 2024.

23 
24

25 ELAINA BULDA-JONES, CSR 11720