

New York

# When in a jam, mobsters, actors, rappers and politicians call on attorney Joe Tacopina



By LARRY MCSHANE  
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Joe Tacopina repped rapper Foxy Brown on assault charge. (Michael Schwartz for New York Daily News)

Veteran legal eagle [Joe Tacopina](#) is as comfortable in the spotlight as his celebrity clients — and dresses just as well, too.

The Brooklyn-born ex-prosecutor is no stranger to big-time trials. Known for his courtroom acumen, custom-made suits and slicked-back hair, Tacopina, 47, has represented cops and accused cop killers, models and mobsters, rap stars and a Rikers Island official — all while scoring a number of stunning acquittals.

Here's a look at some of his bold-faced clients and high-profile cases:



Tacopina (l.) leaves court with one-time cop Kenneth Moreno, who was acquitted of rape.(Bryan Smith for New York Daily News)

**NYPD Officer Thomas Wiese**, accused and acquitted in the Abner Louima case.

**Model Kat McManamon**, busted for making death threats against actress Elizabeth Berkley and her boyfriend.



Disgraced Queens pol Hiram Monserrate, with Tacopina's counsel, dodged most serious rap in slashing of girlfriend.(David Pokress for New York Daily News)

**Mob princess Victoria Gotti**.

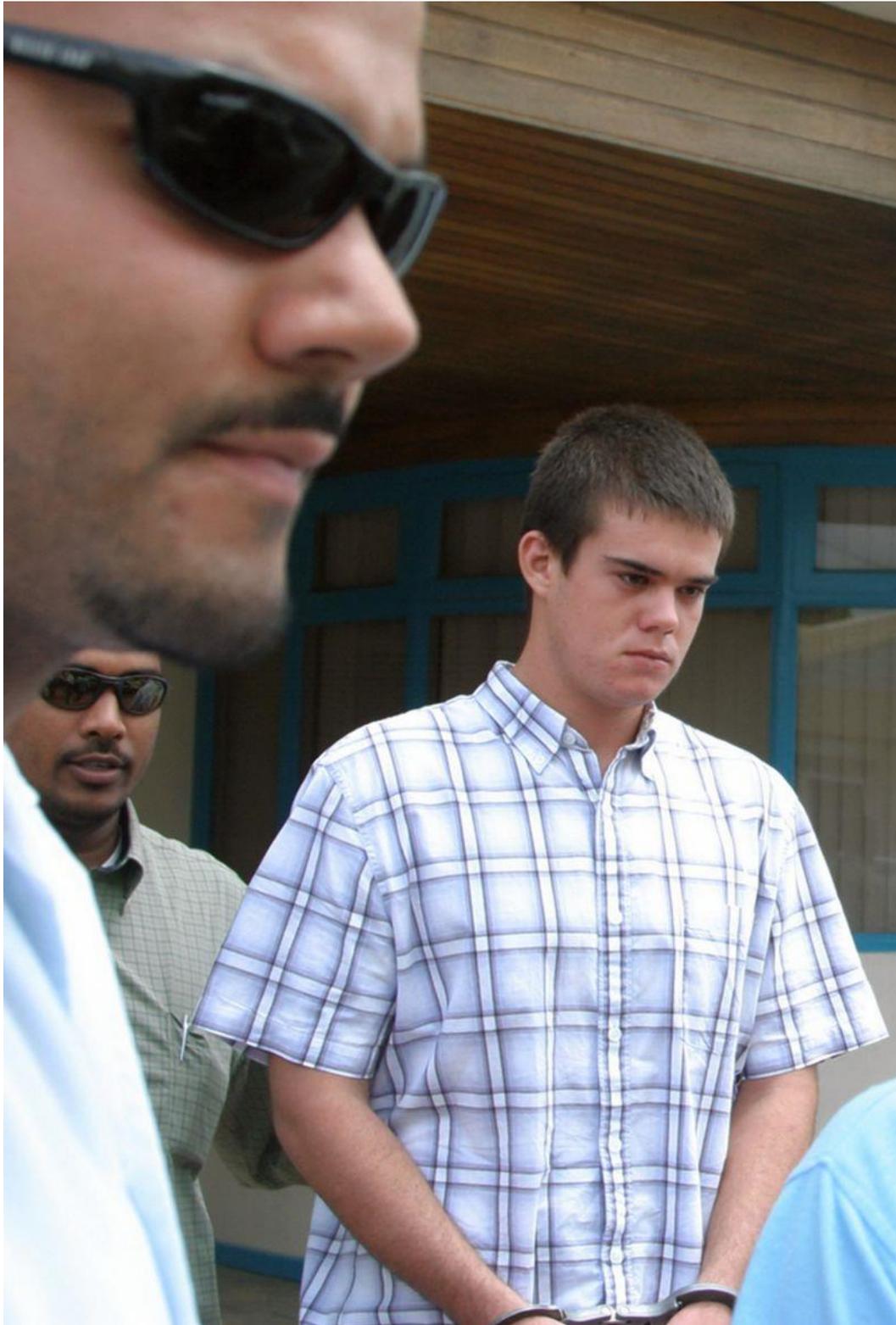
**Rikers Island warden Benny Nuzzo**, acquitted of stealing a \$250,000 Salvador Dali painting from the city lockup.



'Sopranos' star Lillo Brancato(DAVID GREENE/AP)

Rap star **Foxy Brown**, accused of assaulting employees of a Chelsea manicure store.

Killer **Joran van der Sloot**, suspected of killing Natalee Hollway in Aruba.



Joran van der Sloot, suspect in disappearance of Natalee Holloway in Aruba.(MARGARETE WEVER/AP)

New York Post Page Six staffer **Jared Paul Stern**, accused (and cleared) of extorting billionaire investor Ron Burkle.

The family of murder victim **Imette St. Guillen**, killed by a parolee working the door of a SoHo bar.



Model Kat McManamon(Jon Naso)

Diana Bianchi, the teen seduced by **Christie Brinkley's** soon-to-be ex-husband Peter Cook.

Rapper **Sticky Fingaz**, cleared of gun possession.



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Actor **Lillo Brancato**, acquitted of killing NYPD Officer Daniel Enchautegui.

Con man **Raffaello Follieri**, best-known as actress Anne Hathaway's boyfriend.

State Sen. **Hiram Monserrate**, cleared of the most serious charge in the slashing of his girlfriend.

"Rape Cop" **Kenneth Moreno**, the one-time NYPD officer acquitted of raping a drunken woman in her East Village apartment.