

Alite.

"My son John felt the need to answer back" what he knew was coming from "John A-rat," she said. "To be honest, I felt certain things should be left alone. In this case, honesty is not the best policy."

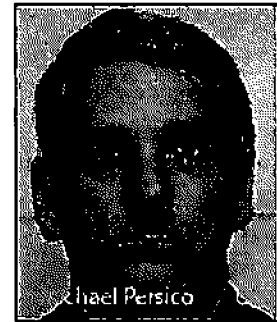
Mrs. Gotti said her son "is far from an angel, but he does have many redeeming qualities." She related "a sappy" incident, following a stroke last year, when a doctor thought it was "touching" when he saw her son tying her shoes while she was unable to, and Junior said, "Doctor, my mom wiped my ass all my life. I can tie her shoes."

Mrs. Gotti added that she "was brought many lucrative offers to write a book, but won't. My secrets will die with me. As for (her late husband) Johnny, we had a volatile relationship but survived many heartaches. I came to accept what I could not change."

## Mob Prince: They Did It Again; I Want My Plea Back

Michael Persico, the businessman son of Colombo boss Carmine (Junior) Persico, can't seem to win for losing.

Fresh from losing his motion to rescind his sweet plea deal for government misconduct, Persico yesterday renewed his motion to take back his guilty plea. The reason? He says prosecutors violated his plea agreement this week by stating in court papers that they could prove that he was involved in a murder during the bloody 1991-93 Colombo family war.



Persico's latest claim stems from a letter prosecutors filed Monday with Brooklyn Federal Judge Sandra Townes in which they wrote that they could prove Persico was involved in the 1993 slaying of rival Colombo mobster Joseph Scopo.

The statement by prosecutors Nicole Argentieri and Allon Lifshitz came in response to a Townes request for information they will introduce tomorrow at a special pre-sentencing hearing known as a "Fatico hearing." The judge ordered the hearing last year when she denied Persico's request to take back his guilty plea.

In their letter, prosecutors cited the info as a reason why Townes should not mete out a sentence below the recommended guidelines of 37-to-46 months. But Persico's attorney claims that was a "thin pretext" for what the government really wants: a heavier sentence.

The prosecution's letter violated the plea agreement



"that bars the government from advocating before the Court," asserts attorney Marc Fernich.

"The government could, and should have declined to offer proof of additional crimes allegedly committed by Persico," especially since that information was known "at the time of the plea" and is included in the plea agreement, wrote Fernich.

On top of that, says Fernich, prosecutors notified him after they filed their letter that they plan to call turncoat Colombo capo Anthony (Big Anthony) Russo as well as an FBI agent as witnesses at the hearing, moves which also violate the plea agreement.

If the judge rejects his counter motion, the defense lawyer has requested an adjournment until March or April to allow him to digest the "hundreds of hours of audio recordings and thousands of pages of documents" that the government just turned over to him, and to prepare any "rebuttal witnesses" he may deem necessary.

---

*Previous Weeks in*  
**GANG LAND**

**In the market for a good read?  
To add to your own book collection? For a friend?  
Check out our Gang Land Book Shelf.**

[Mafia Women](#)

[Other Books](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Links](#)

[About Us](#)

[Contact](#)

U6