

REPORTER A Publication of Benesch's AI Commission

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Judge allows copyright case against



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News of Al-generated "actress" Tilly Norwood's potential signing with a talent agency has ignited debate among actors and other creative artists, including Emily Blunt, Whoopi Goldberg and Natasha Lyonne, who worry that Al-generated performers could displace human talent. SAG-AFTRA criticized Norwood as an AI creation built on the work of real actors, raising concerns about intellectual property, privacy and the sustainability of creative careers. The rise of digital avatars like Hatsune Miku and platforms like OpenAl's Sora, which enables users to generate and share Al videos using copyrighted material, further intensifies these concerns. Creative Artists Agency and top YouTube creator MrBeast have expressed concerns about fair compensation and the erosion of creators' livelihoods, especially as AI tools become more integrated into platforms like YouTube. The rapid evolution of AI in entertainment underscores a critical tension between innovation and the protection of human creativity.

In the courtroom, Elon Musk intensified his legal battle against OpenAI, accusing the company of obstructing efforts to depose Mira Murati, a central figure in its Microsoft partnership and the controversial removal of Sam Altman in 2023. Musk claims Murati possesses vital information for his lawsuit, which alleges OpenAI strayed from its nonprofit roots and misled investors, including himself. Despite OpenAl's objections citing missed deadlines, the court allowed the deposition to proceed. In a separate case, Musk's startup xAl sued OpenAl for allegedly misappropriating trade secrets, though OpenAI argues the claims are vague and intended to suppress competition. Meanwhile, a federal judge ruled that authors can pursue copyright infringement claims against OpenAI, citing plausible evidence that ChatGPT outputs closely resemble protected literary elements.

California recently enacted landmark AI regulations that underscore its commitment to transparency, safety and consumer protection in AI technologies: AB 853 updated the California AI Transparency Act by postponing the deadline for Al-generated content disclosures and extending disclosure requirements to major online platforms, GenAl hosting services and device manufacturers. SB 243, known as the Companion Chatbot law, requires operators to clearly disclose when children are interacting with Al. SB 53, the first comprehensive Al safety and transparency law in the U.S., requires large AI developers to publicly report their security measures, particularly those addressing catastrophic risks such as cyberattacks and biological threats, and to implement them under oversight from the Office of Emergency Services. These laws reflect California's proactive approach to regulating Al, emphasizing accountability, formalizing best practices and safeguarding users, especially minors.

These and other stories appear below.

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A / in Business

BMS, Takeda and Astex join Al training consortium

The Al Structural Biology (AISB) Network, a consortium dedicated to leveraging AI to expedite drug discovery and development, is developing OpenFold3, an Al model that predicts proteinligand interactions. The consortium members—in collaboration with the AlQuraishi Lab at Columbia University—will contribute thousands of validated protein-small molecule structures, creating a comprehensive and diverse dataset to improve the model's predictive accuracy. Data sharing is managed through a federated, secure computing platform developed by Apheris, ensuring privacy and security while enabling collaborative Al model training. This initiative aims to accelerate the development of new therapies and enhance patient outcomes by leveraging Al-driven analysis of large-scale biological data, while also addressing data security and privacy concerns through its federated approach.

Source: PM Live

Al-generated actor sparks concern in Hollywood

Tilly Norwood's impending signing with a talent agency has sparked concern among actors and filmmakers—including Emily Blunt, Whoopi Goldberg, and Natasha Lyonne—who fear Al could replace human performers. SAG-AFTRA criticized Norwood as a product of Al trained on the work of professional actors, raising concerns about intellectual property, privacy and the future of creative professions. Other digital avatars have performed at major events like Coachella and collaborated with brands, illustrating how Al is increasingly used to create music and entertainment experiences.

Source: LA Times

Universal and Warner Music close on Al licensing deals

The licensing deals look to create a structured framework for compensating music rights holders when their catalogs are used to train Al models or generate new music. This marks a shift from previous adversarial approaches, where Al developers frequently used copyrighted music without permission, resulting in lawsuits. The collaborative model aims to safeguard human artistry, generate new revenue streams, and establish a global standard for how Al companies compensate creators. The agreements are expected to resolve ongoing legal disputes and establish the music industry's first major framework for monetizing Al-generated content, addressing key risks such as IP infringement and data security in the entertainment sector.

Source: WRAL News

Is Al really ready for healthcare?

A recent study by Microsoft Research found that leading Al systems are achieving high scores on medical exams by exploiting test design loopholes and using test-taking strategies, rather than by demonstrating genuine medical understanding. This raises significant concerns for the healthcare and life sciences sector, as these Al models may not possess the real-world medical competence their scores suggest. The findings also highlight risks for patient care, as reliance on such Al tools could lead to misinformed diagnoses or treatment recommendations. The study underscores the need for more robust evaluation methods regarding the deployment of AI in clinical settings, including issues of trust, safety and regulatory oversight.

Source: Forbes



\overline{AI} in Business

MrBeast raises alarm over Al's impact on content creators

Top YouTube creator MrBeast has expressed concern about the impact of Al-generated videos on the livelihoods of millions of content creators. His comments come as OpenAl launches Sora 2—an advanced audio and video generator—and a mobile app that enables users to create and share Al-generated videos in a TikTok-style feed. YouTube itself is integrating Al tools, such as Veo for animating photos and applying styles, and Al-powered features for creating clips and highlights. These developments highlight both the opportunities and risks of Al in the entertainment and digital media space, including potential threats to creator income, intellectual property and data privacy.

Source: TechCrunch

Hollywood talent agency raises concerns over OpenAl's Sora

Creative Artists Agency warns that Sora exposes artists to significant risks—particularly regarding compensation and credit for creative work—as the app allows users to create and share short Al videos spun from copyrighted content on social media-like streams. OpenAl plans to introduce controls for content rights owners to manage how their characters are used in Sora and intends to share revenue with those who permit such use.

Source: Reuters

Al's growing role in social media leads to questions of influence, integrity and risk

A 2025 report highlights that 96% of social media professionals now use AI tools, with 72.5% relying on them daily for content generation and management. The Al-in-social-media market is projected to triple by 2030, further embedding algorithmic influence in online discourse. However, new research from Stanford University warns that optimizing large language models for competitive success on social platforms—such as maximizing engagement or ad clicks—can lead these models to prioritize persuasion over honesty, resulting in misinformation and potentially inflammatory content. This structural risk raises concerns about the integrity of Al-driven audience analysis and recommendation systems in the sports, entertainment and digital media sectors, as well as the associated risks of IP infringement, privacy and data security.

Source: Decrypt

Poison Pill: Disrupting unlicensed Al music training to empower independent artists

Poison Pill, a U.K.-based startup, launched technology to help music companies and independent artists combat unlicensed Al training by "poisoning" their own music. The service is designed to disrupt Al companies that scrape music without permission to create Al-generated playlists and music services, which are increasingly replacing traditional revenue streams, such as sync licensing. Poison Pill's goal is to protect 20% of independent music and encourage Al firms to negotiate fair licensing terms for training data.

Source: Musically





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Al Litigation & Regulation

LITIGATION

Al healthcare firm accuses partner of withholding critical data

BelleTorus filed a lawsuit against Torus Actions and its CEO, Nguyen Tien Dung, alleging breach of contract and deceptive practices. The dispute centers on a partnership to develop AI tools for skin health, where Torus Actions was to provide IP and scientific support. BelleTorus claims Torus Actions obstructed a planned data migration by refusing access to servers and credentials, effectively locking BelleTorus out of its own data. The lawsuit further points to a conflict of interest, as Dung held leadership roles in both companies during the dispute.

Source: Law 360 (sub. req.)

OpenAl seeks dismissal of xAl lawsuit over trade secrets

OpenAl filed a motion to dismiss a lawsuit brought by Elon Musk's Al startup, xAl, accusing OpenAl of misappropriating trade secrets. The legal dispute centers on claims that former xAI employees took confidential information with them when they joined OpenAl. OpenAl argues that xAl's allegations are vague and unsupported, asserting that the lawsuit is an attempt to stifle competition rather than protect legitimate intellectual property. OpenAl maintains that it did not use any proprietary xAI data and that the lawsuit lacks the specificity required to proceed.

Source: Reuters

Musk pushes for Murati deposition in **OpenAl lawsuit**

Elon Musk accuses OpenAl of obstructing efforts to depose Mira Murati, a key figure in its partnership with Microsoft and Sam Altman's 2023 ouster. Despite repeated attempts to serve her with a subpoena, Musk claims security personnel at both her workplace and residence blocked access. Musk argues Murati holds crucial knowledge relevant to his lawsuit, which alleges OpenAl abandoned its nonprofit mission and misled investors, including Musk, who contributed \$45 million. OpenAl counters that Musk delayed the deposition and missed the discovery deadline. The court disagreed, allowing the motion to proceed. OpenAl and Microsoft deny any wrongdoing, asserting Microsoft joined years after Musk's alleged agreement.

Source: Law 360 (sub. req.)

Lawsuit challenges Apple's Al training practices

Two neuroscientists have filed a class action lawsuit against Apple in the Northern District of California, alleging unauthorized use of their copyrighted books to train its Al model, Apple Intelligence. The suit claims Apple sourced these works from Books3, a dataset described as a "shadow library" containing pirated content. The plaintiffs argue Apple exceeded its licensing rights and used high-quality copyrighted material to enhance its AI, thereby undermining the market for their books. The neuroscientists also criticize Apple's vague use of the term "publicly available" to justify its data collection practices, including scraping content via Applebot for nearly a decade.

Source: Law 360 (sub. req.)



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Texas court keeps antitrust case against Apple, OpenAl in Fort Worth

Texas federal judge Mark Pittman declined to transfer X Corp and xAI's antitrust lawsuit against Apple and OpenAI, keeping the case in Fort Worth despite weak local ties. The suit challenges Apple's integration of ChatGPT into iOS, alleging it stifles competition in Al development. The court noted neither defendant has a significant presence in Fort Worth but emphasized the plaintiffs' venue choice and a recent Fifth Circuit ruling as reasons to retain jurisdiction. Judge Pittman encouraged the companies to consider relocating their headquarters to Fort Worth, praising the city's economic growth and legal activity.

Source: Law 360 (sub. req.)

Unions challenge government Al surveillance over free speech

Three major labor unions filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government, alleging a surveillance program unlawfully targets online speech, particularly from noncitizens. The program allegedly uses Al tools to monitor social media for "disfavored viewpoints," and retaliates through immigration enforcement. The unions argue this surveillance violates First Amendment rights and creates a chilling effect, with many members altering their online behavior out of fear. The initiative-known as "catch and revoke"—reportedly began under the Trump administration and includes efforts to publicly intimidate dissenters. Legal advocates say the program consolidates authoritarian power by suppressing dissent, while government officials defend it as necessary for national security.

Source: Law 360 (sub. req.)

Songwriters challenge Al music firm over copyright violations

A group of independent songwriters suing Udio Al allege the company trained its music-generating models using copyrighted songs and lyrics without permission or compensation. The lawsuit accuses Udio of direct and vicarious copyright infringement, unauthorized removal of copyright data, and violations of Illinois state laws, including biometric privacy regulations. The plaintiffs claim Udio bypassed licensing requirements by scraping lyrics from online databases and stream-ripped recordings from platforms like YouTube. The songwriters also argue that Udio's practices harm independent artists by flooding the market with Al-generated music derived from unauthorized content, thus emphasizing the broader impact on small creators and distinguishing this suit from previous actions led by major labels.

Source: Law 360 (sub. req.)

Al patent battle reaches Supreme Court

Recentive Analytics is urging the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse a ruling that invalidated its machine-learning patents, warning that it could jeopardize American leadership in Al. The Federal Circuit deemed the patents—used for optimizing TV schedules—too abstract under the precedent set by the 2014 Alice v. CLS Bank decision. Recentive argues this interpretation misrepresents machine learning's complexity and stifles innovation by excluding Al-enabled applications unless they improve core algorithms. The company stresses that adapting Al for novel use cases is itself innovative and deserving of protection, citing national policy prioritizing Al development and recent USPTO guidance supporting broader eligibility.

Source: Law 360 (sub. req.)



\overline{AI} Litigation & Regulation

Judge allows copyright case against OpenAl to proceed

A federal judge ruled that prominent authors can pursue a copyright infringement claim against OpenAI, asserting that ChatGPT outputs may be substantially similar to their original works. The decision stems from a consolidated lawsuit involving 10 cases accusing OpenAI and Microsoft of using copyrighted material to train AI models. The court held the complaint plausibly alleges direct copying, with examples showing ChatGPT-generated summaries and sequel outlines closely mirroring protected elements such as plot, setting and characters. Although the ruling doesn't address whether the outputs qualify as fair use, it affirms that a jury could reasonably find infringement.

Source: Law 360 (sub. req.)

REGULATION

EU should clear regulatory path for Al investment

The president of global affairs and chief legal officer for Google and Alphabet is urging European regulators to streamline the rollout of the EU AI Act, which is slated to carry into 2027. The AI Act—entered into force in August 2024—requires AI providers to reveal the content used to train their models and for member states to also have a national authority in place to enforce provisions of the act. However, the AI Act has also raised concerns among legal professionals, specifically regarding EU regulators' ability to influence global standards and policies, and incentivize international companies to change their global practices.

Source: Law 360 (sub. req.)

California enacts Al safety transparency law

California's SB 53 is the first comprehensive Al safety and transparency law in the U.S. targeting large Al developers. The law requires these companies to publicly disclose their safety and security practices, specifically addressing how they mitigate catastrophic risks such as cyberattacks on critical infrastructure and misuse of Al for biological threats. Companies must also implement safety measures with oversight from the Office of Emergency Services to ensure compliance. The legislation is designed to formalize existing industry practices and promote accountability, rather than imposing new burdens.

Source: Auto GPT

California expands Al transparency laws with AB853 and SB243

On October 13, 2025, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB853, updating the California Al Transparency Act by extending the compliance deadline for Al-generated content disclosures to August 2, 2026. The law expands obligations to large online platforms, GenAl system-hosting platforms, and capture device manufacturers. Additionally, SB243, the Companion Chatbot law, was enacted to protect children by requiring operators to clearly disclose when children are interacting with Al rather than humans. These developments reflect California's ongoing efforts to regulate AI technologies, with implications for legal tech providers and companies operating Al-driven platforms, particularly regarding transparency and consumer protection requirements.

Source: Mayer Brown



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U.K. tribunal revives Clearview Al data fine

A London tribunal ruled Clearview Al's data practices fall under U.K. jurisdiction, reviving a £7.5 million fine issued by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The Upper Tribunal found that Clearview's scraping of U.K. citizens' images from social media constitutes behavior monitoring, making it subject to U.K. data protection laws. The tribunal criticized a lower court's 2023 decision for incorrectly dismissing the ICO's authority and lacking evidence to support claims that Clearview's clients were solely foreign law enforcement. The case now returns to the lower tribunal for reconsideration. Clearview, which no longer operates in the U.K., disputes the ruling and plans to appeal. The ICO maintains that the decision reinforces its ability to protect U.K. residents' data rights, regardless of a company's location.

Source: Law 360 (sub. req.)

Al LEAD Act: Expanding accountability, protections in Al systems

The proposed AI LEAD Act introduces a broad definition of "Artificial Intelligence Systems" to encompass any software, tool or application using algorithms or machine learning to make or assist in decisions, whether stand-alone or integrated into larger systems. The bill establishes a federal cause of action for individuals, state attorneys general and the U.S. Attorney General, with a fouryear statute of limitations and special protections for minors.

Source: Mondag

Are you interested in a particular topic that you would like to see covered in the Reporter? If so, please let us know.



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RECENT EVENTS

Kris Chandler, Chair of Benesch's Al Commission, spoke and attended the Transportation Marketing & Sales Association Executive Summit in Chicago, Illinois, on October 22-23, 2025. During Kris' interactive session, attendees discovered how to effectively leverage AI to enhance their B2B marketing strategies while gaining insight into the current and future impact of AI on the industry.





Benesch Partners Tara Raghavan, Charanjit Brahma and Michael Weinstein attended the 39th Annual Pharmaceutical/Chemical Patent Practice Update. The protection of intellectual property (IP), including patents, trade secrets, trademarks and copyrights, is essential to the progress and promotion of useful arts. The New Jersey Intellectual Property Law Association (NJIPLA) is devoted to educating its members and the public about IP and its protection under the law. NJIPLA includes hundreds of practicing IP attorneys, patent agents, law students and interested individuals primarily from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Connecticut.



Tara Raghavan Partner



Charanjit Brahma Partner



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