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Lawyers say Spitzer faces a number of potential legal pitfalls

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(CNN) — Legal experts expressed astonishment Tuesday over the reckless behavior attributed to New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer, but disagreed over whether his alleged liaisons with prostitutes should cause him to step down.

Matt Kluger, a criminal defense lawyer in the Bronx, told CNN in a phone interview that prosecutors may have no choice but to bring charges if Spitzer fails to step aside.

Though patronizing a prostitute is generally considered no more than a misdemeanor in New York, Spitzer's alleged payment for a woman to be transported across state lines — from New York to Washington — raises the ante, said Kluger.

But Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz told CNN Tuesday that the whole matter has been blown out of proportion. "This is private sexual misconduct," he said, citing Thomas Jefferson, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson as examples of people who could "govern well during the day while acting as children and adolescents in the evening."

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