

AMENDED Exhibit 803

**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

Evan Spiegel

1

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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IN RE: SOCIAL MEDIA ADOLESCENT) Case No. 4:22-md-
ADDICTION/PERSONAL INJURY) 3047-YGR
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION) MDL No. 3047
-----x

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

COORDINATION PROCEEDING) Judicial Council
SPECIAL TITLE [RULE 3.550]) Coordination
) No. 5255
SOCIAL MEDIA CASES)
) Judge Carolyn Kuhl

CONTAINS HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF EVAN T. SPIEGEL

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 11, 2025

8:04 A.M.

Job No.: 7293362

Pages: 1 - 250

Reported by: Leslie A. Todd, CSR No. 5129 and RPR

1 Q. If you look at the first page, at the
2 top it reads, "Testimony of Evan Spiegel,
3 Co-Founder and CEO of Snap Inc.," correct?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. And it refers -- the document refers
6 to the hearing before the United States Senate
7 Committee on the Judiciary dated January 31, 2024,
8 correct?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. This is the statement that you
11 prepared in advance of your January 2024 testimony?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Now I want to ask you about a couple
14 of statements set forth in your prepared testimony.
15 If you take a look at the first paragraph on the
16 first page after some introductory remarks, you
17 say, "Our service, Snapchat, is used by over 100
18 million Americans, including more than 20 million
19 teenagers, to communicate with their friends and
20 family. We have an enormous responsibility to keep
21 our community safe."

22 Did I read that correctly?

23 A. Yes, that's correct.

24 Q. And then if you look down in the
25 second paragraph, there's a sentence, it's about

1 the third sentence in, it says, "Protecting
2 Snapchatters is our moral responsibility and a
3 business imperative."

4 Did I read that correctly?

5 A. Yes, you did.

6 Q. Sitting here today, Mr. Spiegel, you
7 agree that Snap has an enormous responsibility to
8 keep its community safe, true?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you agree that protecting
11 Snapchatters is Snap's moral responsibility as
12 well, true?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And these are beliefs that you've
15 held since you founded the company, correct?

16 A. Yes. We've held these beliefs for a
17 very long time.

18 Q. You've always believed that
19 protecting Snapchat users is a moral
20 responsibility, right?

21 A. We feel like it's incredibly
22 important, yes.

23 Q. You've always believed that Snap has
24 an enormous responsibility to keep its community
25 safe, correct?

1 MS. BROWN: Objection to the
2 form.

3 THE WITNESS: We feel an
4 enormous responsibility to help keep our
5 community safe.

6 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

7 Q. Now, Mr. Spiegel, as co-founder and
8 CEO of Snap, the company reflects your values,
9 correct?

10 A. I would hope it does.

11 Q. And when it comes to decisions about
12 the safety of adolescents and teenagers on the
13 Snapchat platform, the buck stops with you as CEO,
14 correct?

15 A. Certainly I rely heavily on our team,
16 but I do believe that ultimately I bear enormous
17 responsibility as our chief executive officer.

18 Q. And you're the final decision-maker,
19 right?

20 A. Well, it depends on the decision
21 that's being made.

22 Q. Well, when it comes to safety, the
23 safety of the platform, you're the final decision
24 maker, correct?

25 A. As I said, it depends on the decision

1 knowingly make products that harm children?

2 A. Of course not. No.

3 Q. True or false, a company should
4 inform its users when -- of its products about
5 known safety risks associated with using those
6 products?

7 A. Yes, I agree.

8 Q. True or false, it is irresponsible
9 for a company to hide safety risks associated with
10 its products?

11 A. I don't think a company should hide
12 safety risks.

13 Q. True or false, a company that creates
14 a product used by teenagers should take every
15 measure to protect those teenagers?

16 A. I certainly think companies should
17 take measures to protect teenagers.

18 Q. You believe companies should just
19 take measures or they should take every measure?

20 MS. BROWN: Objection to the
21 form.

22 THE WITNESS: I believe the
23 company should take measures to protect
24 teenagers.

25 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

1 Q. How about this, do you believe
2 companies should take all reasonable measures to
3 protect teenagers that use their platform?

4 A. Generally speaking, but without any
5 specific examples, it's hard for me to comment.

6 Q. Now, you and your colleagues at Snap
7 understand that teenage Snapchat users are a
8 vulnerable population, correct?

9 MS. BROWN: Objection to the
10 form.

11 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. Can
12 you restate the question, please?

13 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

14 Q. Yes. You and your colleagues at Snap
15 understand that teenage Snapchat users are a
16 vulnerable population, correct?

17 MS. BROWN: Same objection.

18 THE WITNESS: I'm not sure what
19 you mean by "vulnerable."

20 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

21 Q. Well, let me show you a document.

22 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

23 MR. BILSBORROW: We're going to
24 mark this as Exhibit 2.

25 (Exhibit No. 2 was marked for

1 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

2 Q. For purposes of completeness, the
3 fourth bullet says, "How are we managing increasing
4 scrutiny from media and lawmakers and safety groups
5 on how we are keeping young people safe and
6 combating online harm. What are we doing right,
7 and what can we do better?" Correct?

8 A. Yes, that's correct.

9 Q. Okay. So if you could flip to the
10 page ending 891, and I'm referring to the page
11 numbers that say "SNAP" and then there's the
12 number. So those are called Bates numbers.

13 And this is page 10 of the document.
14 Are you with me?

15 A. Yes. I believe so.

16 Q. Okay. And at the top of this
17 particular page, there's a heading that says
18 "Issues Affecting Minors on Snap."

19 Do you see that?

20 A. Yes, I do.

21 Q. The first sentence reads, "The safety
22 of minors on Snap is our highest safety priority."

23 Do you see that?

24 A. I do.

25 Q. And you agree with that, right?

1 A. Yes, I do.

2 Q. The next sentence reads, "Ages 13 to
3 17 years are a large Snap demographic, and given
4 their age, are also a vulnerable population."

5 Do you see that?

6 A. Yes, I do.

7 Q. And do you agree with that sentence?

8 A. Yes, I do.

9 Q. So when I asked you earlier if you
10 and your colleagues at Snap understand that teenage
11 Snapchat users are a vulnerable population, the
12 answer would be that you do understand that, right?

13 MS. BROWN: Objection to the
14 form.

15 THE WITNESS: Before I asked how
16 you'd define vulnerable. And in this
17 case, I'm confirming that I agree with
18 the way that this sentence is phrased,
19 and that given their age, people 13 to
20 17 are also a vulnerable population.

21 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

22 Q. Thank you. The next sentence here
23 says, "We believe they require a heightened
24 standard of care."

25 Do you see that?

1 A. I do.

2 Q. And do you agree with that?

3 A. Yes, I do.

4 Q. And Mr. Spiegel, because Snap's
5 teenage users require a heightened standard of
6 care, you agree that Snap should take every
7 reasonable action to make sure the Snapchat
8 platform is not causing those users harm, correct?

9 MS. BROWN: Object to the form.

10 THE WITNESS: It's a bit
11 difficult to answer such a broad
12 question, but I'd say, generally
13 speaking, we work very hard to keep
14 young people safe.

15 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

16 Q. If you, as Snap's CEO, know of
17 dangers to teenagers that exist on the Snapchat
18 platform, you agree that you have a responsibility
19 to warn of those dangers, right?

20 A. We do feel a sense of responsibility
21 to warn of dangers on the Snap platform.

22 Q. And as you said to the United States
23 Senate, Snap has a moral responsibility to these
24 teenage users, correct?

25 A. Yes. That's correct.

1 A. That's correct, he doesn't work for
2 Snap.

3 Q. He's part of a board that meets
4 monthly?

5 A. I'm not sure how frequently they
6 meet. I know that our team engages them outside of
7 meetings as well.

8 Q. Well, let me ask you about this. How
9 many in-house child psychologists does Snap employ
10 to research the effects that its platform has on
11 teen users?

12 A. I don't believe we employ in-house
13 psychologists. I believe we rely on third-party
14 experts.

15 Q. So you have no in-house psychologists
16 whose Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 5:00 is
17 dedicated to determining whether the Snapchat
18 platform is having a negative effect on teenage
19 Snapchat users?

20 MS. BROWN: Objection. Asked
21 and answered.

22 THE WITNESS: No. As I
23 mentioned, we work with independent
24 third-party experts.

25 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

1 Q. How about neuroscientists, how many
2 neuroscientists does Snap employ to research the
3 effect that the Snapchat platform has on teenage
4 users?

5 A. I don't believe we directly employ
6 neuroscientists, but I know we work with
7 third-party independent experts.

8 Q. What third-party neuroscientists are
9 you aware that Snap has worked with?

10 A. I'm not sure specifically who has
11 neuroscience expertise. I was explaining that
12 broadly we work with independent third-party
13 experts to understand the way that Snapchat makes
14 people feel.

15 Q. And are you aware of any of those
16 third-party experts that have studied specifically
17 compulsive use of teenage Snapchat users?

18 A. I'm not aware of a specific study to
19 that effect.

20 Q. And when you read the plaintiffs'
21 complaint in this case and you learned that
22 children were alleging that Snapchat caused them to
23 become addicted to the platform, did you go out and
24 retain third-party experts to conduct a study to
25 see whether that was legitimate?

1 the claims you're making in litigation,
2 I'll object to that. If you're asking
3 more broadly, that's fine.

4 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

5 Q. So I've asked you about child
6 psychologists; I've asked you about
7 neuroscientists. Does Snap employ full-time mental
8 health professionals to ensure the design of
9 Snapchat and its features aren't harmful to the
10 mental health of teenage users?

11 A. No, I don't believe we employ
12 full-time mental health researchers. We rely on
13 third-party independent experts.

14 Q. You testified earlier, Mr. Spiegel,
15 that your personal belief is that Snapchat is not
16 addicting. Is that right?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. What is that based on?

19 A. That's based on my knowledge of the
20 way that I use Snapchat and the way that I've
21 observed other people using Snapchat primarily as a
22 communication service to talk with their friends
23 and family.

24 Q. Well, Mr. Spiegel, I don't want to
25 insult you. But you're in your mid-30s, 40s,

1 paragraph on that page, it says, "Like many other
2 start-ups, ground zero for Snapchat's story is
3 Stanford University where a young Evan Spiegel from
4 Los Angeles befriended Reginald, Reggie Brown."

5 Do you see that?

6 A. I do see that, yes.

7 Q. And then it goes on to talk about how
8 you all came up with the idea for Snapchat; is that
9 fair?

10 A. I'd have to go line by line here to
11 make sure it's accurate, which --

12 Q. Well, let's -- let's look on page 803
13 at the first full paragraph, near the top of the
14 page. It says, "It wasn't until Spiegel's junior
15 year."

16 Are you with me?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. It says, "It wasn't until Spiegel's
19 junior year that the idea for Snapchat was born."
20 Quote, "'I wish these photos I am sending this girl
21 would disappear,' Brown told Spiegel in April 2011.
22 His friend immediately got excited about the
23 concept of disappearing photos and told Brown that
24 this was a million-dollar idea. Five years later,
25 that idea would now be worth billions."

1 a bullet that says Snapchat is where most nudes are
2 believed to be shared among young people.

3 Q. And you haven't commissioned any
4 research to determine whether Snapchat is, in fact,
5 where most nudes are believed to be shared among
6 young people, have you?

7 MS. BROWN: Objection to the
8 form.

9 THE WITNESS: I personally have
10 not commissioned such research, but I
11 believe this is something our trust and
12 safety team would have investigated.

13 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

14 Q. You can set that aside.

15 MS. BROWN: Can we take a quick
16 break?

17 MR. BILSBORROW: Sure.

18 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is
19 10:34. Going off the record.

20 (Recess.)

21 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is
22 now 10:50. Back on the record.

23 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

24 Q. Mr. Spiegel, you knew from early on
25 that many of Snapchat's users were teenagers,

1 something's wrong with this copy, so to
2 the extent it's not a complete document,
3 I'll just put an objection on the
4 record.

5 THE WITNESS: If you printed
6 this off our website, we should
7 definitely take a look because this is
8 very odd. Okay.

9 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

10 Q. Ready?

11 A. Sorry. I haven't had a chance to
12 read it.

13 (Peruses document.)

14 Q. Mr. Spiegel, we're showing you what's
15 been marked as Exhibit 11, and I'll represent to
16 you that this is a printout from the Snapchat blog.
17 Okay?

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. Snapchat maintains a blog on its
20 website, right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And it's still available on Snap's
23 website today?

24 A. This blog post?

25 Q. Or just the blog in general is still

1 available?

2 A. Yes. We have a blog.

3 Q. This blog post is dated May 10, 2012.

4 Do you see that?

5 A. I do, yes.

6 Q. And it's titled "Let's Chat,"

7 correct?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. So if you turn to the second page of
10 the exhibit, about midway through the page, it
11 says, "To get a better sense of how people were
12 using Snapchat and what we could do to make it
13 better, we reached out to some of our users. We
14 were thrilled to hear that most of them were high
15 school students who were using Snapchat as a new
16 way to pass notes in class; behind-the-back photos
17 of teachers and funny faces were sent back and
18 forth throughout the day. Server data supported
19 this and we saw peaks of activity during the school
20 day and dips on the weekend."

21 Did I read that correctly?

22 A. Yes, you did.

23 Q. Was this a blog post that you wrote?

24 A. It was, yes.

25 Q. And so you're familiar with what you

1 are discussing here?

2 A. Yeah, I'm familiar. I mean, it was
3 from 2012, but, generally speaking, yes, I'm
4 familiar.

5 Q. So, Mr. Spiegel, from the earliest
6 days of Snapchat, you learned that teenagers were
7 using the app to send Snaps during school, correct?

8 A. That was one of the things we
9 learned, yes.

10 Q. In fact, according to the post, you
11 learned that there were peaks of activity during
12 the school day and dips on the weekend, correct?

13 A. According to this post, that's what
14 we observed at the time, yes.

15 Q. And soon after this -- this is dated
16 May of 2012 -- soon after this, you learned that
17 Snapchat use was actually disrupting classes at
18 schools, correct?

19 A. I don't recall when I would have
20 learned that.

21 Q. Did you learn that?

22 A. I may have.

23 Q. Let's look at a document. Maybe it
24 will refresh your recollection.

25 MR. BILSBORROW: This will be

1 Q. Okay. You can -- you can set that
2 aside.

3 Today, Snapchat has a couple hundred
4 million users. Do you know?

5 A. Are you asking about daily active
6 users or --

7 Q. Yeah, daily active users, ballpark.

8 A. I think approximately 450 million
9 daily active users.

10 Q. And I think you testified earlier
11 that 20 percent of those users are teenagers,
12 right?

13 A. I think approximately 20 percent of
14 Snapchatters are teenagers but that -- that may be
15 in reference to the monthly active user number.
16 But I think -- I think, relatively speaking, about
17 20 percent of daily active users are teenagers.

18 Q. So ballpark, a hundred million
19 teenagers are daily active users on Snapchat?

20 MS. BROWN: Objection. I don't
21 think your math's right.

22 THE WITNESS: My math's not
23 going to be any better.

24 MS. BROWN: I don't think 20
25 percent of that is 100.

1 MR. BILSBORROW: Let's see.

2 MS. BROWN: Didn't he say 450?

3 Because 10 is 45, then you do --

4 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

5 Q. So Mr. Spiegel, if 20 percent of 450
6 million Snapchat users are teenagers, that's about
7 90 million, right?

8 A. Approximately. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. And that's your belief as of
10 today?

11 A. That's my belief based on the most
12 recent information I've received.

13 Q. In addition to users aged 13 to 17,
14 you're aware that millions of children under 13 use
15 the Snapchat platform, aren't you?

16 MS. BROWN: Objection to the
17 form.

18 THE WITNESS: No, I'm not aware
19 of that.

20 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

21 Q. Well, let's take a look at another
22 document.

23 (Exhibit No. 17 was marked for
24 identification.)

25 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

1 as Exhibit 19.

2 (Exhibit No. 19 was marked for
3 identification.)

4 (Video played.)

5 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

6 Q. So, Mr. Spiegel, do you agree with
7 the statement that children under the age of 13 are
8 not ready to communicate on Snapchat?

9 A. Yes, I do.

10 Q. Yet to this day, millions of users
11 under the age of 13 remain on the Snapchat
12 platform, true?

13 A. Is that an allegation that you're
14 making?

15 Q. I'm asking if you know whether that's
16 true.

17 A. I don't know whether that's true.

18 Q. Okay. Let's look at another
19 document. This will be marked Exhibit 20.

20 (Exhibit No. 20 was marked for
21 identification.)

22 MS. BROWN: I'm sorry, you guys,
23 I lost my realtime. Do you mind? Can I
24 just quickly get it back?

25 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is

1 Q. And Snap has made efforts to convince
2 those parents that their kids -- it's appropriate
3 for their kids to be on Snapchat, right?

4 A. I wouldn't characterize it as trying
5 to convince parents, but we do try to educate
6 parents, so that they can make the right choice for
7 their family and their kids.

8 Q. When you performed research, parents,
9 in particular, have expressed concerns about
10 ephemeral or disappearing messages, right?

11 A. They may have. I'm not sure what
12 research you're referencing.

13 Q. Okay. Let's show you some research
14 that you've done. This is Exhibit 21.

15 (Exhibit No. 21 was marked for
16 identification.)

17 THE WITNESS: (Peruses
18 document.)

19 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

20 Q. Ready to proceed, Mr. Spiegel?

21 A. Yeah, thanks.

22 Q. So I've handed you what's been marked
23 as Exhibit 21. This is a memo to Snap from
24 Breakwater Strategy, right?

25 A. That's what it looks like, yes.

1 Q. Breakwater Strategy is a consulting
2 group?

3 A. I believe so, yes.

4 Q. And Snap has used Breakwater
5 Strategy, from time to time, for a variety of
6 different reasons, right?

7 A. I think so.

8 Q. This memo is dated July 28th, 2023,
9 correct?

10 A. July 28th, 20 -- yep.

11 Q. And the subject is "Parent
12 perceptions research, qualitative insights." Do
13 you see that?

14 A. I do.

15 Q. Have you seen this memo before?

16 A. I'm not sure.

17 Q. Okay. You're aware --

18 MS. BROWN: Hang on a second.

19 Let me just put an objection on the
20 record.

21 Based on that answer, and the
22 fact that he's not a custodian, I'm just
23 going to object to lack of foundation on
24 questioning on this document.

25 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

1 Q. So, Mr. Spiegel, as CEO of Snap, were
2 you aware that the company had retained Breakwater
3 Strategy to survey parents about their perceptions
4 of Snapchat?

5 A. I'm not sure, no.

6 Q. Well, when I asked you earlier if you
7 were aware that Snap had surveyed parents about
8 their perceptions of Snapchat, you recalled that
9 generally, right?

10 A. Yes, I did.

11 Q. Okay. So any reason to think Snap
12 did not retain Breakwater Strategy in July of 2023
13 to conduct parent perception research?

14 MS. BROWN: Objection. Lacks
15 foundation.

16 THE WITNESS: I don't think so.
17 I don't know.

18 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

19 Q. Okay. And you've had a chance to
20 review the memo. So let's take a look at some of
21 what it says. If we start at the overview on the
22 first page, it says, "This memo outlines initial
23 insights from qualitative research designed to
24 explore parents' opinions associated with Snapchat,
25 and develops hypotheses that point to opportunities

1 for the company to meaningfully improve parents'
2 perception of the platform."

3 Did I read that correctly?

4 MS. BROWN: And, Counsel, do you
5 want to just give me a running objection
6 to all the questions about this document
7 on lack of foundation?

8 MR. BILSBORROW: Sure.

9 MS. BROWN: All right.

10 THE WITNESS: But I'm allowed to
11 answer?

12 MS. BROWN: If you can.

13 THE WITNESS: It -- yes, I
14 believe what you said -- what you said
15 was this sentence here, yep.

16 BY MR. BILSBORROW:

17 Q. Okay. So let's turn over to the page
18 ending 097. At the very top of that page, it says,
19 "Detailed Findings." Do you see that?

20 A. Yes, I do.

21 Q. And then if you flip the page again,
22 there's some detailed findings regarding Snapchat
23 on the bottom of the page 098. Do you see that?

24 A. Yeah, there's some paragraphs under
25 the header "Detailed Findings," that's correct.

1 CERTIFICATE OF CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

2 The undersigned Certified Shorthand Reporter
3 does hereby certify:

4 That the foregoing proceeding was taken
5 before me at the place and time therein set forth,
6 at which time the witness was duly sworn; That the
7 testimony of the witness and all objections made at
8 the time of the examination were recorded
9 stenographically by me and were thereafter
10 transcribed, said transcript being a true and
11 correct copy of my shorthand notes thereof; That
12 the dismantling of the original transcript will
13 void the reporter's certificate.

14 In witness thereof, I have subscribed
15 my name this date: April 12, 2025.

16 <%14542,Signature%>
17 _____

18 LESLIE A. TODD, CSR, RPR

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