

FILED
San Francisco County Superior Court

AUG 04 2026

CLERK OF THE COURT

BY: *Edmond J. Lee*
Deputy Clerk

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
DEPARTMENT 304

COORDINATION PROCEEDING
SPECIAL TITLE [RULE 3.550]

Case No. CJC-25-005431

JUDICIAL COUNCIL COORDINATION
PROCEEDING NO. 5431

CHATGPT PRODUCT LIABILITY CASES

ORDER RE PLAINTIFFS' LEADERSHIP
STRUCTURE

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:

All Cases.

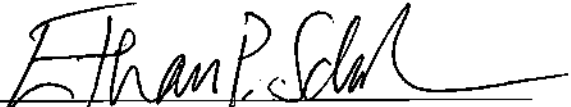
On July 24, 2026, the Court held an initial case management conference in this JCCP, which currently consists of nineteen coordinated actions, with additional filed cases that are the subject of pending or anticipated add-on petitions. At the conference, the Court heard argument on competing motions to be appointed lead counsel filed by two different "slates" or groups of Plaintiffs' counsel. The Court raised the question whether it would be possible for counsel to combine their efforts. In response, Plaintiffs' counsel have filed a joint statement in which they represent that they have reached agreement on a joint leadership structure, which is set forth in an accompanying Case Management Order No. 1. That order contemplates the following leadership structure: four Co-Lead Counsel (Patrick Ntchobo of Edelson PC, Lesley E. Weaver of Stranch, Jennings & Garvey PLLC, Matthew P. Bergman of the Social Media Victims Law Center, and Rachel Lanier of The Lanier Law Firm P.C.); C. Brooks Cutter of Cutter

1 Law P.C. as Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel; and a six-member Plaintiffs' Steering Committee composed of
2 Matthew J. Platkin of Platkin LLP, Benjamin S. Schenk of The Schenk Law Firm, LLP, Radu A. Letutiu
3 of McKool Smith, Meetali Jain of the Tech Justice Law Project, Champ Lyons III of Lyons Irby, LLC,
4 and a sixth member to be designated at a later date by Co-Lead Counsel, subject to the Court's approval.

5 The Court is concurrently entering proposed Case Management Order No. 1, with one
6 modification requested by pro se Plaintiff Paul A. Hebert. It commends Plaintiffs' counsel for conferring
7 in good faith and agreeing to work together on these complex cases. At the same time, the Court is
8 concerned that the agreed leadership structure, particularly the designation of four Co-Lead Counsel and
9 of a six-member Steering Committee, may prove to be cumbersome or inefficient. It also acknowledges
10 OpenAI's understandable and reasonable desire to be able to rely on the statements made by one attorney
11 who has full authority to speak on behalf of all Plaintiffs' counsel, and its stated concern that appointing
12 multiple lead counsel or a steering committee may create unnecessary uncertainty, friction, and delay.
13 The central purpose of a leadership structure is to streamline the litigation. The Court cautions Plaintiffs'
14 counsel that it expects counsel to work together collaboratively and without undue disagreement or delay,
15 and to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort and expense. The Court reserves the right to revisit Case
16 Management Order No. 1 and to modify or restructure Plaintiffs' leadership structure, should the Court
17 find it necessary.

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19 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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21 Dated: August 4, 2026

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Ethan P. Schulman
Judge of the Superior Court

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE

(CCP 1010.6, and CRC 2.251)

I, Edward Santos, a Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court of the County of San Francisco, certify that I am not a party to the within action.

On August 4, 2026, I electronically served:

ORDER RE PLAINTIFFS' LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

via File & ServeXpress on the recipients designated on the Transaction Receipt located on the File & ServeXpress website.

Date: *AUG 04 2026*

Brandon E. Riley, Court Executive Officer

By: *Edward Santos*

Edward Santos, Deputy Clerk