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First tenant sues 'Madoff of landlords'

By Julia Marsh

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Steven Croman

Photo: PatrickMcMullan.com

A Little Italy tenant is the first to sue "Madoff of landlords" Steven Croman since the state's attorney general hit him with charges that say he strong-armed rent-stabilized tenants out of their apartments.

Tenant Jon Giacobbe is going after Croman's personal fortune, asking a judge to allow him to sue Croman individually instead of just his LLC. If approved, it would open the door to other tenants in Croman's 140 buildings.

Croman is accused of sending his henchman, a former cop, to stalk Giacobbe's mother to dig up dirt on his tenant.

Giacobbe, of 115 Mulberry St., also says he lived without heat for the entire winter of 2013.

He is suing for \$100,000.

A rep for Croman said his lawyers would respond to the matter in court.

Attorney General Eric Schneiderman in May [called Croman the "Madoff of landlords."](#)

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