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# Rozier's Betting Case Set For 2027 Amid \$26M NBA Fight

By **Stewart Bishop**

Law360, New York (June 10, 2026, 10:45 PM EDT) -- A New York federal judge Wednesday set a February trial date for former Miami Heat player Terry Rozier over newly enhanced allegations accusing him and others of tipping gamblers with lucrative prop bet information, amid a \$26 million fight with the NBA that hinges on his bail conditions.



An attorney for former Miami Heat point guard Terry Rozier, James Trusty of Ifrah Law PLLC, speaks to reporters alongside his client Wednesday following multiple New York federal court appearances over an alleged illegal betting scheme, which has led to a \$26 million contract fight with the NBA as Rozier tries to save his professional career. (Stewart Bishop | Law360)

At an afternoon conference in Brooklyn, U.S. District Judge LaShann DeArcy Hall set a Feb. 8 trial date for Rozier, as well as a pair of allegedly avid sports gamblers and a middleman who purportedly shared lucrative inside information with the bettors about upcoming games, from around December 2022 to March 2024.

Earlier in the day, Rozier and his co-defendants pled not guilty to a superseding indictment that tacked on sports bribery and honest services wire fraud conspiracy counts to the wire fraud conspiracy and money laundering conspiracy counts that he and others — including former NBA player Damon Jones, who pled out in April — already faced.

However, a related and potentially costly dispute for Rozier has taken center stage for the time being, which centers on a \$26 million arbitration fight with the NBA.

As part of his bail conditions, Rozier was barred from having any contact with the Heat, the Charlotte Hornets and associated persons, although the prohibition on contact with the Heat is no longer necessary, Assistant U.S. Attorney Kaitlin Farrell told Judge Hall Wednesday.

Rozier has also asked Judge Hall to loosen the bail restrictions further so he can contact the Hornets, another of his former teams. He was playing for the Hornets in March 2023, prosecutors say, when he allegedly informed childhood friend Deniro Laster that he would be taking himself out early from an upcoming NBA game against the New Orleans Pelicans, allowing bettors to win bets on his underperformance in those games.

The NBA, which placed Rozier on unpaid administrative leave following his arrest, opposes letting him have contact with the Hornets as he fights to return to the league. An arbitrator has found that the government's order for Rozier to cease contact with certain NBA teams "rendered him in breach of his contractual obligation to play," and allowed the withholding of the \$26 million remaining on his contract.

Outside the courthouse, Rozier's attorney James Trusty of Ifrah Law PLLC told reporters that "the NBA has literally flagrantly fouled the presumption of innocence."

"They should be ashamed of themselves," Trusty said. "They're still trying to find ways to pretend they're a victim and that Terry should be prohibited from playing basketball."

Before ruling on the dispute, Judge Hall Wednesday said she wanted to hear the NBA's position, including if the league objects to contact even on the basketball court in a game, before ruling on the matter.

Rozier's request for relaxed bail restrictions came days after the government filed the superseding indictment, which adds allegations that he agreed to take a \$100,000 bribe from one of the scheme's other participants, Marves Fairley, who pled guilty last month.

The vast criminal case targeting illicit NBA betting came to light in October, in parallel with a series of loosely related charges surrounding an alleged conspiracy to rig underground poker games. The poker cases also targeted NBA figures, including former Portland Trail Blazers coach Chauncey Billups.

A conference in that case is scheduled for Thursday before U.S. District Judge Ramon Reyes Jr.

Another former NBA player, onetime Toronto Raptors forward Jontay Porter, has already pled guilty and been banned from the NBA in connection with the alleged sports betting scheme.

Soon after the NBA cases were filed, prosecutors unveiled another illicit sports betting case, this time revolving around Major League Baseball and accusing two Cleveland Guardians pitchers of taking bribes in exchange for throwing pitches that influenced betting outcomes in their games.

All the aforementioned cases are pending in New York federal court.

The government is represented by David Berman, Kaitlin Farrell and Benjamin Weintraub of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York.

Rozier is represented by James Trusty and A. Jeff Ifrah of Ifrah Law PLLC.

The case is U.S. v. Earnest et al., case number 1:25-cr-00323, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

--Additional reporting by Alex Lawson. Editing by Jay Jackson Jr.

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