

Meek Mill's lawyer accuses judge of having 'personal vendetta' against rapper, will appeal prison sentence

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NEW YORK DAILY NEWS |

NOV 08, 2017 | 12:33 PM



Meek Mill (l.) and his defense lawyer Joe Tacopina (r.) will appeal his two to four year prison sentencing.(Jefferson Siegel/New York Daily News)

A lawyer for Meek Mill says he will appeal the rapper's prison sentence, and has accused the judge who doled out the time of having a personal vendetta against his client.

Meek's attorney Joe Tacopina told Billboard that Judge Genece Brinkley has an "infatuation" with the rapper, and once requested he cover a Boyz II Men song and include a shout-out to her.

Brinkley sentenced Meek — real name Robert Rahmeek Williams — to two to four years in prison Monday for violating probation. Her decision followed recommendations from a prosecutor and a probation officer that Meek, 30, not be handed prison time.

Tacopina alleged that Brinkley once asked the rapper to re-record the Boyz II Men song "On Bended Knee," and conclude the track with a tribute to her.

"He, of course, was laughing and thought it was a joke. She said, 'I'm serious.' He refused to do that," he said.

He also claimed the judge asked the rapper to leave his record label, Roc Nation, in favor of a local manager with whom she had a personal relationship.

"She's enamored with him," Tacopina said. "It's an infatuation, it's some sort of obsession. Meek made it out of his community and became a true superstar and maybe she wants to have certain control of him. Maybe she's jealous of him. Maybe she felt scorned that he didn't add her in a song that she may have requested for. I don't know."

Brinkley's alleged unprofessional behavior continued — Tacopina said she also appeared at a community service event the Philadelphia-based rapper was holding for homeless people.

"She showed up and sat at the table. She's a judge. You could pull any judge in America and ask them how many times they've showed up at a community service for a probation and the answer is zero," he said. "We're going to appeal. We're going to appeal until this gets rectified and it will get rectified. I'm sure of that."

Meek was arrested twice this year while on probation for charges stemming from a drug and weapons case. He was originally arrested in 2008, and spent eight months in prison following a drug dealing and gun possession conviction.

His latest prison sentence was widely criticized by the hip-hop community, including JAY-Z, who called it "unjust and heavy handed."

A petition calling for Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf to reevaluate the sentence had more than 36,000 signatures as of Wednesday afternoon.

A spokesman for the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania had no comment, citing the fact that the matter is "subject to future litigation."