

Our Ref: LS/4(media)/280807/ST

Your Ref:

FROM THE PRESIDENT

28 August 2007

Mr Kong Soon Wah
Forum Editor
The Straits Times
Singapore Press Holdings
News Centre 1000 Toa Payoh North
Podium Level 2 Singapore 318994

Via Email and fax no 6319 8289

Dear Sir

Law Society Already Has Compensation Fund

The Law Society (the Society) refers to the letter by Mr Heng Cho Choon (Mr Heng) titled "Law Society should pay clients of errant lawyers". (ST, 25 August 2007).

Mr Heng in his letter referred to compensation funds established by overseas law associations to compensate clients who suffered loss owing to the dishonesty of a lawyer. We wish to point out to Mr Heng that the Law Society of Singapore has a compensation fund, which was established in 1967. Information on our Compensation Fund is provided on the Society's website which Mr Heng visited. Under the scheme, any person who has suffered loss due to the dishonesty of a lawyer or his employee in connection with his practice of law may apply to the Law Society for a grant under the Compensation Fund. Every lawyer with a practising certificate contributes annually to the Compensation Fund. Since June 2004, the Law Society has carried out inspections of clients' accounts when appropriate, and will continue to do so. In addition, every year all law practices that hold clients' monies must submit an accountant's report to the Society. This accountant's report will highlight any shortcomings in accounting practices.

The incident of a lawyer allegedly absconding with \$68,000 of clients' money is indeed deeply regrettable. Investigations are currently underway concerning this incident.

Misappropriation of clients' money results in the errant solicitor being struck off. No less than any responsible legal profession anywhere else, we are rigorous in prosecuting misconduct.

Yours faithfully



Philip Jeyaretnam, SC
President



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF SINGAPORE

39 South Bridge Road
Singapore 058673
Tel: 6538 2500
Fax: 6533 5700
Email: lawsoc@lawsoc.org.sg
Website: www.lawsociety.org.sg

40 YEARS OF SERVICE &
LEADERSHIP 1967 - 2007

Council Members 2007

Philip Jeyaretnam, SC (President)
Michael Hwang, SC (Vice President)
Maliathi Das (Vice President)
Michael S Chia (Treasurer)

Gan Hiang Chye
Jimmy Yim, SC
Wong Siew Hong
Alvin Yeo, SC
Francis Xavier
Leo Cheng Suan
Andrew Ong
Yap Teong Liang
Thio Shen Yi
Pradeep Kumar Gobind
Chia Boon Teck
Rajan Chettiar
Lisa Sam
Anand Nalachandran
Lee Terk Yang
Laura Liew
Smitha Menon

Secretariat
Chief Executive Officer
Chua Lik Teng

Representation & Law Reform
Alvin Chen

Conduct
P.O. Ram
Marian Lee

Compliance
Sharmaine Lau

Pro Bono Services
Lim Tanguy
Rajvant Kaur

**Communications/
Membership Interests**
Shawn Toh

Publications
Sharmaine Lau

Continuing Professional Development
June Tan

Finance
Clifford Hang

Information Technology
Michael Lee