

**SOLICITORS ARE JUST LIKE ORDINARY PEOPLE:
SOME ARE HONEST, BUT NOT ALL**

Solicitors, the world over, are just human beings. They are very similar, in many ways, to the laymen that they, from time to time, are paid to represent.

A major difference between solicitors and laymen is that solicitors are supposed to know the law and be men and women of high principles.

Some solicitors, however, have been known to err – just like the laymen that they represent.

On or about April 13, 1984, Mr John Wimbush, a former, prominent Hongkong solicitor, being a Senior Partner of Deacons, a firm of solicitors, and having been the President of The Law Society of Hongkong, was found dead in his swimming pool at his Coombe Road home on The Peak.

It has been classified as a case of suicide since, among other things, Mr John Wimbush was found to have had a nylon rope, tied around his neck, with the other end of the rope, tied to a concrete manhole cover.

Mr John Wimbush, aged 46 years in 1983, had acted as a legal adviser for the Carrian Group of Companies.

The death of this solicitor came just days before The Commercial Crime Bureau of The Royal Hongkong Police Force had pencilled in a time for an interview with Mr John Wimbush, the subject of the interview, being in connection with the financial collapse of the Carrian Group.

The \$HK8.50-Billion Fraud

About one year ago, Mr Navin-Kumar Aggarwal (), a former partner of the international solicitors' firm of K and L Gates LLP (), was sentenced in the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to prison for a term of 12 years.

Mr Navin-kumar Aggarwal was found guilty of an \$HK8.50-billion fraud and money laundering scheme.

Mr Justice Peter Vine described the Court's findings as being the worst embezzlement case in Hongkong's history.

For a period of about four years, Mr Navin-Kumar Aggarwal duped not less than 92 potential investors in his illegal schemes. He pleaded guilty to two counts of fraud and one count of money laundering.

Mr Justice Peter Vine, at the conclusion of the case, said:

'How does a man get through at least \$HK500 million of other people's money? The answer, in your case, was gambling. So the money has gone forever, lost in the casinos of Macau, wasted in the pursuit of your own pleasure.'

Mr Justic Peter Vine went on to state that Mr Navin-Kumar Aggarwal, as a senior partner of an international law firm, had a duty of fidelity to his clients:

'Because of that trust, you were able to have access to enormous sums of other people's money.'

For a period of four years, you betrayed that trust and fraudulently plundered their accounts.'

Mr Navin-Kumar Aggarwal, an ethnic Indian who was born in Hongkong, transferred millions of dollars to his relatives in India in addition to paying his gambling debts to casinos.

Fred Kan and Company

In a Press Release, dated August 25, 2014, The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) stated that a Partner of Fred Kan and Company (), an HKSAR, solicitors' firm, and the wife a former Executive Director of Natural Dairy (NZ) Holdings Ltd ([]) (Code: 462, Main Board, The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd) had been found guilty of money laundering to the tune of about \$HK230 million.

The Partner of Fred Kan and Company is Mr Wu Wing Kit (); and, the wife of the former Executive Director of Natural Dairy is Ms Ye Fang ().

Ms Ye Fang is the spouse of Mr Jack Chen Ke En () ... [CLICK TO ORDER FULL ARTICLE](#)

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