



'Bellwether' Trial on Social Media Addiction Begins

Description

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg testified this week in New York about claims that social media harms young people. This marks the first time he has appeared before a jury, more than four years after leaked documents suggested Meta was aware of the potential dangers of its platforms.

Inside a Los Angeles courtroom, internal documents appeared to confirm long-held suspicions that Meta knew preteens use its apps and that it aimed to increase user engagement. Despite expert suggestions for safer platforms, Meta argues that the documents are outdated and selectively presented.

The trial centers on a lawsuit filed by 20-year-old Kaley and her mother. They accuse four social media companies, including Meta and YouTube, of designing addictive platforms that contributed to Kaley's mental health issues, like anxiety and depression. While Meta and YouTube deny the allegations, Snap and TikTok settled prior to trial.

Experts draw parallels between these social media trials and the tobacco litigation of the 1990s, which led to increased public awareness and education about tobacco's harms. If this trial succeeds, it may inspire similar lawsuits and encourage significant changes in the tech industry.

The current case is important as it may impact over 1,500 other lawsuits against tech firms. Meanwhile, Meta is also facing a separate trial in New Mexico regarding child exploitation claims, with additional lawsuits from school districts expected soon. The outcome of these cases could influence future regulations and industry practices regarding the safety of young users on social media platforms.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Allegations** /,æɪ.ə'geɪ.fənz/ (noun): Claims or accusations that someone has done something illegal or wrong.
2. **Engagement** /ɪn'geɪdʒ.mənt/ (noun): The act of being involved with something especially social media.
3. **Addictive** /ə'dɪk.tɪv/ (adjective): Causing or likely to cause someone to become addicted.
4. **Contributed** /kən'trɪb.juː.tɪd/ (verb): Helped to cause or achieve something.
5. **Exploration** /,ɛk.splə'reɪ.fən/ (noun): The action of investigating or examining something closely.
6. **Regulations** /,rɛg.jə'leɪ.fənz/ (noun): Rules or directives made and maintained by an authority.

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. Who testified in New York about claims that social media harms young people?

- Option: Elon Musk
- Option: Mark Zuckerberg
- Option: Sundar Pichai
- Option: Jack Dorsey

2. What organization is suing Meta and YouTube?

- Option: A group of parents
- Option: A 20-year-old named Kaley and her mother
- Option: The state of California
- Option: A mental health organization

3. What did internal documents reveal about Meta's knowledge?

- Option: They were unaware of preteen app usage
- Option: They aimed to decrease user engagement
- Option: They knew preteens used its apps
- Option: They started a campaign for user safety

4. Which two social media companies settled prior to the trial?

- Option: Meta and Instagram
- Option: Snap and TikTok
- Option: YouTube and Facebook
- Option: LinkedIn and Twitter

5. What comparison do experts make regarding the social media trials?

- Option: They are like the technological revolution
- Option: They resemble tobacco litigation from the 1990s
- Option: They are similar to recent drug trials
- Option: They are new and unprecedented

6. How many lawsuits could the outcome of this case affect?

- Option: Over 500
- Option: Over 1,000
- Option: Over 1,500
- Option: Over 2,000



True-False

7. Mark Zuckerberg has never appeared before a jury before this week.
8. Meta acknowledges the addictive nature of its platforms.
9. The trial is centered around a lawsuit from Kaley and her father.
10. Snap and TikTok went to trial instead of settling.
11. The case could lead to changes in tech industry regulations.
12. Meta is the only company facing lawsuits related to social media safety.

Gap-Fill

13. This is the first time Mark Zuckerberg appeared before a _____ .
14. Kaley and her mother accuse social media companies of designing _____ platforms.
15. The internal documents confirmed that Meta was aware of the dangers for _____ .
16. The trial may inspire similar _____ in the tech industry.
17. The case is important as it could impact over 1,500 other _____ against tech firms.
18. Meta is also facing a trial in New _____ regarding child exploitation claims.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Mark Zuckerberg 2. A 20-year-old named Kaley and her mother 3. They knew preteens used its apps 4. Snap and TikTok 5. They resemble tobacco litigation from the 1990s 6. Over 1,500

True-False: 7. True 8. False 9. False 10. False 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. jury 14. addictive 15. preteens 16. lawsuits 18. Mexico

Vocabulary quizzes



Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which term refers to the general increase in prices and fall in the purchasing value of money?

- Option: Recession
- Option: Inflation
- Option: Deflation
- Option: Stagnation

2. What are taxes imposed on imported goods called?

- Option: Duties
- Option: Subsidies
- Option: Tariffs
- Option: Levies

3. What are official rules that control how a business can operate?

- Option: Guidelines
- Option: Regulations
- Option: Policies
- Option: Standards

4. What is the term for an economic rebound after a recession?

- Option: Depression
- Option: Recovery
- Option: Recession
- Option: Stagnation

5. Which word describes a public dispute or disagreement?

- Option: Consensus
- Option: Controversy
- Option: Agreement
- Option: Dispute

6. What term is used for false or misleading information spread regardless of intent?

- Option: Disinformation
- Option: Misinformation
- Option: Fiction
- Option: Rumor

7. What is the monitoring of behavior and activities referred to as?

- Option: Observation
- Option: Surveillance
- Option: Scrutiny



Option: Inspection

8. What term describes the act of traveling through an unfamiliar area to learn about it?

Option: Investigation

Option: Exploration

Option: Discovery

Option: Survey

9. What is the process of combining one thing with another known as?

Option: Separation

Option: Integration

Option: Collaboration

Option: Segregation

10. Which term refers to an increase in the market value of goods and services?

Option: Decline

Option: Recession

Option: Growth

Option: Stagnation

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. After several years of turmoil the nation is finally witnessing _____ stability.

12. The project is under intense _____ from regulatory bodies.

13. The company faced serious _____ regarding its accounting practices.

14. The stock market showed signs of _____ due to irregular trading activities.

15. Witness _____ revealed critical information during the trial.

16. Some social media platforms have been criticized for offering _____ content that encourages users to stay longer.

17. The investigation revealed a coordinated _____ of facts about the incident.

18. The new policy faced widespread _____ from various stakeholders.

19. She became a _____ figure in the fight for environmental justice.



20. The organization is committed to providing _____ for educational outreach programs.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

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| 21. Regulation helps ensure that businesses operate fairly and ethically. |
| 22. Community engagement is essential for understanding local issues. |
| 23. The integration of technology in education has transformed traditional learning methods. |
| 24. Exploration of new markets is critical for business expansion. |
| 25. High inflation rates can erode purchasing power for consumers. |
| 26. The proposed law sparked controversy among various political groups. |
| 27. Misinformation can spread quickly especially on social media platforms. |
| 28. Surveillance technology has raised concerns about privacy and civil liberties. |
| 29. Neglecting routine maintenance can lead to costly repairs down the line. |
| 30. Tariffs can significantly affect international trade relationships. |

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Inflation 2. Tariffs 3. Regulations 4. Recovery 5. Controversy 6. Misinformation
7. Surveillance 8. Exploration 9. Integration 10. Growth

Gap-Fill: 11. economic 12. scrutiny 13. allegations 14. manipulation 15. testimony 16. addictive 17. cover-up
18. criticism 19. prominent 20. resources

Matching sentence: 1. regulation 2. engagement 3. integration 4. exploration 5. inflation 6. controversy
7. misinformation 8. surveillance 9. neglecting 10. tariffs

CATEGORY

- 1. Business - LEVEL4

POST TAG

- 1. B2
- 2. bellwether
- 3. ESL learning
- 4. esl news



5. Level 4
6. social media addiction
7. trial

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