

87th-floor Trump Tower condo sells for \$9.4 million



A four-bedroom, 6,850-square-foot condominium unit that takes up half of the 87th floor of the Trump International Hotel & Tower sold March 1, 2018, to an unidentified buyer for \$9.4 million. (Meg Theno / Chicago Tribune)

By **Bob Goldsborough**

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A four-bedroom, 6,850-square-foot condominium unit that takes up half of the 87th floor of the Trump International Hotel & Tower sold Thursday to an unidentified buyer for \$9.4 million.

The sale of the unit comes a little more than two weeks after a three-bedroom, 5,500-square-foot condo that takes up half of the building's 88th floor sold to manufacturing heiress Judith Blazer for \$7.7 million. That 88th-floor unit, which previously had been rented by comedian and TV show host [Steve Harvey](#), is one level below the tower's top-floor unit, which sold for \$17 million in 2014 to Vistex founder Sanjay Shah.

The sellers of the 87th-floor unit, retired Eaton Corp. executive Thomas S. Gross and his wife, Jean Michelle Gross, initially had sought far more for the unit. They listed it in September 2016 for \$12.7 million and then reduced their asking price three times in 2017, to \$12.5 million, \$11.9 million and finally \$9.95 million.

Chezi Rafaeli of Coldwell Banker represented the buyer of the 87th-floor unit, whom he declined to identify other than to describe as a billionaire and a philanthropist. Rafaeli also had represented the building's developer when it sold the unit to the Grosses as raw space for \$5.85 million in 2012. And Rafaeli initially represented the Grosses in 2016 and 2017 when they were asking \$12.7 million.

Rafaeli said that the Grosses spent "another \$5 million" to build out the 87th-floor unit. He also noted that the sale of their unit was for about \$1,372 per square foot, which was less than the \$1,400 per square foot that the 88th-floor unit fetched.

"My client felt like it was a great opportunity to get a place with a 16-foot ceiling for below \$10 million," Rafaeli said. "The buyer got a really great deal after the seller spent so much money on the unit."

The unit has 4½ baths, floor-to-ceiling windows, millwork, built-ins, rift sawn oak floors, hand-crafted hardware, designer paint and fabric wall coverings, motorized shades, remote-controlled custom lighting, a seven-zone audiovisual system, an eat-in kitchen with a wine cellar and a butler's pantry and custom built-ins in each of the bedrooms. Also included in the sale were five garage spaces and private storage.

The Grosses' listing agent, Jennifer Ames, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Bob Goldsborough is a freelance reporter.

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