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News Centre 1000 Toa Payoh North
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VIA EMAIL AND BY FAX

Fax no 6319 8289
Fax Total: 1 page(s)
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Dear Sir

UNFAIR TO BLAME LAWYERS FOR INCREASE IN INSURANCE CLAIMS

We refer to the report titled "Puncturing inflated motor claims" published on 21 April 2008 in the Straits Times.

It is unfair to cite unnamed "insurance sources" in the report titled "Puncturing inflated motor claims" published on 21 April 2008 in the Straits Times blaming "ambulance-chasing" lawyers for the rise in claims, both for injury and non-injury cases." In the first place, no claim is possible unless there has been an accident, and lawyers cannot be responsible for any rise in the number of accidents. In the second place, the legal profession has clear regulations concerning the conduct of lawyers which strictly prohibit "ambulance-chasing". An insurer can lay a complaint if he believed that the lawyer is "ambulance chasing". Such complaints will be dealt with in accordance with our disciplinary procedures.

There is no evidence that lawyers having conduct of motor accident matters inflate (i.e. falsify) insurance claims for injury and/or property damage. In fact, it is difficult to see how a lawyer can do so, given that all claims for property damage have to be substantiated by evidence provided by motor workshops and claims for personal injury have to be substantiated by doctors' medical reports.

It is unfair and counter-productive to make such unsubstantiated allegations in the absence of any evidence of collusion between lawyers and doctors and/or workshops to produce false evidence in support of unmeritorious insurance claims.

Yours faithfully



Michael Hwang, SC
President



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