

U.S.

Shaq Served Again In FTX Lawsuit...at Former FTX Arena

Lawyers for the plaintiff say they tried for months to formally notify the NBA legend that he was being sued



Shaquille O'Neal was a commentator at the NBA game on Tuesday night at the Kaseya Center in Miami.

PHOTO: MEGAN BRIGGS/GETTY IMAGES

By [Joseph De Avila](#)

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Lawyers for FTX investors said they finally served Shaquille O'Neal —again.

Process servers [pursued the NBA legend for months](#) as part of a lawsuit targeting the failed cryptocurrency exchange and celebrities who appeared in its ads. The other celebrity defendants didn't contest their service of process, but O'Neal did.

Process servers had tried to reach him at his homes and studio, and at one point tossed legal papers at his SUV. On Tuesday night, they got him in Miami at the [Kaseya Center](#) during Game 4 of the NBA's Eastern Conference Finals, according to Adam Moskowitz, a lawyer representing the FTX investors.

He was served the FTX complaint and a separate crypto-related lawsuit, Moskowitz said. O'Neal was at the venue, [formerly known as FTX Arena](#), commentating for TNT.

"It seems absurd to have to go to such great lengths to serve Mr. O'Neal," Moskowitz said.

Lawyers for O'Neal didn't immediately comment.

Moskowitz is also handling a separate proposed class-action lawsuit related to O'Neal's Astrals Project, which sold nonfungible tokens of 3-D avatars. That lawsuit, filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Florida, alleges O'Neal violated securities laws by selling unregistered securities.

Moskowitz said he told the process server who was delivering O'Neal those papers to also serve him again for the FTX lawsuit to make sure the matter can't continue to tie up that case. The plaintiffs in the FTX case said they had previously served O'Neal outside his home in Georgia in April, but [O'Neal had disputed that in court](#).

Moskowitz said the process server bought a ticket to the Tuesday game between the Miami Heat and Boston Celtics. O'Neal was commentating on the game from a platform in the arena.

The process server approached O'Neal while he was on the platform and served him, Moskowitz said. O'Neal later had the process server thrown out of the arena, Moskowitz said.

A representative for Kaseya Center didn't respond to a request for comment.

O'Neal was one of several [celebrities who appeared in FTX ads](#) who were sued after the crypto exchange collapse. Moskowitz said O'Neal went out of his way to duck being served, which O'Neal has denied in court papers.

In an interview with CNBC in December, O'Neal distanced himself from FTX. "A lot of people think I'm involved, but I was just a paid spokesperson for a commercial," he said.

Process servers hired by the plaintiffs spent months trying to deliver the summons and the lawsuit to O'Neal at his homes in Georgia and Texas and at his work at TNT studios in Atlanta. Process servers found O'Neal leaving his home in Georgia in April and threw the court papers at his SUV as he sped off, according to court documents.

Lawyers for O'Neal filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit earlier this month, arguing that the process servers didn't properly serve O'Neal when they threw the court papers at his vehicle. O'Neal has denied the allegations in the lawsuit and has sought to have it dismissed on other grounds as well.

The judge in the FTX case last week denied the motions to dismiss as moot after the plaintiffs filed an amended complaint.

"I hope we can just get to the merits of the case," Moskowitz said.

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