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Transcript of Russ Altman, Ph.D., M.D.

Date: February 27, 2026
Case: Concord Music Group -v- Anthropic

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

CONCORD MUSIC GROUP, INC., ET AL., Plaintiffs, v. ANTHROPIC PBC, Defendant.	Case Number 5:24-cv-03811-EKL SVK

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VIDEOCONFERENCED and VIDEO-RECORDED
DEPOSITION of
RUSS ALTMAN, Ph.D., M.D.
Palo Alto, California 94306
Friday, February 27, 2026

Reported Stenographically by:
MARY J. GOFF
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WA CSR No. 21030779
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VIDEOCONFERENCED and VIDEO-RECORDED DEPOSITION of RUSS ALTMAN, Ph.D., M.D., Volume I, taken on behalf of Plaintiff Music Publishers, Oppenheim + Zebrak, LLP, at WilmerHale, 2600 El Camino Real, Suite 400, Palo Alto, California 94306, beginning at 9:05 a.m. and ending at 6:37 p.m., on Friday, February 27, 2026, before MARY J. GOFF, California Certified Shorthand Reporter No. 13427 and WA CSR No. 21030779.

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understanding of science. And so that's a three-year project that we have been funded on. It's not just. It's me, plus several colleagues.

So research. The kind of leadership in understanding AI, and then the -- the conferences, workshop participation.

Q Okay. Anything else?

A Under my senior fellow rubric, that's most of it. I may be forgetting something. That captures a lot of the flavor of what I do.

Q Under your associate director rubric, what are your responsibilities?

A I have been designated -- we have recently done -- done a rejigger, and my -- and the rejigger, my -- which has been in place for several months, I am the associate director for faculty affairs, so I manage the paperwork associated with create -- appointing people to be senior fellows and their reappointments. So it's very much an administrative position.

Q Okay. So besides managing the paperwork associated with appointing and reappointing senior fellows, do you have any other responsibilities as an associate director?

A So there is an associate -- an associate

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director and director -- a meeting on a regular basis, and that's where we assess the health of the whole enterprise.

And that -- we're kind of putting aside our specific assignments -- like for me, faculty affairs -- and act -- trying to act as leaders and shepherds of the effort.

Are we doing the things we need to be doing? Do we need to re -- reorient or redesign any of our activities? Are our research, are our communication activities all appropriate for our mission? So that's the other thing we do.

Q Have you ever worked in the music industry?

A No.

Q Have you ever worked for an AI company?

A I think you -- I might need you to define what an "AI company" is in 2026.

Q A company that develops a generative AI model for commercial use.

A I am an advisor to one company that made -- could qualify. So I'm a paid scientific advisor to one company that might be in that space.

Q What company is that?

A It's called Weave. Weave.

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Q What is Weave?

A Weave is a company that prepares -- that helps companies prepare documentation for submission to the FDA.

Q What products or services does Weave offer?

A So let me say that I have been a -- I have been consulting with them for about three or four months, so I'm still in the -- learning about the company.

But I know that they're building models that they use to go over the data that's been collected in support of an FDA submission and then putting it into the formats and languages and sections that are required by the FDA with the claim to their customers that they will do a good job and they will do it faster and at least as well as their -- whatever the previous methods had been.

Q Does Weave have any relationship with Anthropic?

A I do not know.

Q Do you know who owns Weave?

A No.

Q What is the nature of your relationship with Weave?

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A They learned about my work on FDA LLMs. I think I have made reference to it. But if not, I could tell you more about it. We -- we do some work -- yes, when I was talking about Qwen and LLaMA.

We do work in this area, and we gave a presentation at an FDA-oriented meeting that we have attended. And they approached me and asked if I would be interested in being an advisor to them based on that experience.

Q And what do you advise them on?

A I advise them on the -- the technical aspects of creating documents using LLMs, the things to be careful about, the things that are well under control in support of their company's, you know, business -- business mission.

Q Does Weave make use of Claude in any way?

A I don't know yet.

Q Have you ever received any research funding from an AI company?

A HAI, which as I told you I'm a member of, has received allocations of credits. That's usually the way these grants go. Instead of money, they say: You can use our -- our tools.

I know that we have had Google credits at

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those -- those studies to give me a sampling of things that were being done with LLMs beyond my world, beyond -- beyond things that I'm doing.

And so this required me to go out and rely on these second- or third-party reports that are kind of case studies of -- of these applications.

And I was looking: Did they have benefits? Are there potential risks? Is this a good example that's consistent with my remit and charge as an expert witness?

Q (BY ATTORNEY HOLTZBLATT) And how did you determine that the case studies you viewed were credible?

A So -- so first of all --

ATTORNEY MILLER: Object to form.

Go ahead.

A -- could you repeat the question?

Q (BY ATTORNEY HOLTZBLATT) Yes.

How did you determine that the case studies you reviewed were credible?

ATTORNEY MILLER: Object to form.

A So as you look at a case study -- I read them. I looked at -- sometimes many of them had some sort of quantitative output, a certain percent change or something like that. Sometimes you can

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get a sense for how big the study was. Not always.

And so I look at that, and I say: Is that credible? Is that something that's consistent with what I would believe might be true? I had to put a big dose of skepticism in because these are on the Anthropic website.

On the other hand, I considered to myself that Anthropic would be disincentivized to put blatant lies on its website because it could be called out by competitors or others.

And so I said: Okay, these are probably best-effort reports. Certainly spun positively, but let me see what they tell me and let me see if there's a subset of them that I can use in my report as examples of things that I wasn't able to find through the published literature at least at the level of searching that I did.

So that's -- that's how that happened, and that's how I evaluated them.

Q (BY ATTORNEY HOLTZBLATT) Would you characterize some of these case studies as in the general field of science?

ATTORNEY MILLER: Object to form.

A So I do think that many of the studies are in science. That was one of my bars, scientific

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uses of AI.

So in the study you'll find whales in Australia, gorillas in Rwanda. You'll find lead in Lake Tahoe.

This is not my area of expertise, except I am a scientist and I understand the scientific premise that is underlying those studies, especially the first two, the gorillas and the -- and the whales.

And so I decided: Okay, it's a calculation; it's a judgment, but okay, this is not my area, but it's science that I kind of understand as a professional scientist. And I think I can use it as an evocative example that I'm unable to find in my own field or that shows the breadth of applications, their benefits, and then the degree to which they have identified risks.

Q In discussing education, you discussed your experience in the classroom?

A Yes.

Q Do you have any other bases for your expertise on the subject of an application -- or the use of LLMs in the educational setting?

A Yeah.

ATTORNEY MILLER: Object to form.

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A Could you repeat the question?

Q (BY ATTORNEY HOLTZBLATT) Yes.

Are there any other bases for your opinions about education in LLMs?

A Yes.

ATTORNEY MILLER: Object to form.

A Yes, there are a few. One is that in addition to teaching my own classes, as I mentioned in the testimony in the deposition earlier, I was director of a training program for 18 years in which I was basically charged with making sure that a bunch of Ph.D. and master students got high-quality training, you know, consistent with getting hired in the field.

And so there was elements of curricular design that I became very good at, as you might imagine, supervising for 18 years, a training program and also methods for evaluation of the students. We have things called qualifying exams. Of course they have their dissertation.

But we have a fair amount of latitude in how we choose to run those different evaluations, and I was the final decision-maker there.

So separate from individual classes, I was evaluating cohorts of students over 18 years from

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curriculum and evaluation.
In addition, I am the chair of the provost at Stanford's task force on AI, advising her on the need for policies at Stanford on the use of AI in administration, education, and research. Education being the relevant one to your question.
That committee includes the Dean of the Graduate School of Education, Dan Schwartz, who is a friend. We have -- we spar by email quite a bit. And we spar a little bit even at the meetings. He is a great voice of authority about educational issues, and so those meetings have led to me having a fair amount of exposure to some of those issues. Not at an expert level, but at a really useful level.
So I think all of that combines with my on-the-ground teaching. This year I will give out 400 grades in four classes, so there's a lot of that. And that's been true for several -- many -- many years.
So the volume of teaching that I do, plus those other things, makes me feel like I'm a practitioner, education expert, not so much a theory of education.
Although, you have to know -- you have to

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have a theory when you design a class. You have to have a theory when you design a curriculum.
Q (BY ATTORNEY HOLTZBLATT) Do you have experience -- or to what extent do you have experience with teaching classes where LLMs are allowed to be used by students?
ATTORNEY MILLER: Object to foraminal.
A In my bioengineering ethics class, my coinstructor and I looked at each other a few years ago and said: Well, we can be part of the fast -- past or part of the future.
And we decided that part of the future meant allowing LLMs. So we do allow them. The students -- we -- we have -- I will not go into the details, but we have a set of rules about how you can use them, that you have to disclose them. In some cases, you have to provide to us the output. Disclosure is absolutely mandatory.
And we have been experimenting with how that works in terms of the quality of the essays. One of the things we did before Stanford had a sandbox that gave access to LLMs to everybody is we actually gave our assignment to an LLM, got the result, and posted it on the website for the class so that students who didn't have an access to an LLM

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could still have at least a starter essay that was written by an LLM.
We did warn the students that we had read these, and the quality was variable. In some cases it was a pretty good essay; in some cases -- and we labeled it "not such a great essay."
But we wanted to level the playing field. I'm very happy that since then it's become absolutely level because we have this playground that gives all the students access so that the more privileged students don't pay for a fancy license, whereas the less privileged, less economically -- ones who have economic issues wouldn't have a disadvantage.
Q (BY ATTORNEY HOLTZBLATT) Could you look at Exhibit 291, which is your opening report?
A Yes.
Q And I want to point you to paragraph 119.
A Yes.
Q Do you recall that Plaintiffs' counsel asked you about this paragraph?
A Yes.
Q Do you consider this to be a macroeconomic opinion?
A Definitely not. This is a technical

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discussion of technical barriers to the business. And I'm sorry if I didn't make that clear. So particularly my InsightRX relationship is entirely technical and not about the economics of the business.
Q And you have offered opinions in your reports about other business applications -- do you -- throughout the reports.
Do you consider those to be macroeconomic opinions?
A No. I would --
ATTORNEY MILLER: Object to form.
Go ahead.
A -- in the other opinions that I have offered, I do not consider them and would not give macroeconomic advice or opinion. And I'm always approaching it from technology and my technological and scientific expertise.
Q (BY ATTORNEY HOLTZBLATT) Okay. Do you recall testifying earlier that you were not offering an opinion on the safety of AI in this case?
A I don't recall that. It's possible I said it.
Q Or that you were not offering an opinion on whether Claude or Anthropic is -- is safe?