# Voice Actors Sue A.I. Company Over Unauthorized Voice Cloning



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Paul Skye Lehrman and Linnea Sage, both voice actors from Manhattan, have filed a lawsuit against Berkeley-based start-up Lovo, claiming the company illegally cloned their voices using artificial intelligence without consent. The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Manhattan, accuses Lovo of violating federal trademark law and state privacy laws by using recordings of their voices to create competing technology.

The incident came to light when Lehrman and Sage heard an AI-generated voice identical to Lehrman's during a podcast. On further investigation, Sage also discovered a clone of her voice created by Lovo, marketed without their permission.

Lovo, represented by lawyer David Case, denies these claims, stating that all voice providers gave consent. The company offers a revenue-sharing program where voice actors can collaborate in creating clones of their voices and receive a portion of the revenue.

The couple's lawyer, Steve Cohen, is seeking class-action status for the suit, encouraging other affected voice actors to join. This case is among a growing number of similar lawsuits by creators against AI companies.

Lehrman and Sage had initially provided voice recordings for compensation to anonymous clients in 2019 and 2020, who reassured them that the recordings were solely for research purposes.

The case has drawn attention to issues surrounding intellectual property and privacy rights in the age of artificial intelligence. Jeffrey Bennett, general counsel for SAG-AFTRA, emphasized the importance of acknowledging voice rights, particularly for those whose livelihoods depend on their voices.