
Musk's Lawyer Apologises for Absence at Closing Remarks

Description

A lawyer representing tech billionaire Elon Musk expressed regret on Thursday regarding Musk's absence from court as closing statements commenced in Musk's lawsuit against artificial intelligence company OpenAI. The lawyer, Steven Molo, urged jurors not to misinterpret Musk's absence.

As a high-profile federal trial approached its conclusion, Musk was in China, attending an official state visit alongside President Donald Trump and other American business leaders. He travelled there despite a court order mandating his presence, with the judge indicating he could be recalled for testimony.

In Beijing, Musk, who leads Tesla and SpaceX, described his discussions with Chinese President Xi Jinping as "awesome." His lawsuit targets OpenAI's creation of a for-profit division to enhance funding for its research and the development of its prominent application, ChatGPT. Musk claims that OpenAI has deviated from its nonprofit roots, a point contested by the organisation and its CEO, Sam Altman, who asserts that a nonprofit foundation still oversees OpenAI and that Musk agreed to the establishment of a for-profit arm.

Despite initiating the case, Musk has not attended court for two weeks following three days of testimony. He did not return during the trial's evidence phase, which concluded on Wednesday. In contrast, Altman appeared in court on Thursday to witness the closing statements.

Molo did not specify Musk's whereabouts during the closing arguments, suggesting the billionaire's travels may continue. Musk is scheduled to speak at a mobility conference in Israel on Monday, coinciding with the jury's initial day of deliberation.

OpenAI's attorney, Bill Savitt, highlighted Musk's absence in his closing remarks. He remarked that Musk had only attended court for his testimony, which he had not returned to since.

Legal arguments expanded to the credibility of witnesses, with Molo asserting that five sworn testimonies labelled Altman as dishonest. He compared Altman's reputation to a dangerous bridge and insisted that wealth disparities within OpenAI should not detract from Musk's claims regarding the organisation's direction.

Savitt countered Molo's analogy, arguing that the value generated by Altman and his colleagues was integral to the discussion, asserting that the creators of the company cannot be equated to bank robbers. Meanwhile, a second OpenAI lawyer, Sarah Eddy, accused Musk of dishonesty about his intentions, stating he sought to profit from OpenAI, even proposing a merger with Tesla in the past. Eddy further claimed Musk's delay in legal action invalidated his complaints, emphasising that discussions about changing OpenAI's structure began in 2017.



Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Who is the lawyer representing Elon Musk in the lawsuit against OpenAI?
Option: Bill Savitt
Option: Steven Molo
Option: Sam Altman
Option: Sarah Eddy
2. Where was Elon Musk during the closing statements of his trial?
Option: Beijing
Option: New York
Option: San Francisco
Option: Tokyo
3. What is the name of the AI company Musk is suing?
Option: Tesla
Option: SpaceX
Option: OpenAI
Option: ChatGPT
4. What primary issue is Musk raising against OpenAI?
Option: Deviating from nonprofit roots
Option: The performance of ChatGPT
Option: Competition in the AI field
Option: Excessive funding
5. Who is the CEO of OpenAI?
Option: Elon Musk
Option: Sam Altman
Option: Bill Savitt
Option: Steven Molo
6. When is Musk scheduled to speak at a mobility conference in Israel?
Option: Monday



- Option: Tuesday
Option: Wednesday
Option: Thursday

True-False

7. Elon Musk attended court for every day of the trial.
8. Musk's lawyer urged jurors to misinterpret Musk's absence.
9. Elon Musk is associated with Tesla and SpaceX.
10. Sam Altman leads the case against Elon Musk.
11. The trial's evidence phase concluded on a Wednesday.
12. Musk's absence from court was not noted by OpenAI's attorney.

Gap-Fill

13. Musk's lawyer suggested that his _____ should not be misinterpreted.
14. Elon Musk was in China attending an official state visit with _____.
15. Musk's lawsuit targets OpenAI's creation of a for-profit division to enhance _____.
16. Musk has not attended court for _____ weeks following his initial testimony.
17. OpenAI's creation of ChatGPT is part of the discussion in Musk's _____.
18. Legal discussions included the credibility of _____ during the trial.

Answer

- Multiple Choice:** 1. Steven Molo 2. Beijing 3. OpenAI 4. Deviating from nonprofit roots 5. Sam Altman 6. Monday
- True-False:** 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False
- Gap-Fill:** 13. absence 14. President Donald Trump 15. funding 16. two 17. lawsuit 18. witnesses



CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL6

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2. attorney
3. closing remarks
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