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*We are proud to announce our new product "Office-in-a-box" which will be available to clients from this month onwards. This issue highlights new developments in the IT sector and some special mention on securities offences and matrimonial law as well as new and upcoming laws and regulations affecting tobacco products, moneylending and use of religious space.*

## **Painless Setting up in Singapore**

The firm is pleased to announce its new product Office-in-a-box for organizations setting up in Singapore.

The product packages the essentials to get your Asia operations up and running through trusted regional business hub, Singapore, such as incorporation, employment, intellectual property, lease and taxation in a convenient one-stop shop.

## **UN convention on e-communications ratified**

Singapore became the first Asian country to ratify the United Nations convention on the use of electronic communications in international contracts.

The convention hopes to facilitate international electronic commercial trade by providing a set of rules for industry players. This will enhance the legal certainty and predictability of the use of e-communications in international contracts.

## **.XXX domain approved**

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (Icann) has approved the .xxx domain for "adult entertainment". The controversial suffix is predicted to be made available early next year after more reviews and consultations have been made.

## **CJ Chan conferred Honorary Doctor of Laws**

The National University of Singapore has conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws on Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong in recognition of his leadership of Singapore's judiciary and his contributions to the country's criminal justice system. CJ Chan heads the Bench and was the Attorney-General for 14 years before that.

## **Rodyk & Davidson to get new MD**

Singapore's oldest law practice Rodyk & Davidson is said to have appointed Philip Jeyaretnam as the new managing partner to take over Helen Yeo who is due to step down.

## **Ex-WBL executive penalised**

Former senior executive of WBL Corp, Mr Kevin Lew has been fined \$67,500 by the court. This is the first ever civil proceedings instituted in the courts by the Monetary Authority of Singapore which is related to insider trading. Mr Lew was in charge of risk management of WBL and had sold WBL shares based on confidential information accessible to him as a senior executive.

## **Tougher anti-tobacco laws**

New restrictions by the government have hit the tobacco industry hard. Alternative tobacco

and nicotine products available abroad are now banned.

This ban is aimed at tackling smoking problem among young adults. Since 1971, advertising has been banned in Singapore but an exemption allowed tobacco firms to sponsor arts and cultural events. With the new changes, this exemption will be removed and will take effect from the end of this year. Cigarillos, or mini cigar, can no longer be sold in packs of fewer than 20.

### **Moneylenders affected by new Bill**

Moneylender will no longer be able to lodge caveat against flats to ensure that they get first bite of the proceeds from the property's sale if the borrower cannot pay up in the light of the new Bill which was passed in Parliament late last month.

### **New rules for religious use of commercial space**

The government has clarified the extent to which commercial spaces can be used for religious activities - no more than 20,000 sq m or 20% of any commercial development's gross floor area (whichever is lower).

Further, each religious group can only use up to 10,000 sq m of commercial space at any one time and not more than 2 days a week, including weekends.

### **House husband's half share denied**

After 12 year of marriage a couple split in 2007. During their marriage the couple amassed about \$20 million in asset on the back of the wife's high income.

When the couple divorced, the husband wanted a 50 per cent share of their assets saying that he had become a house-husband and looked after their children, while she was working. The High Court ordered that he should receive only 20 per cent of the assets (about \$4 million).

### **HIV woman seeks damages**

A jobless mother of two is claiming damages from her late husband who allegedly passed the virus to her knowingly despite having tested positive in December 2007.

Her health has deteriorated as a result and she wants damages from her husband who died without leaving a will. Under Muslim law, his estate is to be shared among his wife, parents and siblings. The estate is therefore shared between her and the husband's six siblings. A bar against any action to distribute the husband's estate was sought.

### **Blog owner sued**

The Global Indian Foundation (GIF) has launched a lawsuit against a blogger claiming that the latter is responsible for setting up a blog for which alleged defamatory comments were posted up by readers.

The blogger maintained that his blog is a forum for parents to discuss matters pertaining to schools. GIF is claiming for libel and aggravated damages on top of an injunction to prevent the blogger from publishing defamatory blog entries in the future.

### **Guides for accident claims**

Motor accident victims will soon get a quick answer of what the courts will award for their type of injury, using a personal injuries assessment guide created by the Subordinate Courts.

The guide corresponds with recommendations made by a motor insurance taskforce to bring down motor insurance premiums which have rocketed to more than \$1,000 on average a year. The guide will include a compensation scale for minor personal injuries and procedures facilitating out-of-court settlements.

### **Clemency bid to be reviewed**

Judgment on whether convicted Malaysian drug trafficker Yong Vui Kong can have his clemency process judicially reviewed has been reserved. The Court of Appeal turned down Yong's appeal and he now has until August 26 to file for presidential clemency.

Keystone Law Corporation is a boutique technology law firm with an emphasis on information technology, telecommunications, competition and dispute resolution, in the areas of commercial and construction arbitration and litigation. The firm is committed to client care based on its principles of hard work, integrity, competence, responsiveness and reasonableness.

The firm is recommended for its work in Information Technology and Intellectual Property by Legal 500, Asia-Pacific 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 Editions.

The information contained in this newsletter is correct to the best of our knowledge and belief at the time of writing. Specific professional advice on such information should be sought before any action is taken.

If you are interested in any of the topics presented in this newsletter, please contact us using the contact information in the box on the right.

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