UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re OpenAI, Inc. Copyright Infringement Litigation This Document Relates to: *Denial et al. v. OpenAI Inc. et al.*, No. 1:25-cv-06286-SHS-OTW	Case No. 1:25-md-3143-SHS-OTW **JOINT STIPULATION AND ~~[PROPOSED]~~ ORDER STAYING *DENIAL* ACTION**

Plaintiffs Catherine Denial, Ian McDowell, and Steven Schwartz ("Plaintiffs") and Defendants OpenAI, Inc. and Microsoft Corporation ("Defendants") (collectively, the "Parties"), hereby stipulate and agree as follows:

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2025, plaintiffs in the action entitled *Tremblay et al v. OpenAI, Inc. et al.*, 1:25-cv-03482-SHS-OTW ("Tremblay Action") then-pending in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California moved for leave to file a Proposed Second Amended Complaint that would have added Microsoft as a Defendant and asserted the following claims ("Motion for Leave to Amend"): (1) Direct Copyright Infringement against all Defendants; (2) Vicarious Copyright Infringement against Microsoft only; (3) Violation of the UCL (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq.) against all Defendants; (4) Violation of the California Comprehensive Computer Data Access and Fraud Act (CDAFA) against OpenAI; (5) Violation of the DMCA anti-circumvention provision (17 U.S.C. § 1201) against all Defendants; (6) Violation of the DMCA (17 U.S.C. § 1201(b)(1)) – removal of copyright management information against all Defendants; (7) Conversion against OpenAI; (8) Unjust Enrichment / Quasi-Contract against all Defendants; (9) Breach of Contract as a Third-Party Beneficiary against all Defendants; (10) Violation of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (18 U.S.C. § 1030)

against all Defendants; (11) Larceny / Receipt of Stolen Property (Cal. Penal Code § 496(a), (c)) against all Defendants; and (12) Conspiracy to Restrain Trade (15 U.S.C. § 1) against all Defendants;

WHEREAS, the Motion for Leave to Amend was fully briefed as of March 25, 2025, and an oral argument on the motion was scheduled for April 17, 2025;

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2025, the United States Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation ordered various actions brought against Defendants OpenAI, Inc. and Microsoft Corporation be centralized and transferred to the Southern District of New York. *In re OpenAI, Inc., Copyright Infringement Litigation*, No. 1:25-md-03143-SHS-OTW (the "MDL"); *see also id.* ECF 1 at 5, Schedule A (list of the "MDL Actions"); *Authors Guild et al v. OpenAI Inc. et al.*, 1:23-cv-08292-SHS-OTW ("*Authors Guild* Action"), *Alter et al v. OpenAI Inc. et al.*, 1:23-cv-10211-SHS-OTW ("*Alter* Action"), Tremblay Action;[1]

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2025, the Court ordered the plaintiffs in the MDL Actions to file a Consolidated Class Complaint excluding any new claims, models, products, or parties that were not already encompassed by the operative complaints in the *Authors Guild*, *Alter*, or *Tremblay* Actions and denied the Motion for Leave to Amend;

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2025, Plaintiffs filed an action captioned *Catherine Denial et al. v. OpenAI Inc. et al.*, No. 3:25-cv-05495, in the Northern District of California (the "*Denial* Action") to assert the claims they sought to add in the Motion for Leave to Amend;

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2025, pursuant to a Conditional Transfer Order from the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, the *Denial* Action was transferred to the Southern District of

[1] The *Authors Guild*, *Alter*, and *Tremblay* Actions are collectively referred to herein as the "Consolidated Class Action."

New York for pretrial proceedings as part of the MDL;

WHEREAS, the complaint in the *Denial* Action asserts different claims than those asserted in the operative complaints in the MDL Actions, including claims (1) under California's Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 et seq; (2) under California's Computer Data Access and Fraud Act (CDAFA), Cal. Pen. Code § 502; (3) for conversion; (4) for unjust enrichment; (5) for breach of contract; (6) under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1030; (7) for larceny/receipt of stolen property; and (8) under the Sherman Act for Conspiracy to Restrain Trade, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1 & 3;

WHEREAS, discovery and motion practice related to these claims will be significant and would disturb and extend the Joint Case Schedule entered by the Court (ECF 238);

WHEREAS, to avoid burdening the Parties and the Court with additional motion practice and discovery on the different claims asserted in *Denial*, the Parties have conferred and agree that the *Denial* Action be stayed during the pendency of the MDL;

WHEREAS, staying the *Denial* Action will conserve judicial and the litigants' resources by (1) avoiding the time and expense incurred by additional motion practice and discovery directed at the different claims, and (2) allowing the existing case schedule to be maintained.

NOW WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT, subject to the Court's approval, the *Denial* Action is stayed during the pendency of the MDL.

Dated: September 8, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH SAVERI LAW FIRM LLP

By: */s/ Joseph R. Saveri*
Joseph R. Saveri
601 California Street, Suite 1505
San Francisco, CA 94108
Telephone: (415) 500-6800
Facsimile: (415) 395-9940
Email: jsaveri@saverilawfirm.com
Attorney for Plaintiffs

Dated: September 8, 2025

/s/ Spencer McManus
KEKER, VAN NEST & PETERS LLP
Robert A. Van Nest (*pro hac vice*)
rvannest@keker.com
R. James Slaughter (*pro hac vice*)
rslaughter@keker.com
Paven Malhotra
pmalhotra@keker.com
Michelle S. Ybarra (*pro hac vice*)
mybarra@keker.com
Spencer McManus (*pro hac vice*)*
smcmanus@keker.com
633 Battery St.
San Francisco, CA 94111
Telephone: 415.391.5400

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP
Andrew M. Gass (*pro hac vice*)
andrew.gass@lw.com
San Francisco, CA 94111
Telephone: 415.391.0600

Sarang V. Damle
sy.damle@lw.com
Luke A. Budiardjo
luke.budiardjo@lw.com
1271 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020
Telephone: 212.906.1200

Elana Nightingale Dawson (*pro hac vice*)
elana.nightingaledawson@lw.com
555 Eleventh Street, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20004
Telephone: 202.637.2200

MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
Joseph C. Gratz (*pro hac vice*)
jgratz@mofo.com
Tiffany Cheung (*pro hac vice*)
tcheung@mofo.com
Caitlin Sinclaire Blythe (*pro hac vice*)
cblythe@mofo.com
425 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Telephone: 415.268.7000

Rose S. Lee (*pro hac vice*)
roselee@mofo.com
707 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 6000
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Telephone: 213.892.5200

Attorneys for OpenAI

Dated: September 8, 2025

ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE LLP

By: */s/ Annette L. Hurst*
ANNETTE L. HURST *(pro hac vice)*
The Orrick Building
405 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
ahurst@orrick.com
Telephone: 415 773 5700

Attorney for Defendant Microsoft Corporation

* All parties whose electronic signatures are included in this filing have provided consent in accordance with Rule 8.5(b) of the Court's ECF Rules and Instructions.

SO ORDERED this 9th day of September, 2025.

Hon. Sidney H. Stein
United States District Judge