



Live Nation Executives Discuss Ticket Pricing in Slack Messages

Description

Earlier this week, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and Live Nation, a major concert promoter, reached a settlement regarding an antitrust lawsuit. The trial lasted only a week, during which Live Nation sought to prevent the jury from seeing a series of private messages from 2022 between two of its regional directors. On March 12, a federal judge in New York agreed to release these chats.

The conversations involved Ben Baker, now the head of ticketing for Venue Nation, and Jeff Weinhold, a senior director in the ticketing department. In these messages, Baker and Weinhold made jokes about overcharging fans, saying phrases like “Robbing them blind, baby” related to a Kid Rock concert. Baker added that he felt little guilt over taking advantage of customers, stating, “These people are so stupid.”

Live Nation argued that the direct messages were just casual conversation and not reflective of company policy. In a statement, the firm emphasized that these communications do not represent its values or operations. Baker was expected to testify during the trial.

The settlement requires Live Nation to limit its exclusive contracts with venues to four years and cap service fees at 15%. The company must sell its exclusive booking rights at 13 venues and allow competitors like SeatGeek and Eventbrite to offer tickets on its platform. However, several state attorneys general involved in the lawsuit still plan to continue legal action, which could lead to further complications.

Vocabulary List:

1. **antitrust** //,æntɪ'trʌst// (adjective): laws to stop companies from unfair competition
2. **settlement** //ˈsetlmənt// (noun): agreement to end a legal disagreement
3. **overcharging** //,oʊvər'tʃɑrdʒɪŋ// (verb): charging customers more money than appropriate
4. **exclusive** //ɪk'sklusɪv// (adjective): only for one person or company
5. **competitors** //kəm'petətərz// (noun): other companies that sell the same things
6. **testify** //ˈtɛstəˌfaɪ// (verb): to speak in court about what you know

Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. What is a common synonym for the word 'illusion'?

Option: reality



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- Option: deception
Option: truth
Option: clarity
2. What does the term 'distort' most closely mean?
- Option: to clarify
Option: to change the shape or sound of
Option: to reinforce
Option: to heal
3. What are 'commitments' often associated with?
- Option: flexibility
Option: promises
Option: uncertainty
Option: doubt
4. To 'assess' something means to do what?
- Option: to ignore
Option: to evaluate or estimate
Option: to create
Option: to announce
5. What might someone rely on when making a decision based on feelings rather than facts?
- Option: analysis
Option: intuition
Option: statistics
Option: history
6. What is the purpose of 'alignment' in a project?
- Option: disagreement
Option: coordination
Option: confusion
Option: randomization
7. What do antitrust laws aim to prevent?
- Option: competitor collaboration
Option: government control
Option: monopolies
Option: price reductions
8. In legal terms, what is a 'settlement'?
- Option: a disagreement
Option: an agreement reached between parties



- Option: a trial outcome
- Option: a court sentence

9. What is 'overcharging' commonly referred to as?

- Option: discounting
- Option: price gouging
- Option: selling
- Option: bargaining

10. What does 'exclusive' imply when referring to a club?

- Option: open to everyone
- Option: limited access
- Option: free membership
- Option: government-owned

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

11. Many magicians create an _____ to entertain their audience.
12. High volumes can _____ sound waves, affecting audio quality.
13. She had several _____ to fulfill before the end of the month.
14. The teacher will _____ the students' progress at the end of the term.
15. Sometimes, relying on your _____ can lead to the best decisions.
16. Proper _____ of the wheels can improve a car's handling.
17. The company was investigated for potential _____ violations.
18. The parties reached a _____ before the case went to trial.
19. Consumers reported issues of _____ by the service provider.
20. They launched an _____ line of products only available to VIP customers.

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

21. The movie created an illusion that transported viewers to another world.



22. The photographer used editing techniques to distort the original image.
23. His commitments kept him busy throughout the week.
24. Professionals often assess risks before making important decisions.
25. Her intuition told her that something was off about the situation.
26. The alignment of the planets created a stunning visual in the night sky.
27. Antitrust laws are designed to promote competition and prevent monopoly practices.
28. The settlement resolved the lawsuit, allowing both parties to move forward.
29. The company's overcharging practices led to a public relations nightmare.
30. An exclusive interview with the celebrity drew in millions of viewers.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. deception 2. to change the shape or sound of 3. promises 4. to evaluate or estimate 5. intuition 6. coordination 7. monopolies 8. an agreement reached between parties 9. price gouging 10. limited access

Gap-Fill: 11. illusion 12. distort 13. commitments 14. assess 15. intuition 16. alignment 17. antitrust 18. settlement 19. overcharging 20. exclusive

Matching sentence: 1. illusion 2. distort 3. commitments 4. assess 5. intuition 6. alignment 7. antitrust 8. settlement 9. overcharging 10. exclusive

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL4

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