

Queens lawyer convicted of paying two underage girls for sex acts

BY LAUREN KLOSE

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Home and law office of child molesting lawyer Eyal Katzman, aka Al Katzman, on Cuthbert Rd. in Queens, N.Y. (GOOGLE MAPS STREET VIEW)

A Queens lawyer has been convicted of paying two underage high school girls to have oral sex with him, officials said Friday.

Eyal Katzman, 58, was found guilty Thursday of several counts of criminal sex act and patronizing a prostitute for abusing the two then 16-year-olds in 2012.

“A jury has convicted the defendant of being a sexual predator,” said Queens District Attorney Richard Brown. “As such, he has proven himself to be a threat to children and a clear and present danger to society in general. His conviction ensures that he is punished for his crimes.”

The victims, classmates at John Adams High School, testified during the three-day trial in Queens Supreme Court.

One told jurors that Katzman paid her to perform oral sex on him at his Kew Gardens house – which doubles as his law office – while the attorney fondled another girl’s breasts, officials said.

The 16-year-old went back to the attorney's house twice more, where he paid her between \$100 and \$200 for oral sex, according to trial testimony.

A second victim, also 16, testified that she received \$60 to have oral sex with Katzman.



Richard A Brown, District Attorney for Queens County, June 11th 2015. Brown stated that Katzman is a threat to children and society in general. (CHRISTIE M FARRIELLA/FOR NEW YORK DAILY NEWS)

A third classmate received \$20 for introducing the lawyer to the girls, prosecutors said.

Katzman was first arrested in July 2014 after one of the victims confided in her mother, said a Queens DA spokesman. The other victim came forward soon after, resulting in Katzman's second arrest in Feb. 2015.

After the verdict, Queens Supreme Court Justice Barry Schwartz ordered the attorney held without bail until his sentencing on Aug. 22. He faces up to eight years in prison.

In addition to the criminal charges, Katzman will have to register as a sex offender. Katzman's lawyer, Matthew Myers, said he would appeal the verdict.

"It is the defense's position that when the Court consolidated the defendant's two cases, it unfairly gave the prosecution a significant and unfair tactical advantage that presented the defendant as a person who had the propensity to commit such crimes," the attorney wrote in an e-

mail. “Jurors have a difficult time separating multiple incidents without having a bias against the defendant.”

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