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News Release – For Immediate Release

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Federal Court rejects Adidas attempt to have civil RICO case dismissed in a lawsuit filed by basketball player Brian Bowen

Today, a Federal Court rejected an attempt by Adidas America, Inc to dismiss the civil RICO case filed against it and its co-defendants by Brian Bowen II. The lawsuit against Adidas and the co-defendants alleges among other things money laundering by Adidas in violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act. Included among the damages sought in the case is a request that Adidas be banned from entering endorsement deals like the 160-million-dollar deal Adidas entered with the University of Louisville.

The Court's ruling means that the case will go forward including the money laundering allegations as well as other alleged damages set forth in the complaint.

Bowen was a McDonald's All-American and consensus five-star basketball player who in June 2017 committed to play at the University of Louisville. Unbeknownst to Brian, he had been targeted by Adidas and its associates as a must-get for Adidas' flagship university. On September 26, 2017, before Brian played his first game for the Cardinals, Adidas' bribery scheme was exposed by the U.S. Department of Justice when it announced criminal charges against Adidas marketing executives and their co-conspirators. Adidas spearheaded this criminal racketeering enterprise to coerce the families of top high school basketball players to attend colleges and universities under contract with Adidas to boost the corporate brand and increase profits in the ultra-competitive \$25 billion athletic shoe market. Once student athletes, such as Brian, commit to an Adidas sponsored university, they are duty bound to wear Adidas gear and allow Adidas to market their image and likeness for corporate profit.

Mullins McLeod of the McLeod Law Group in Charleston, SC is the lead attorney for Bowen.

"Two of the most important career decisions an NBA player makes are made while he is still an amateur. One is where to further develop his basketball skills before becoming eligible to enter the NBA draft and two, when to forego his amateurism and enter the NBA draft. Both were taken from Brian. Today's decision is an important step to right that wrong, McLeod said.

"Brian recognizes this is but one step in what will be a long process. He believes, however, that regardless of how long this takes in the end justice will be on time," McLeod added.