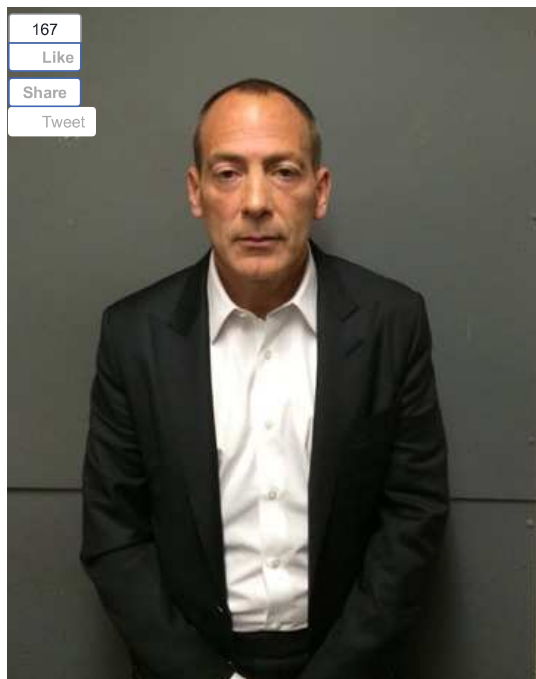


## Loathed Landlord Steve Croman Headed For Jail After Felony Guilty Plea

by [Nathan Tempey](#) in [News](#) on Jun 6, 2017, 12:50 pm



*Steve Croman (Attorney General's Office)*

Notorious vulture landlord Steve Croman pleaded guilty to felony charges and agreed to serve a year in jail pursuant to a plea deal today.

Croman pleaded guilty to three counts of grand larceny, tax fraud, and mortgage fraud, and agreed to pay a \$5 million fine on top of his jail term. He had faced 20 felony counts and as many as 25 years in prison.

Police arrested Croman along with his mortgage broker Barry Swartz [in 2016](#). State investigators accused them of jacking up rents on rent rolls by listing as market-rate apartments that were actually rent-stabilized, and submitting the falsified rent records to banks to get loans worth over \$45 million. In court this morning, Croman [said](#), "I knew the documents were false."

Croman also failed to pay payroll taxes in 2011. He skated on charges of filing false permit paperwork with the Department of Buildings.

"Steven Croman is a fraudster and a criminal who engaged in a deliberate and illegal scheme to fraudulently obtain bank loans," said Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who brought the case against Croman, in a statement. "He went to outrageous lengths to boost his bottom line—including falsely listing rent-stabilized units at market rates when his efforts to displace those renters had failed."

Croman's sentencing is set for September 19th.

Croman owns over 140 buildings throughout Manhattan, according to the Attorney General's Office. A civil lawsuit by Schneiderman—challenging his alleged tactics of noxious renovations, questionable evictions, falsifying building documents, and aggressive buyout offers—is ongoing. He is so hated that renters from buildings across his portfolio [formed a union](#) in the early aughts.

When Croman was arrested, Schneiderman said that criminal tenant harassment is hard to pin on individual landlords, so after hearing repeated complaints, his investigators looked into Croman's fraud, seeing it as a more winnable case.

Depending on the debt load of Croman's company, 9300 Realty, \$5 million may not be much of a hit. A 2014 analysis by [The Real Deal](#) found that Croman took in at least \$63 million from his Manhattan portfolio in 2014.

Croman and his wife Harriet reportedly own a multimillion dollar mansion in the town of Sagaponack, and have been known to host [blowout Hamptons parties](#) attended by the likes of CNN head Jeff Zucker. The couple also [emptied a six-story building](#) on East 72nd Street of its 23 rent-regulated households to turn it into a single-family home for themselves.

Croman's son Jake showed up in the news [in 2016](#) when video surfaced of him calling an Uber driver a "minimum-wage faggot," and saying, "You're working all night! Guess what? I'm gonna sit on my ass and watch TV. Fuck you!"

Swartz's 15 felony charges are still pending. A lawyer for Swartz didn't return a call seeking comment.

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**ValCherish** • 6 hours ago

He's agreed to serve one year, so why is he being sentenced in September?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Trustafarian** → ValCherish • 6 hours ago

"Croman and his wife Harriet reportedly own a multimillion dollar mansion in the town of Sagaponack, and have been known to host blowout Hamptons parties attended by the likes of CNN head Jeff Zucker. "

this summer gonna be lit

10 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Fu Boy** → Trustafarian • 6 hours ago

One more for the road...

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**F. Frederick Skitty** → ValCherish • 5 hours ago

1. There's always an adjournment between plea and sentencing, to gather information for the sentencing hearing. 2. Good luck getting a sentencing calendared in July or August in this town - that's rich! Hahaha!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Snarfyguy** • 6 hours ago

Have a nice vacation!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Partybot** • 6 hours ago

This is why taxes on the rich need to be lower. Their taxes are so high, they're forced to commit theft and fraud just so they can afford to host orgies of despicable luxury and extravagance!

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Professor Von Nostren** • 6 hours ago

The privileged get off easy. Meanwhile, there are innocent people rotting away on Rikers with no justice. This guy is going to keep doing what he's always done.

7 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Michael** • 6 hours ago

Worth noting that it's not paying his taxes and defrauding a bank that got him time.

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Robert Madoo** • 6 hours ago

Are you fucking kidding me Schneiderman? What a joke of a punishment.

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**ValCherish** → Robert Madoo • 6 hours ago

\$leazy \$chneiderman takes care of his own.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**RobertB** → Robert Madoo • 11 minutes ago

Indeed. But then again, it is Rikers.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**YouandWhoseArmy3D** • 6 hours ago

Why weren't his properties seized and his entire net worth wiped out?

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**bittinho** → YouandWhoseArmy3D • 6 hours ago

we're not Russia just yet

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**YouandWhoseArmy3D** → bittinho • 6 hours ago

What a stupid statement.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**bittinho** → YouandWhoseArmy3D • 6 hours ago

and on what basis should his properties be seized and his entire net worth wiped out, genius?

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Peter Berllios** → bittinho • 6 hours ago

On longstanding principles of equity and justice - "one shall not use their property to harm the public"

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**bittinho** → Peter Berllios • 6 hours ago

Again, we don't just confiscate people's properties and net worth because the authorities feel like it. He was prosecuted pursuant to a statute and he was ordered to pay restitution/fine. If he can pay it without liquidating his assets, the government can't just take away his property.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Peter Berllios** → bittinho • 5 hours ago

Actually, the property of the poor (cars, homes, etc) is taken away by the cops (the govt.) all the time

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**YouandWhoseArmy3D** → bittinho • 5 hours ago

Clearly you are unfamiliar with eminent domain being used to benefit private interests see: Atlantic Yards.

How about civil asset forfeiture? Familiar with that at all?

So yeah, we actually do confiscate peoples property - and unlike here there usually isn't even a crime committed - all the damn time.

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**bittinho** → YouandWhoseArmy3D • 5 hours ago

I am talking about this particular case and this particular crime there is no basis for the punishment you suggest. Eminent domain is a completely different animal which doesn't apply in this case. Civil asset forfeiture I don't agree with at all and I think it is unconstitutional the way it is applied.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Snarfyguy** → bittinho • 5 hours ago

I think cops are pirates and they'll grab anything they can get their hands on. I'd like to see that kind of forfeiture done away with completely. It just nurses corruption.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Snarfyguy** → bittinho • 5 hours ago

"Again, we don't just confiscate people's properties and net worth because the authorities feel like it. "

Yes, we/they do.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**bittinho** → Snarfyguy • 5 hours ago

My point was that there is no basis in this case to confiscate all of his assets.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Peter Berllios** → bittinho • 5 hours ago

There may be no basis in law, but there are multiple bases in equity. And equity trumps law.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**bittinho** → Peter Berllios • 5 hours ago

It usually doesn't work like that in court, unfortunately. Equity is part of the equation in certain circumstances but I think the prosecutors and judges are constrained by the laws.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Peter Berllios** → bittinho • 5 hours ago

Unfortunately your imagination seems to be constrained by the laws as well.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Snarfyguy** → bittinho • 5 hours ago

Agreed.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**RobertB** → bittinho • 9 minutes ago

In drug cases, the police often confiscate property and cash. This wasn't that, of course

### Loathed Landlord Steve Croman Headed For Jail After Felony Guilty Plea: Gothamist

In drug cases, the police often confiscate property and cash. This wasn't that, of course.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Michael** → Peter Berllios • 5 hours ago

Well this conviction has nothing to do with his treatment of tenants. So there's that.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**SpideySense** → bittinho • 3 hours ago

Trump supporters beg to differ.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**RobertB** → YouandWhoseArmy3D • 10 minutes ago

Believe he got a \$5 million fine.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Peter Berllios** • 6 hours ago

Appropriate and socialize all their buildings

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Moloch** • 6 hours ago

geez, if this guy just played by the rules he'd still be stinking rich as hell. What a fucking greedy douchebag. Everybody needs to find his son and berate him.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Ahorseofad** • 5 hours ago

At least this is just the criminal proceeding. Someone needs to get the class action lawsuit from all of his victims going. Hopefully some of them can be helped out.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**SpideySense** • 3 hours ago

What a sweetheart deal, obtaining a 45MM loan on fraud, and facing up to 25 years in prison, but getting a plea deal for only 1 year in prison and \$5MM fine. Gee, crime does pay.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Show 1 new reply

**Artisticfame** • 3 hours ago

I always wondered if he set fires to some of his rent controlled apartments on east 18th street to get rid of those renters ?

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**RobertB** • 11 minutes ago

Hmm. Only a year though? Slap on the wrist. Then again, it's Rikers.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›