

# Charles Oakley sues Knicks owner James Dolan, Madison Square Garden

[usatoday.com/story/sports/nba/knicks/2017/09/12/charles-oakley-sues-knicks-owner-james-dolan-madison-square-garden/657124001/](https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/nba/knicks/2017/09/12/charles-oakley-sues-knicks-owner-james-dolan-madison-square-garden/657124001/)

After former New York Knicks star Charles Oakley was arrested at a Knicks game in February, Oakley has filed a lawsuit against Knicks owner James Dolan for slander, libel, and multiple other causes. USA TODAY Sports

Former New York Knicks enforcer Charles Oakley filed a federal lawsuit on Tuesday in New York against Knicks owner James Dolan, Madison Square Garden and MSG Networks for defamation, assault, false imprisonment and violations to the Americans with Disabilities Act over his treatment at a game earlier this year.



In a 21-page complaint -- which often read like the back of a trading card with Oakley's career highlights listed in detail -- the former Knicks forward seeks unspecified damages and requests a jury trial.

The lawsuit stems from Oakley's confrontation with MSG security during a Knicks-Los Angeles Clippers game on Feb. 8 that eventually led to Oakley's arrest on four misdemeanors (three counts of assault and one count of trespassing).

A statement released on behalf of The Madison Square Garden Company said: "This is a frivolous lawsuit and nothing more than another attempt by Mr. Oakley to garner attention. We will deal with this accordingly."

The Americans with Disabilities Act claim targets Dolan's statements on ESPN Radio two days after the incident, when Dolan said that Oakley "may have a problem with alcohol."

"Mr. Oakley has never had a problem with excessive anger nor has he ever abused alcohol or any other drug," the lawsuit states.

The suit claims that Dolan and MSG have caused irreparable harm to Oakley, "discriminated against him based on the false perception that he is an alcoholic."

Oakley agreed to adjournment in contemplation of dismissal [in a deal with prosecutors last month](#), which will lead the charges to be dropped if there are no new arrests over the next six months. As part of the deal, Oakley agreed not to enter MSG for one year.