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## Ex-NBA Player Gets Time Served In Benefits Fraud Scheme

By **Grace Elletson**

Law360 (November 2, 2022, 7:25 PM EDT) -- A New York federal judge sentenced a former National Basketball Association player to time served Wednesday after he pled guilty to fraud in a \$4 million scheme to steal from the league's health benefits plan, a case that roped more than a dozen former players into legal hot water.

U.S. District Judge Valerie Caproni handed down **the judgment** for Jamario Moon after he pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud and wire fraud in June, and also required that he pay more than \$105,000 in restitution and be on supervised release for three years.

The ruling stems from charges the government brought against the former Toronto Raptors player and nearly two dozen other players in **October 2021**, alleging they issued fake medical invoices for medical or dental services to the NBA Players Health and Welfare Benefit Plan. The government estimated that the players illegally charged \$3.9 million in fake medical invoices from 2017 to 2020.

Former Boston Celtics player Terrence Williams is said to have been the mastermind behind the scheme, with prosecutors alleging that he encouraged other players to get in on the fraud.

Moon struck a plea deal with the government **in June**. He originally pled not guilty in May, but he ultimately changed his entry along with a handful of other players.

In an October filing, Moon asked the court to adopt the sentencing recommendation put forward by the U.S. Probation Office: time served, two years supervised release and \$105,536 of restitution.

"Jamario holds himself to a high standard," the filing stated. "He has accepted full responsibility for his involvement in this case, and while never minimalizing his actions, wants the court to know that this is not the person that he truly is."

Moon said his involvement in the scheme was "modest." He said the two illegal claims he submitted to the benefits plan for supposed dental procedures amounted to the total he has been directed to pay in restitution, \$105,536.

"He should have never submitted claims for dental procedures that never happened," his filing said. "However, like many associated in this case, he justified his actions as he was taking his own money."

Moon said in the filing that he fully recognized that what he did was wrong and wanted to make the fund whole. He said he planned to make his restitution payment before his November sentencing hearing.

In Wednesday's judgment, Judge Caproni also required Moon to complete 120 hours of community service and take an in-person personal finance class.

Representatives for Moon and the NBA did not immediately respond to requests for comment. A spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York declined to comment.

Moon is represented by Andrew R. Safranko of LaMarche Safranko Law PLLC.

The government is represented by Ryan B. Finkel and Daniel George Nessim of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

The case is U.S. v. Williams et al., case number 1:21-cr-00603, in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

--Additional reporting by Craig Clough. Editing by Khalid Adad.

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