## SOLICITORS' FIRMS TAKEN TO TASK FOR ALLEGED NEGLIGENCE

Two more prominent firms of <u>solicitors</u>, practising in the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), have been sued in the HKSAR High Court.

The firms are Yung, Yu, Yuen and Company and Preston Gates and Ellis.

In both cases, the Actions are in respect of alleged incidents of negligence on the part of the <u>solicitors' firms</u> with regard to conveyancing matters.

The aggregate amount of the claims, lodged against these 2 firms, is in the millions of Hongkong dollars.

In the case of High Court Action Number 244, the Action is between:

Pantech International Holdings Ltd

and

Philip Yuen Pak Yiu () Patrick Hui Cho Yee () Vivian Yu Yuk Ying () (The above-mentioned 3 Defendants are trading as Yung, Yu, Yuen and Company (), an HKSAR solicitors' firm)

The matters, complained of in the Indorsement of Claim, attached to the Writ of Summons, is fairly straightforward in that it is alleged that the solicitors' firm was tardy in delivering *'the cheques for the balance of the purchase price'* to the firm of solicitors, acting on behalf of the Vendor of a portion of the Ground Floor of Number 21, Yin Hing Street, Kowloon, the HKSAR.

As a result of the alleged negligence on the part of Yung, Yu, Yuen and Company, Pantech International Holdings Ltd alleges that its \$HK2-million deposit was forfeited.

The tardiness, complained of at Paragraph 6 of the Indorsement of Claim, was one hour and one minute, exactly.

In the case of High Court Action Number 267, the Action is between:

Kingdom Power Development Ltd

and

Preston Gates and Ellis (sued as a firm)

This case is a little more complex than the allegations, contained in High Court Action Number 244, in that there appears to be a number of parts to the complaint of Kingdom Power Development Ltd.

The Statement of Claim, attached to this Writ of Summons, alleges that on or about January 29, 2003, Kingdom Power Development Ltd entered into a Provisional Sales and Purchase Agreement with Super

Quick Ltd for the purchase of Numbers 22-24, Russell Street, Causeway Bay, the HKSAR.

The amount of the purchase was \$HK115.80 million, with a \$HK3-million deposit, having been paid over at the time of the signing of the Provisional Sales and Purchase Agreement.

At the time of the signing of the Provisional Sales and Purchase Agreement, Super Quick Ltd was in Liquidation, the Joint and Several Liquidators, being Mrs Daisy W.L. Tong and Mr Robert G. Clark.

Preston Gates and Ellis was purported to have been retained by Kingdom Power Development Ltd on January 30, 2003, to act in the conveyancing of this piece of property, it is alleged at Paragraph 6 of the Statement of Claim, with its Partner, Mr Paul Fong Pui Chi, evidently being in charge of all matters, relating to the completion of the conveyancing of the property.

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