JOHNSON STOKES AND MASTER TAKES ON THE MIGHT OF LI KA SHING

Now, here's a very funny how de-doo: A Li Ka Shing-controlled entity has just been sued by one of the largest legal firms in the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Considering that Mr Li Ka Shing is the richest man in the world, it may seem strange to some people to learn that Johnson Stokes and Master (JSM), the HKSAR legal firm, has sued Pacific Century Regional Developments (Hongkong) Ltd – the Li Ka Shing entity – for the seemingly piddling amount of \$HK68,892.

The Group of Companies, named Pacific Century Regional Developments, et alii, is known to be the Substantial Shareholder of Pacific Century Insurance Holdings Ltd (Code: 65, Main Board, The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd) and PCCW Ltd (Code: 8, Main Board, The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd).

As such, it would appear to be inconceivable that this huge group of companies would not have the financial wherewithal to settle such a seemingly small bill as that which is claimed by JSM.

The Statement of Claim, attached to the Writ of Summons, Number 5064, alleges that the Defendant, formerly known as Pacific Century Asia (Hongkong) Ltd, has owed the sum of \$HK68,892 to JSM since February 19, 1998.

It is alleged that JSM performed legal services for 2 Defendants (!!! There is only one Defendant, mentioned in the Writ of Summons) 'in drafting, negotiating and finalising the contracts of employment for Mr. Peter Allen in both Singapore and Hong Kong.'

The Statement, then, continues at Paragraph 4:

'The Plaintiff has demanded payment from the Defendant on numerous occasions between March 1998 and August 2003 but the Defendant has failed and/or refused, and still fails and/or refuses to pay the said amount of HK\$68,892.90 or any part thereof.'

JSM is seeking \$HK68,892.90 plus interest at the rate of 8 percent per annum from March 5, 1998.

There is a company, called Pacific Century Regional Developments Ltd, which is listed on The Singapore Stock Exchange, and there is (or was) a Mr Peter Anthony Allen, whose position is/was Chief Financial Officer.

Mr Richard Li Tzar Kai, the partially educated Second Son of Mr Li Ka Shing, is the Chairman of this company.

Pacific Century Regional Developments Ltd is the 50-percent legal shareholder of Pacific Century ... CLICK TO ORDER FULL ARTICLE

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