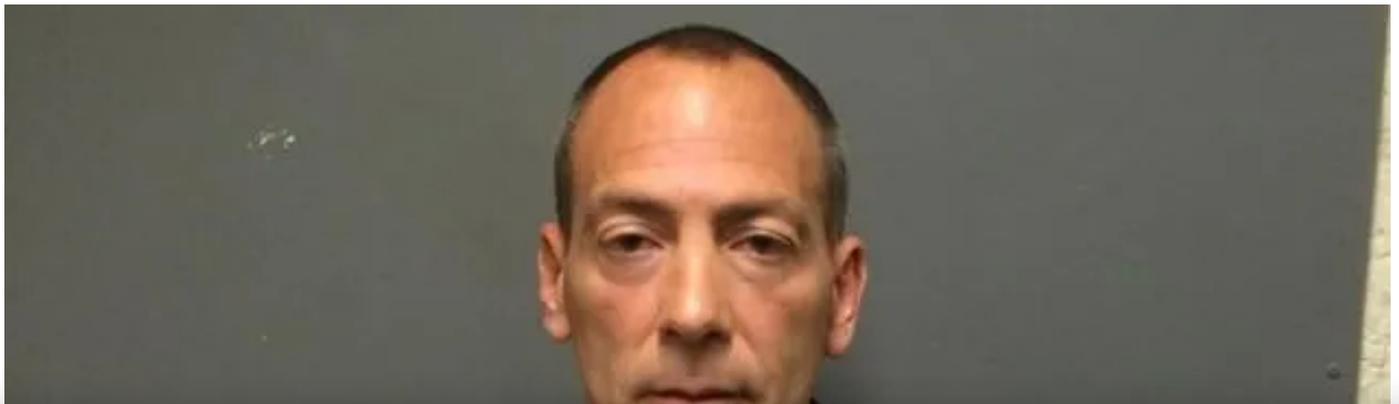


Steven Croman Claims Convicted Lawyer Mitch Kossoff Tricked Him Into Deal

BY [CELIA YOUNG](#) DECEMBER 14, 2022 3:46 PM



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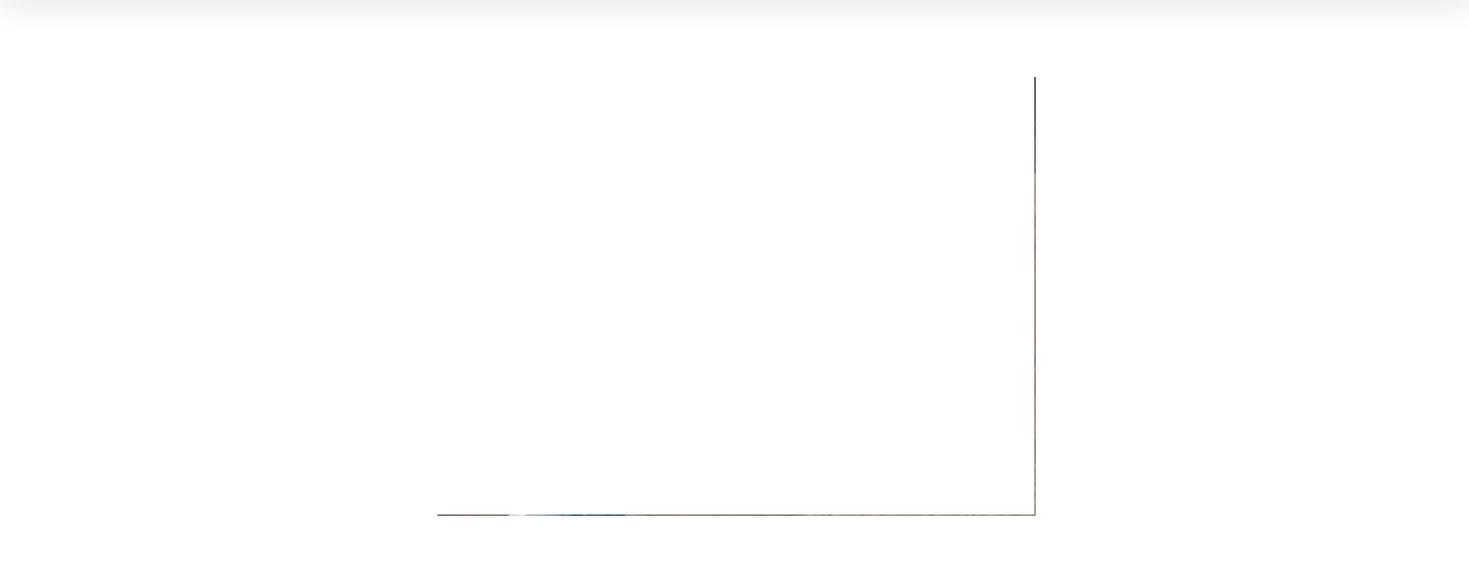
Oh how the tables turn.

Steven Croman, a Manhattan landlord who spent months behind bars for jacking up rents by listing rent-stabilized apartments at market rate, claimed he's now the one who got scammed after his former lawyer **Mitchell Kossoff** tricked him into a bad deal.

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Croman filed a suit accusing Kossoff, who was convicted and sentenced to up to 13.5 years in prison in May for bilking more than \$14 million from his clients, of arranging a property management contract with **Besen Partners' Michael Besen** that was “substantially favorable” to Besen and failing to disclose that Besen separately promised Kossoff a \$1 million interest-free loan, according to a lawsuit filed in **New York County Supreme Court** and first reported by *Crain's New York Business*.

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Besen and an attorney for Kossoff did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Croman’s lawyer, **Kenneth Fisher**, said the suit “speaks for itself” and declined further comment.

Besen’s property management company, **New York City Management** (NYCM), agreed to oversee 100 Croman owned-properties in 2018 while Croman served his jail sentence for tax fraud and grand larceny. Kossoff, Croman’s attorney at the time, allegedly convinced Croman to pay NYCM a fixed fee for its services, instead of one based on the percentage of rents collected, and to cover the cost of NYCM’s at least \$8,000-a-month offices on West 38th Street, according to the lawsuit.

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Croman claimed that, had he known of Kossoff and Besen's financial arrangement, the attorney general would have never approved of the property management agreement.

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