

AMENDED Exhibit 533

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

Julie de Baillencourt

1

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

3 IN RE: SOCIAL MEDIA)
4 ADOLESCENT ADDICTION/PERSONAL)
5 INJURY PRODUCTS LIABILITY) MDL No. 3047
6 LITIGATION)
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THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:
ALL ACTIONS

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
UNLIMITED JURISDICTION

COORDINATION PROCEEDING) Lead Case No.
SPECIAL TITLE [RULE 3.550]) 22STCV21355
SOCIAL MEDIA CASES) JCCP No. 5225
THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:) Judge:
ALL ACTIONS) Carolyn B.
Kuhl, Dept.12

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025

CONFIDENTIAL - ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY -
PURSUANT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER

☒ ☒ ☒

Videotaped deposition of Julie de Baillencourt, held at the location of the witness in Dublin, Ireland, commencing at 9:13 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time, on the above date, before Carrie A. Campbell, Registered Diplomate Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter, Illinois, California & Texas Certified Shorthand Reporter, Missouri, Kansas, Louisiana & New Jersey Certified Court Reporter.

☒ ☒ ☒

1 plaintiffs.

2 MR. MATTERN: David Mattern,
3 King & Spalding, on behalf of the
4 TikTok defendants.

5 MR. DRAKE: Geoffrey Drake,
6 King & Spalding, for the TikTok
7 defendants.

8 VIDEOGRAPHER: The court
9 reporter is Carrie Campbell, and she
10 will now swear in the witness.

11
12 JULIE de BAILLIENCOURT,
13 of lawful age, having been first duly sworn
14 to tell the truth, the whole truth and
15 nothing but the truth, deposes and says on
16 behalf of the Plaintiffs, as follows:

17
18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 QUESTIONS BY MS. ANDERSON:

20 Q. Okay. Good morning, Ms. de
21 BaillienCourt. As I mentioned, I'm Jennie
22 Lee Anderson. I represent the school
23 district and personal injury plaintiffs in
24 the litigation that has been consolidated as
25 In Re: Social Media Adolescent Addiction

1 Litigation.

2 Thank you for agreeing to sit
3 here today with us.

4 Can you just begin by stating
5 and spelling your full name for the record?

6 A. Sure. My name is Julie de
7 Baillencourt. That's spelled d-e,
8 B-a-i-l-l-i-e-n-c-o-u-r-t.

9 Q. And can you please state your
10 address for the record?

11 A. My address is in Greystones
12 County, Wicklow.

13 Q. And what is your address?

14 A. You need my full address?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. I am [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED]

18 Q. Thank you.

19 Now, you just took an oath, and
20 you understand that's the same -- that oath
21 carries the same weight as it would if you
22 were testifying in a court of law.

23 Do you understand that?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Have you had your deposition

1 QUESTIONS BY MS. ANDERSON:

2 Q. I'm handing you now an exhibit
3 that was provided to us by counsel. I
4 believe it is your résumé, but you can
5 confirm that. You can have a chance to take
6 a look at that.

7 A. Thank you.

8 Q. Ms. de Baillencourt -- did I
9 pronounce your name correctly?

10 A. Yes. Absolutely.

11 Q. Okay. I just wanted to make
12 sure I didn't get anything wrong there.

13 Ms. de Baillencourt, is
14 this -- this is a true and correct copy of
15 your résumé.

16 Is that correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you provided this to
19 counsel.

20 Is that correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. And when did you last
23 update this résumé?

24 A. Probably in January of this
25 year.

1 Q. And are you currently employed?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Are you looking for employment?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And how long have you been
6 looking for employment?

7 A. Since end of December,
8 mid-December.

9 Q. Okay. Starting on page 2, I
10 see you have a section on education.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And looks like you -- you have
13 a bachelor's degree in French, English,
14 German, history, Latin, maths and philosophy.

15 Is that correct?

16 A. No. This is the equivalent of
17 graduating from high school, I guess.

18 Q. Thank you.

19 A. Those are the -- the topics
20 that were covered.

21 Q. Okay. So when you were in high
22 school, your primary area of studies included
23 those listed here.

24 Correct?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. And then you went to
2 college in Paris, that's nice, and you
3 majored in modern literature.

4 Is that correct?

5 A. I completed the first year with
6 this particular university before switching
7 to a different establishment and focusing on
8 journalism.

9 Q. Okay. And why did you switch
10 schools?

11 A. I found that the university --
12 or the topics I had chosen only led to
13 teaching, and I didn't think it was
14 necessarily what I wanted to do career-wise.
15 And so I preferred to go into something
16 more -- what I perceived to be more dynamic
17 than teaching.

18 Q. Okay. And so you switched
19 universities and got a degree in journalism.

20 And could you pronounce the
21 name of that school? I don't want to --

22 A. École supérieure de
23 journalisme.

24 Q. Okay. Thank you. I'm glad I
25 asked and didn't attempt to say that on my

1 own. Thank you.

2 Okay. And then you later got a
3 diploma in applied project management at
4 University College in Cork.

5 Do you see that?

6 A. I do.

7 Q. And that's correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And what is an applied project
10 management degree?

11 A. It's a degree that certifies
12 project managers.

13 Q. And is -- is that a -- how long
14 does that program take?

15 A. I think it took a year.

16 Q. Okay. And what prompted you to
17 take on that challenge?

18 A. I was working at the time and
19 taking on additional responsibilities,
20 including project management, and felt this
21 could help strengthen my overall approach.

22 Q. Okay. And the formal education
23 you've listed here, is that the extent of
24 your formal education?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Anything else that you've --
2 classes you've taken?

3 A. Oh, I would have taken online
4 training or other classes related to, like,
5 managing people, conflict resolution, that
6 type of thing, but I think that's the -- the
7 bulk of it.

8 Q. Okay. And you don't have any
9 training in -- as an engineer.

10 Do you?

11 A. No.

12 Q. And you don't have any training
13 in computer science of any kind.

14 Is that correct?

15 A. No.

16 Q. And you don't have any training
17 in psychology.

18 Is that correct?

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. And you don't have any training
21 in neuroscience.

22 Is that also correct?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. And other than math in high
25 school, do you have any training in -- in the

1 sciences?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Okay. So let's start with the
4 most recent, and that is your time at
5 ByteDance.

6 MR. MATTERN: Objection to
7 form.

8 QUESTIONS BY MS. ANDERSON:

9 Q. If I could direct your
10 attention there.

11 So ByteDance is the parent
12 company of TikTok.

13 Is that correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 MR. MATTERN: Objection to
16 form.

17 QUESTIONS BY MS. ANDERSON:

18 Q. And you indicate that you were
19 a global head of product policy there from

20 

21 Correct?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. Are you aware that your
24 LinkedIn page indicates that you were there
25 until June of 2024?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Okay. Which is more accurate,
3 June or May, since there's a conflict?

4 A. I left in May. I got paid for
5 the month of June, or part of the month of
6 June.

7 Q. Okay. Now, so when you were
8 global head of product policy, did you have
9 individuals who were reporting directly to
10 you?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And how many people reported
13 directly to you?

14 A. It varied over the years, but
15 at the time of leaving, six or seven.

16 Q. And when you -- when you
17 started in that position -- I realize you
18 were -- that you were in a different position
19 prior to becoming global head of product
20 policy. When you first started there, how
21 many direct reports did you have?

22 A. Probably about the same number,
23 five, six, seven.

24 Q. And who were your direct
25 reports?

1 A. At my time of leaving or at --

2 Q. At time of leaving.

3 A. So my direct reports included

4 [REDACTED] Tara Wadhwa, [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED] And I'm forgetting

6 somebody. Oh, and [REDACTED] Did I mention [REDACTED]

7 Whose surname escapes me.

8 Oh, [REDACTED] I think

9 that's it.

10 Q. And who -- do you recall any
11 other direct reports you had prior to -- or
12 withdraw the question.

13 Do you remember any other
14 direct reports that you had during the course
15 of your time as [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And who do you recall?

19 A. Starting from my time of
20 employment?

21 Q. While you were [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED] I'm wondering if other than
23 the individuals that you listed here, do you
24 recall other people who reported directly to
25 you?

1 A. [REDACTED] reported to me,
2 although that was prior to June. I think
3 that would be it.

4 Oh, no, I do recall, sorry.
5 [REDACTED] -- I forgot her surname,
6 and [REDACTED] did report to me for some
7 time in 2021.

8 Q. Okay. And during that time,
9 who were you reporting to? When you were
10 global head of product policy, who were you
11 reporting to?

12 A. I reported to Cormac Keenan
13 until December 2023, when I reported to
14 Sandeep Grover.

15 Q. And can you describe generally
16 your duties as globe of head -- as global
17 head of product policy?

18 A. Ensuring the efficient running
19 of the teams that fell under my remit, making
20 sure that we understood potential policy gap
21 on how to improve them or remediate them, and
22 support the business in providing high
23 quality moderation.

24 Q. What do you mean by "potential
25 policy gap"?

1 A. My team being responsible for
2 content policies. So these are mainly
3 contained in the community guidelines. We
4 want to make sure that the policies were in
5 the right place for the safety of the -- the
6 platform.

7 Q. When you say you "want to make
8 sure the policies were in the right place,"
9 can you just -- can you elaborate?

10 A. Sure.
11 Let's say a new trend emerges
12 on the platform related to, I don't know,
13 trend related to bullying, for example. We
14 just want to make sure that we assess this
15 and that our moderators understood the trend
16 to be violating our policies so that the
17 teams could remove the content associated
18 with the trend.

19 Q. And were you -- can we go off
20 the record for just a second?

21 VIDEOGRAPHER: We're going off
22 the record at 9:46 a.m.

23 (Off the record at 9:46 a.m.)

24 VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on
25 the record at 9:47 a.m.

1 A. I do.

2 Q. Why did you say that?

3 A. [REDACTED] was actively looking at
4 borderline sexualized content and I assumed
5 as a joke that he was probably being served
6 some more of this content.

7 Q. Okay. Because --

8 A. In the context of his job,
9 which was kind of --

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. He was focused on this topic.

12 Q. Yeah. Part of the way a filter
13 bubble can develop is if you start
14 interacting with certain types of content,
15 you might receive more of that same type of
16 content in the future.

17 Right?

18 A. Yes.

19 (de Baillencourt Exhibit 29
20 marked for identification.)

21 QUESTIONS BY MS. CRAICK:

22 Q. Okay. Let's look at FC3.

23 MS. ARMSTRONG: Exhibit 29.

24 QUESTIONS BY MS. CRAICK:

25 Q. I've handed you what's been

1 marked as Exhibit 29. Let me know when
2 you're ready.

3 A. Is it okay if I take a minute
4 just to scan through it?

5 Q. Uh-huh.

6 A. Thank you.

7 Q. Okay. So this is a Lark chat
8 titled "Global policy huddle."

9 Do you see that?

10 A. Yes, I do.

11 Q. And under the second message,
12 you can see your name participating in the
13 Lark chat with an emoji.

14 Right?

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. So you're participating in this
17 Lark chat in the regular course of your job
18 at TikTok.

19 Right?

20 A. (Witness nods head.)

21 Q. And you have no reason to
22 believe it's altered in any way --

23 A. No.

24 Q. -- from how it existed in your
25 files?

1 Okay. Let's go down to the
2 second page, ending in 1706.

3 There is a message from Tara
4 Wadhwa around 4:21 p.m.

5 Do you see that?

6 A. Yes, I do.

7 Q. And can you remind me what her
8 role was at this time?

9 A. At that time she was in US
10 safety and working on policy.

11 Q. Okay. And she says, "Hi,
12 everyone, the INV team" --

13 Is that investigations team?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. "Hi everyone, the
16 investigations team has developed an in-depth
17 RCA."

18 Do you see that?

19 A. Yes, I do.

20 Q. And RCA is regional creator
21 audit?

22 A. No. Root cause analysis.

23 Q. Okay. Root cause analysis.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Got it. Thank you.

1 So, "Hi, everyone, the
2 investigations team has completed an in-depth
3 root cause analysis."

4 Right?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. Okay. "We reviewed 1,166
7 videos and did this report. We dropped
8 everything else."

9 Do you see that?

10 A. I do.

11 Q. And then in her next message
12 she says, "Sobering analysis around eating
13 disorder content."

14 Do you see that?

15 A. I see it, yes.

16 Q. "Especially heartbreaking, out
17 of the 1,166 videos reviewed, 88 percent of
18 them have been reviewed by L1 and L2 minor
19 users."

20 Do you see that?

21 A. I see it, yes.

22 Q. And L1 refers to users that
23 TikTok predicts are 15 and under?

24 A. I forgot the classification.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Do you understand that L1 and
3 L2 are both minor users?

4 MR. MATTERN: Objection to
5 form.

6 THE WITNESS: I wouldn't have
7 been able to recall today exactly the
8 way it's broken down.

9 QUESTIONS BY MS. CRAICK:

10 Q. Okay. But what it says is
11 "viewed by L1 and L2 minor users."

12 Right?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. "The majority of videos viewed
15 by L1 and L2 users come from the For You
16 page, 88 percent."

17 Do you see that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And then it has someone's name.
20 Could you pronounce that?

21 A. Oh, it's [REDACTED]

22 Q. [REDACTED]

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And is that [REDACTED]?

25 A. That's exactly right, yeah.

1 Q. Okay. [REDACTED] has this, and I've
2 asked [REDACTED] to see how they can use
3 this analysis to expedite filtering and
4 bursting bubbles for L1 and L2 users."

5 Do you see that?

6 A. I see it, yeah.

7 Q. Okay. And do you recall that
8 around this time The Wall Street Journal had
9 published an article about TikTok's algorithm
10 pushing eating disorder content to teenage
11 girls?

12 MR. MATTERN: Objection to
13 form.

14 THE WITNESS: I don't recall
15 the topic. I just remember The Wall
16 Street Journal publishing something
17 related to filter bubbles.

18 QUESTIONS BY MS. CRAICK:

19 Q. Okay. And you loved this
20 comment by Tara.

21 Right?

22 A. Yes, I did.

23 Q. Okay. So FYP is For You page.

24 Right?

25 A. That's it.

1 Q. Okay. And so when it says the
2 majority of VV, videos viewed, by L1 and L2
3 users come from the FYP, the For You page,
4 that means those users are seeing that when
5 they're scrolling through TikTok's For You
6 page as opposed to searching them out and
7 finding them another way.

8 Correct?

9 A. I think for the particular of
10 this data analysis, it looks like these other
11 findings that would have been highlighted,
12 yes.

13 Q. So that would mean that
14 88 percent of these eating disorder videos
15 viewed by minor users were suggested to them
16 by TikTok's algorithm and appeared on their
17 For You page.

18 Right?

19 MR. MATTERN: Objection to
20 form. Characterizes the document.

21 THE WITNESS: So I haven't -- I
22 don't recall the analysis. I don't
23 know who did the analysis, whether it
24 was reviewed by, you know, data
25 scientists.

1 So I think as like a
2 point-in-time assessment, it looks
3 correct.

4 QUESTIONS BY MS. CRAICK:

5 Q. Okay. And you said that this
6 was -- you believe this was an analysis
7 relating to filter bubbles.

8 Correct?

9 MR. MATTERN: Objection to
10 form.

11 THE WITNESS: The conversation,
12 I don't think, mentions, like, what
13 started the -- the starting pointing
14 for this assessment. I just know that
15 I recall that around the same time we
16 had been working on filter bubbles and
17 discussing it and obviously who were
18 using this to accelerate some of the
19 work that we had done.

20 But I don't know whether The
21 Wall Street Journal came first or, you
22 know, I -- yeah.

23 QUESTIONS BY MS. CRAICK:

24 Q. Okay. Are you aware of any
25 communications from TikTok or ByteDance to

1 the public or parents or users that TikTok
2 may cause or contribute to eating disorders
3 in kids or teens?

4 MR. MATTERN: Objection to form
5 and foundation.

6 THE WITNESS: No, but I'm not
7 sure how appropriate that may be.

8 (de Baillencourt Exhibit 30
9 marked for identification.)

10 QUESTIONS BY MS. CRAICK:

11 Q. Okay. Let's look at FC4.

12 MS. ARMSTRONG: Exhibit 30.

13 QUESTIONS BY MS. CRAICK:

14 Q. Feel free to take a look at
15 this, and let me know when you're ready.

16 A. Thank you.

17 Thank you.

18 Q. Okay. So I want to talk a
19 little bit about grooming now.

20 This is a Lark chat titled
21 "Critical inquiry-The Telegraph."

22 Do you see that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And this is a Lark chat you're
25 participating in with a number of your

1 CERTIFICATE

2 I, CARRIE A. CAMPBELL, Registered
3 Diplomate Reporter, Certified Realtime
4 Reporter and Certified Shorthand Reporter, do
5 hereby certify that prior to the commencement
6 of the examination, Julie de Baillienecourt,
7 was duly sworn by me to testify to the truth,
8 the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

9 I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that the
10 foregoing is a verbatim transcript of the
11 testimony as taken stenographically by and
12 before me at the time, place and on the date
13 hereinbefore set forth, to the best of my
14 ability.

15 I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am
16 neither a relative nor employee nor attorney
17 nor counsel of any of the parties to this
18 action, and that I am neither a relative nor
19 employee of such attorney or counsel, and
20 that I am not financially interested in the
21 action.

22 <%31964,Signature%>

23 CARRIE A. CAMPBELL,
24 NCRA Registered Diplomate Reporter
25 Certified Realtime Reporter
California Certified Shorthand
Reporter #13921
Missouri Certified Court Reporter #859
Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporter
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Texas Certified Shorthand Reporter #9328
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Louisiana Certified Court Reporter
#2021012
Notary Public
Dated: April 14, 2025