

# New York governor Eliot Spitzer quits over sex scandal

by James Bone, New York, Times Online, 12 March 2008 (slightly adapted)

Eliot Spitzer resigned as Governor of New York this afternoon, a sex scandal putting an end to the political career of a rising star once seemingly destined° for the White House.

*on the way to*



New York Governor Eliot Spitzer says sorry with his wife Silda at his side

A contrite° Mr Spitzer, the crusading former prosecutor once known as the Sheriff of Wall Street, said he would “leave public life” two days after he was identified as Client 9 in a \$5,500-an-hour international call-girl ring. He will be replaced on Monday by his deputy, David Paterson, who will be New York’s first black governor and the first legally blind governor in US history.

*remorseful*

Mr Spitzer, who is married with three daughters, emerged to announce his resignation after remaining inside his Fifth Avenue apartment with his family since issuing a public apology when the news broke on Monday. “I am deeply sorry that I did not live up to what was expected of me,” he told a press conference, with his wife Silda at his side. “I look at my time as governor with a sense of what might have been. There is much more to be done. I cannot allow my private failings to disrupt° the public work.”

*to interrupt*

The resignation is likely to be part of a legal deal to keep Mr Spitzer out of jail. [...] But Michael Garcia, the federal prosecutor, said: “There is no agreement between this Office and Governor Eliot Spitzer, relating to his resignation or any other matter.”

Mr Spitzer was exposed as Client 9 of the Emperor’s Club VIP call-girl ring after he was caught on an FBI telephone tap setting up a tryst° with an “American, petite, very pretty brunette” prostitute named Kristen. The call girl travelled by train from New York to meet him in a second room rented under the name of his friend and political contributor George Fox, in Washington’s Mayflower Hotel on the eve of Valentine’s Day. An alleged° madam° was caught on the phone-tap asking Kristen whether Client 9 had sought unsafe sex. The New York Post reported that he had asked her to perform oral sex on him without a condom, but she had insisted on protection.

*a secret meeting between lovers*

*assumed, would-be; a person who is in charge of the prostitutes in a brothel*

Mr Spitzer paid \$4,300 for the “date”, including a down-payment for future services. [...] Mr Spitzer, who earned \$179,000-a-year as governor and comes from a multimillionaire landlord family, reportedly spent as much as \$80,000 on call girls for at least six or seven “dates”, not only in Washington but also in Dallas and Florida.

[...]

The investigation began when his bank notified authorities of suspicious money transfers to a shell company. Mr Spitzer allegedly<sup>o</sup> wanted to transfer more than \$10,000 to the ring’s front company, QAT Consulting Group, but broke it up into smaller amounts to avoid the bank being required to report it to the government. The Wall Street Journal said he made three payments of roughly \$5,000 in the spring and summer of 2007. *supposedly*

Mr Spitzer reportedly had second thoughts about the transactions and tried to take his name off them, but the bank said the money had already been sent. Investigators initially feared Mr Spitzer might be the target of blackmail or identity fraud<sup>o</sup>, or even involved in political corruption. They were shocked to track the money to a prostitution front<sup>o</sup>. *the crime of deceiving sb organisation*

Mr Spitzer was once named “Crusader<sup>o</sup> of the Year” on the cover of Time magazine. People magazine named him one of the sexiest politicians alive. His father, Bernard, a multi-millionaire property developer, predicted his son would become America’s first Jewish president. As New York state’s attorney general, he aggressively pursued white-collar crime, provoking the anger of many in big business and earning the nickname as The Sheriff of Wall Street. *a person who takes part in a crusade (Kreuzzug)*

[...]

## Useful vocabulary

<b>to resign</b> <b>resignation</b>	<i>to officially tell sb that you are leaving your job, an organization, etc</i> <i>the act of giving up your job or position</i>
<b>prosecutor</b>	<i>a public official who charges sb officially with a crime and prosecutes them in a court of law</i>
<b>apology</b>	<i>word or statement saying sorry for sth that has been done wrong or that causes a problem</i>
<b>to live up to sb's expectations</b>	<i>not to disappoint sb's expectations</i>
<b>to be likely to be</b>	<i>to be probable to be</i>
<b>agreement</b>	<i>an arrangement, a promise or a contract made with sb</i>
<b>to tap a telephone</b>	<i>an act of fitting a device to a telephone so that sb's telephone calls can be listened to secretly</i>
<b>to insist on sth</b>	<i>to demand sth and refuse to be persuaded to accept anything else</i>
<b>to have second thoughts</b>	<i>to change your opinion after thinking about sth again</i>
<b>blackmail</b>	<i>the crime of demanding money from a person by threatening to tell sb else a secret about them</i>
<b>charge</b>	<i>a statement accusing sb of doing sth wrong or bad</i>
<b>blackmail</b>	<i>the crime of demanding money from a person by threatening to tell sb else a secret about them</i>

## Some questions for discussion

Do politicians have to be role models? If so, why?

Do you know of other incidents of politicians who were forced to resign because of their improper behaviour?