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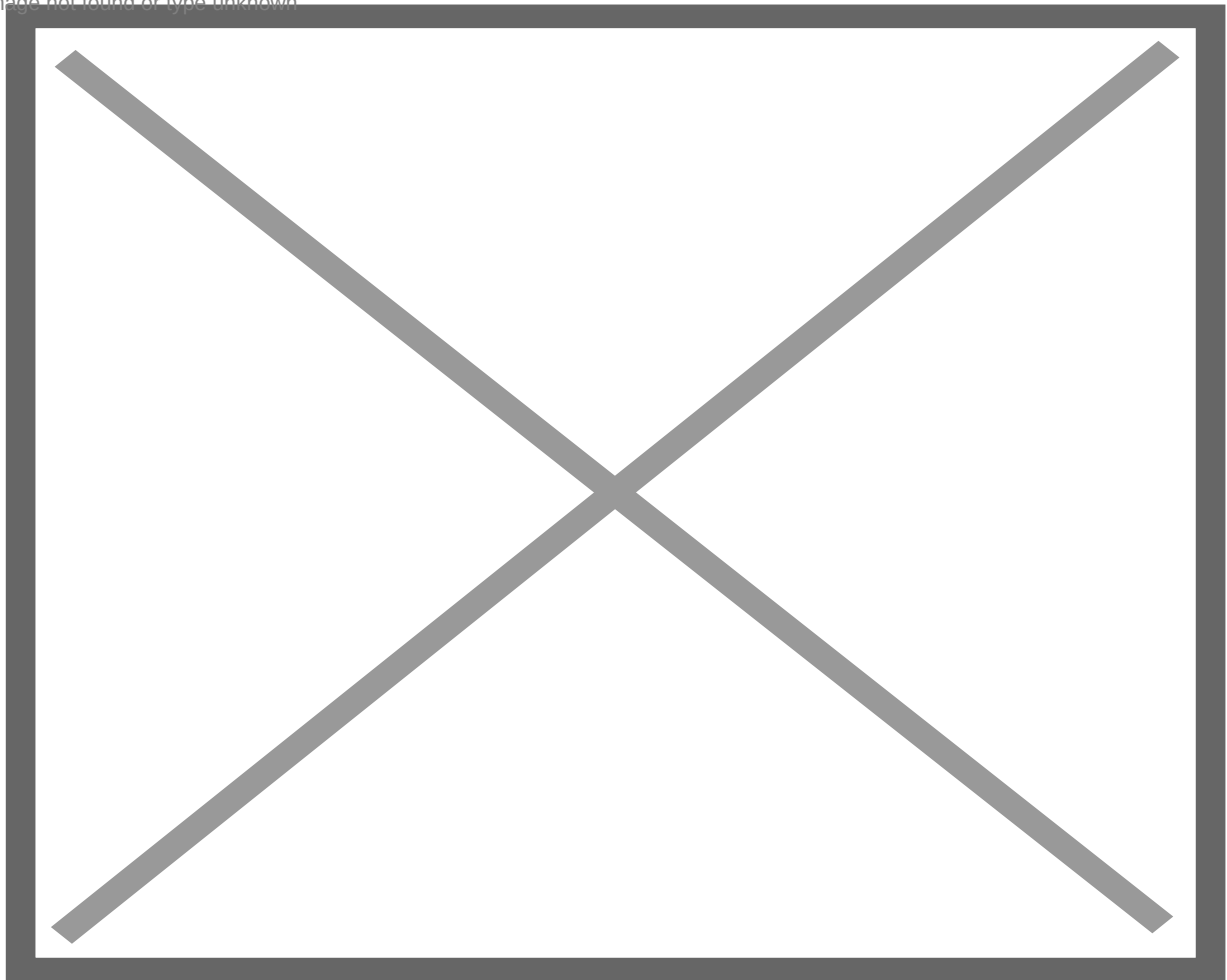
O'Neal Loses Another Bid for Freedom as Third Circuit Leaves Convictions Appeal Pending

After repeated losses in District Court, Jenifer O'Neal again failed to secure release pending appeal before the Third Circuit. The panel issued no reasoning, and her challenge to the underlying convictions now proceeds with a Sept. 21 brief deadline.

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Janeke Simon **August 27, 2026**

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Composite image shows the Third Circuit order denying Jenifer O'Neal's release pending appeal, a photo of O'Neal, and the courthouse tied to the appellate ruling.

With a one-page standardized form, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals has denied Jenifer O'Neal's latest bid to be set free pending the appeal of her fraud and money laundering convictions.

Ms. O’Neal, who had previously made several unsuccessful attempts before the District Court to be released from detention pending appeal, had her bid for freedom frustrated once again by a panel of two appeals court judges, who considered her renewed motion for release pending appeal, the prosecution’s opposition to her request, and Ms. O’Neal’s reply to that opposition.

With no accompanying opinion or memorandum, parties are left to speculate about why exactly Ms. O’Neal’s latest motion for release was denied by the appeals panel. However, District Court Judge Mark Kearney, who [denied her previous requests](#) to await her appeal at home, found that her matter had not demonstrated the claimed substantial, independently sufficient questions of law and fact that may lead to a reduced sentence, new trial, or vacated conviction if resolved in Ms. O’Neal’s favor.

In fact, the attorney representing her during her final motion on the subject in District Court conceded that her case did not meet the threshold for granting release ahead of the pending appeal, as Judge Kearney wrote in the footnotes of his decision ordering Ms. O’Neal’s surrender into federal custody on July 1.

Even after replacing her trial attorney with new counsel, Ms. O’Neal’s motion before the appeals court [trod much the same ground](#) as her previous requests to Judge Kearney. With the panel’s terse determination, issued on Tuesday, that she remain incarcerated while the appeals process unfolds, it can be assumed that the Justices of Appeal found nothing compelling within Ms. O’Neal’s arguments to sway them away from their District Court colleague’s rationale.

The Third Circuit Court of Appeals now awaits Ms. O’Neal’s substantive appeals brief in which her attorney will lay out the challenges to her convictions. The brief is due on or before September 21.