## PROMINENT HONGKONG SOLICITORS' FIRMS SUED: NEGLIGENCE AND BREACH OF DUTY ALLEGED

Two very prominent firms of solicitors of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) have both been sued by parties, who, back in July 1997, agreed to purchase units in a Shatin residential property project, undertaken by Concord Property Development Company Ltd.

The residential property project was delayed by more than 83 days, but it is alleged that the Plaintiffs to High Court Actions Number 2152 and Number 2153 had not been advised as to their respective rights of rescission under the Agreements of Sales and Purchase by their respective solicitors.

As such, the 3 Plaintiffs to the 2 High Court Actions have sued in order to recover their respective forfeited deposits and part payments for their flats and have claimed, to boot, that the solicitors' firms acted 'negligently and/or in breach of duty'.

The 2 solicitors' firms are Woo, Kwan, Lee and Lo and T.C. Foo and Company.

Of the 2 solicitors' firms, perhaps, Messrs Woo, Kwan, Lee and Lo is better known because of its long and very successful (and remunerative) relationship with one of the wealthiest men in the territory, Mr Li Ka Shing, the Chairman of Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1, Main Board, The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd).

In both High Court Actions, the matters complained of by the 3 Plaintiffs relate to the construction of the Vista Paradiso in Shatin, the New Territories of the HKSAR, and the solicitors' firms alleged failure of their respective duty of fidelity to the Plaintiffs.

The solicitors' firms were, allegedly, acting on behalf of the purchasers of the flats ... as well as acting for the Vendor of the property.

The property project was launched in July 1997, about 26 days after the Government of the PRC assumed sovereignty over the old Colonial Hongkong and promptly changed the name of the territory to the Hongkong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

The 3 Plaintiffs to the 2 High Court Actions are:

Ms Anna Tsang Yim Sheung v. T.C. Foo and Company (Action Number 2153); and, Lam Sau Ying and Tsang Man Lai v. Woo, Kwan, Lee and Lo (Action Number 2152).

Both Actions follow the same general pattern, stating that Provisional Contracts were signed on July 26, 1997, for flats at Vista Paradiso.

Ms Anna Tsang Yim Sheung is alleged to have agreed to purchase Flat H on the 10<sup>th</sup> Floor of Tower 2, while Lam Sau Ying and Tsang Man Lai allegedly agreed to purchase Flat E of the 26<sup>th</sup> Floor of Tower 9.

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