

' King of Bling ' to stand trial in Detroit

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The Manhattan celebrity jeweler sometimes known as the " **King of Bling** " will get his own trial on money laundering charges, but it will be held in Detroit, not New York City, a federal judge ruled today.

Jacob Arabov, who has sold watches and other jewelry to Madonna, Elton John and much of the hip-hop world, was indicted in June, accused of helping to launder some of the more than \$270 million in drug profits allegedly reaped by the "Black Mafia Family" gang allegedly run by Terry and Demetrius Flenory, two former Detroiters.

Arabov, 41, has pleaded not guilty.

His lawyer, Benjamin Brafman, argued it would be prejudicial for his client to be tried alongside accused drug dealers and too costly for him to defend himself in Detroit.

Today, U.S. District Judge Avern Cohn agreed Arabov will get his own trial, but denied Brafman's request for a change of venue.

"You should prepare yourself for a trial in the Eastern District of Michigan," Cohn said, despite Brafman's promise to file another brief detailing the "extreme hardship" that would cause his client.

In all, 41 people are charged in the case.

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