


# Former NBA star Charles Oakley's lawsuit against Knicks owner James Dolan is overturned

 [dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8954907/Former-NBA-star-Charles-Oakleys-lawsuit-against-Knicks-owner-James-Dolan-overturned.html](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8954907/Former-NBA-star-Charles-Oakleys-lawsuit-against-Knicks-owner-James-Dolan-overturned.html)

November 16, 2020

## Charles Oakley's assault lawsuit is back on after the former NBA star sued New York Knicks owner James Dolan for throwing him out of Madison Square Garden in high-profile 2017 spat

- **Charles Oakley claimed assault, battery and defamation after being thrown out of Madison Square Gardens on Knicks owner James Dolan's orders in 2017**
- **The one-time power forward brought a lawsuit against Dolan, which was dismissed, but DailyMail.com can reveal that it has been overturned on appeal**
- **Oakley was arrested and charged with three counts of assault and one of criminal trespass; all of which were subsequently dropped**
- **A Federal court found in Dolan's favor back in February, when the team owner contended that there was nothing unreasonable in the force used to remove him**
- **Oakley has welcomed the news and stated, 'The truth is going to come out'**
- **Oakley's career with the New York Knicks spanned a decade from 1988 to 1998**

By [Laura Collins](#), Chief Investigative Reporter For [Dailymail.com](#)

Charles Oakley will have his day in court as a Federal Court's decision to dismiss a lawsuit brought by the former [NBA](#) player against New York Knicks owner, James Dolan, has been overturned on appeal, DailyMail.com can reveal.

The one-time power forward alleged assault, battery and defamation following a high-profile incident in 2017 when he was thrown out of Madison Square Gardens on Dolan's behest.

Oakley was arrested and charged with three counts of assault and one of criminal trespass; all of which were subsequently dropped.

A Federal court found in Dolan's favor back in February, when the team owner contended that there was nothing unreasonable in the force used to remove Oakley from the venue.

Oakley was arrested and charged with three counts of assault and one of criminal trespass; all of which were subsequently dropped after the 2017 incident

Dolan claimed that the former player had approached him in a 'confrontational manner,' that required him to call security. Dolan later alleged that Oakley was an alcoholic without any evidence.

Now, in a dramatic about-face, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that this is 'best left for a jury to decide.'

For his part Oakley has welcomed the news and stated, 'The truth is going to come out.'

Oakley's career with the New York Knicks spanned a decade from 1988 to 1998.

But according to court documents obtained exclusively by DailyMail.com he and Dolan had a history in which the team executive, 'constantly disrespected,' Oakley and had, 'security harass him.'

On February 8, 2017 this came to a head when Oakley went to MSG to watch a Knicks game. Within minutes of him taking his seat, Dolan had directed security to 'forcibly remove,' him.

Oakley contends that he was 'approached by three large men identifying themselves as being members of [MSG's] security team who ordered him to leave the arena without explanation.'

When he asked why he was being asked to leave he has claimed that one of the security detail, 'demanded loudly, "Why are you sitting so close to Mr Dolan?"'

Oakley's 'attempted to defuse' the situation by explaining he just wanted to watch and game and made to return to his seat. But the situation quickly spiraled. The documents state, 'Two of the security guards grabbed Mr Oakley and pushed him to the ground.'

The Second Circuit Court of Appeals has today ruled that this is 'best left for a jury to decide.' For his part Oakley has welcomed the news and stated, 'The truth is going to come out'

The suit alleges that the security guards 'exceeded the bounds of reasonable behavior and instigated a physical altercation where there otherwise was no need for such violent conduct.'

Much of what followed was caught on video in a humiliating debacle that was shown on sports networks across the country.

Oakley was ultimately put in restraints and 'the security guards roughly threw him out of the Garden.'

Speaking on the appeals court decision, Oakley's attorney Douglas Wigdor said, 'We have always stated Mr Dolan and MSG acted improperly and unlawfully, when they violently threw Mr Oakley out of MSG without provocation.'

He continued, 'This is a great day for Knicks fans and fans of Mr Oakley and we look forward to the truth of what happened finally coming out.'

For his part Oakley said that he was 'appreciative' of the decision. He said, 'I now have a chance to show the world what I said from day one was true. The truth is going to come out at trial and Dolan will be held responsible for what he did.'