



William Savitt: Sam Altman's Lawyer Who Defeated Elon Musk

Description

When Sam Altman required legal assistance against Elon Musk, he chose William Savitt, a lawyer known for winning against Musk in the past. Savitt, who has been a key figure in corporate litigation for years, represented Twitter in a lawsuit against Musk in 2022. In that case, Musk was compelled to complete his purchase of the platform. Currently, Savitt is leading Altman and OpenAI's legal team in a major trial in Oakland.

Musk claims that Altman deceived him by turning OpenAI into a profit-driven company, which Musk had initially supported as a nonprofit. Savitt's task is to convince the jury that Musk's true intention is to undermine OpenAI, to benefit his own AI venture, xAI. Despite being a top lawyer who has worked with high-profile clients, Savitt has remained relatively low-profile until now, with this trial placing him in the spotlight.

Savitt is noted for his calm and courteous manner, a stark contrast to his early life as a cab driver and musician. He typically avoids public disputes but thrives in courtroom battles. During cross-examination, he challenged Musk on his lack of attention to important documents, demonstrating his approach to legal challenges.

The ongoing trial has renewed tensions between Musk and Savitt, as each has a history of contentious interactions. Altman has also worked with Savitt's firm on various confidential matters, reflecting a complex web of professional relationships. As the trial continues, its outcome remains uncertain.

Vocabulary List:

1. **litigation** //,lɪtɪ'geɪʃən// (noun): legal action taken in a court of law
2. **compelled** //kəm'pɛld// (verb): forced to do something against one's wishes
3. **deceived** //dɪ'sɪvd// (verb): made someone believe something that was untrue
4. **undermine** //,ʌndə'maɪn// (verb): weaken or damage someone's position or plans
5. **venture** //ˈvɛntʃə// (noun): a new business or risky project
6. **contentious** //kən'tɛnʃəs// (adjective): likely to cause disagreement or argument

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. Who did Sam Altman choose for legal assistance against Elon Musk?
Option: William Savitt
Option: John Doe
Option: Jane Smith
Option: Michael Johnson
2. In what year did Savitt represent Twitter against Musk?
Option: 2020
Option: 2021
Option: 2022
Option: 2023
3. What company has Musk accused Altman of turning into a profit-driven organization?
Option: OpenAI
Option: Twitter
Option: xAI
Option: Tesla
4. What is Savitt's notable characteristic when arguing cases in court?
Option: Aggressive and loud
Option: Calm and courteous
Option: Indifferent and passive
Option: Disruptive and confrontational
5. Which city is the trial involving Altman and Savitt being held in?
Option: San Francisco
Option: New York
Option: Oakland
Option: Los Angeles
6. What is the true intention Musk claims to have regarding OpenAI?
Option: To support its growth
Option: To create a competitor
Option: To undermine it
Option: To take over its management



True-False

7. William Savitt has a history of defending Musk in legal battles.
8. Sam Altman worked with Savitt's firm on various confidential matters.
9. Savitt used to be a professional musician before becoming a lawyer.
10. The trial is focused on a lawsuit from 2015.
11. Musk claims that Altman's actions have been beneficial to xAI.
12. The outcome of the ongoing trial is currently uncertain.

Gap-Fill

13. Savitt represented Twitter in a lawsuit against Musk in _____ 2022.
14. Musk initially supported OpenAI as a _____ organization.
15. The ongoing trial has renewed _____ between Musk and Savitt.
16. Savitt has remained relatively _____ until the current trial.
17. Savitt's task is to convince the jury of Musk's true _____ regarding OpenAI.
18. During cross-examination, Savitt challenged Musk on his lack of _____ to important documents.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. William Savitt 2. 2022 3. OpenAI 4. Calm and courteous 5. Oakland 6. To undermine it

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

Gap-Fill: 13. October 14. nonprofit 15. tensions 16. low-profile 17. intention 18. attention

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL4



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