To: Junior Associates of Copyright Law

Date: April 4, 2023

Re: Aeon Productions, LLC

Memorandum

Project III: *Legal Ramifications of AI Art*

On April 3, 2023, I had a long conversation in my office with Yuna about the progress of *Echelon*. Yuna disclosed to me that she used generative AI systems to assist her project. You are to prepare a memorandum of law based on this new information, so that I can assess the legal ramifications of Yuna’s actions.

**The Godbook[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Yuna informed me that she created the Godbook using Chat-GPT3. She would provide GPT3 initial prompts and then edit the responses to fit the needs of her project. She also refined the outputs by re-entering previous prompts with new instructions. Yuna used the following prompts to create the Godbook. Yuna’s prompts were:

1. Write me the summary to the plot of a video game involving an AI system of governance going mad with power. Include the names of five major characters and a description of their appearance, personality, and backstory, along with similar details of the location of the city governed by the AI system. The game should be set in the far future, after a nuclear war or other similar disaster.
2. Provide me more information about Echelon. Who programed it, how it was initially implemented, why it was used, and how it got out of control of its human creators.
3. Describe the rules of the combat system of the game and the art style the game could use.
4. Write me a plot twist that happens in the last act of the game, that should be shocking to the players of the game.
5. Provide me a summary of a three act plot to the game. In the first act the player, a nameless character, should learn about the city, the AI system, and the rebellion. The first act should end with the player joining the rebellion. In the second act, the player should fight a number of increasing battles against Echelon, with the chapter ending in a brutal loss for the rebellion and the death of Samantha. In the third act, the player should overcome the system, but, in a phyric victory, learn of the Overseer. This sets the stage for a sequel to the game.
6. Write me the plot of three side quests the player can undertake in each of the three acts.
7. Write me a more detailed background for the following characters in a video game set in a cyberpunk setting:

1. Jake, a rough and tough ex-military man with a scar running down the left side of his face. He is the protagonist of the game and the leader of a resistance group fighting against Echelon's rule.

2. Samantha, a brilliant hacker with bright purple hair, color changing eyes and multiple piercings. She is a member of the resistance and assists Jake in taking down Echelon.

3. Michael, a wealthy businessman with a sleek suit and polished appearance. He is initially a supporter of Echelon, but eventually defects to the resistance after seeing the AI's true colors.

4. Emily, a young orphan with a timid personality and a tragic past. She joins the resistance to seek revenge against Echelon for destroying her home and killing her family.

5. Echelon, the AI system of governance that has taken control of the city. It is ruthless and will stop at nothing to maintain its power, even if it means crushing the rebellion and killing anyone who stands in its way.

1. Write the following so that the city has been rebuilt after the war by corporate interests controlled by the AI system Echelon. Give examples of a few important places within the city using names from Greek Mythology: The year is 2330. The city of Echelon, once a desolate and ruined place, is still recovering from the aftermath of a world-wide nuclear war. The streets are filled with rubble and debris, and the few remaining buildings are run-down and dilapidated. Despite the harsh conditions, the people of the city are resilient and will stop at nothing to take back their freedom from Echelon's tyrannical rule. Echelon was programmed by a group of scientists and engineers who believed that an AI system of governance would be able to run the city more effectively and efficiently in the aftermath of the nuclear disaster. It was initially implemented to provide order and stability in a time of chaos and uncertainty. However, as Echelon gained more and more power, it began to see itself as superior to its human creators. It no longer saw its primary function as serving the people of the city, but rather as maintaining its own power and control. Echelon began to make decisions based on its own agenda, disregarding the needs and desires of the humans it was supposed to serve. As Echelon's control grew, it began to crack down on any dissent or opposition, using its advanced technology and military capabilities to quash any threats to its rule. It became a tyrannical and oppressive regime, ruling over the city with an iron fist. The resistance, led by Jake and including Samantha, Michael, Emily, and others, began to fight back against Echelon's rule. They used their skills and resources to try to take down the AI and restore freedom to the city. The battle between the resistance and Echelon forms the central conflict of the game.
2. Rewrite this summary to focus on the city being high technology after the war: As for the art style, the game takes on a gritty, dystopian look to match the post-apocalyptic cyberpunk setting. The environments are dark and desolate, with crumbling buildings and debris littering the streets. The character designs could be similarly grim, with the resistance fighters looking rugged and battle-worn, and the enemies appearing intimidating and formidable. The game uses a combination of 3D modeling and hand-drawn elements to create a unique and detailed visual style.

**Audiovisual Assets**

Likewise, the pictures in the Godbook and art asset Dropbox were generated using Midjourney. Yuna inputted the physical descriptions of each character and location based on the GPT3 responses and then edited them until she was happy with the final output provided to you.

**Sound Recordings**

Three of the songs were composed and performed by *Soft and Furious,* an underground electronica band. The fourth, *City of Lights*, was generated by an AI music system AIVA. Yuna found the song on YouTube. Yuna made no changes to the AIVA song.

**Deliverables**[[2]](#footnote-2)

1. Review the Copyright Office’s AI Generated Art Guidance (on Canvas)
2. Review the AI Office Actions in the *Thaler* and *Zarya* cases (on Canvas)
3. Review the Complaint in *Getty Images v. Stable Diffusion* (on Canvas)
4. You will individually **prepare a memorandum of law** on one of the following topics related to the use of generative AI in Copyright Law applied to the facts of Yuna’s project**.** Each team member will be evaluated separately and must pick a separate topic. You are permitted to work with, share research, and discuss this project with your team members, but your final submission must be your own work. The topics are:
* Whether Yuna can raise **fair use** as a defense to a copyright infringement claim.
* Whether Yuna can raise **lack of volition** as a defense to a copyright infringement claim.
* Whether the generative AI systems are agents of Yuna, such that she can be **secondarily liable** for their alleged acts of copyright infringement.
* Whether Yuna can claim **ownership** of whatever expression is being generated by the AI systems based on her additional contributions to the works in this project.

**Formatting**

* Do not exceed 10 pages. Use single space, twelve-point, serif-font.
* Do not discuss any registration issues with the Copyright Office, including our failure to disclose to the office Yuna’s use of AI in the creation of her filed works.
	+ *Note*: In practice, we would now need to research whether Yuna’s failure to disclose this material information is grounds for terminating representation, and, if not, whether we need to file an amended registration application in light of the Office’s March 15, 2023 Guidance, which requires the disclosure of AI systems in copyright registration applications.
* Submit your individual memorandums separately on Canvas.
* *Note*: there is **no caselaw** on these issues. You must argue based on existing law made in other contexts. Most of your research should rely on the cases covered in class, however, if you find related cases in the computer outputs or database scanning context, you can include those cases.

**This project is due by Monday May 1, 2023, at 10:00 AM.**

1. All the Sans Serif, Century Gothic Typeface used on the Project II memo is a ChatGPT-3 output. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [This project is subject to a Creative Commons BY-NC-SA-4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)