

Ex-senior executives of architectural consultancy company guilty of bribery over renovation project

12.01.09

Two former senior executives of an architectural consultancy company, charged by the ICAC, were today (Monday) convicted at Kowloon City Magistracy of soliciting and accepting advantages in relation to a renovation project supervised by the company.

Li Kin-kwok, 50, and Wong Yiu-keung, 43, respectively former managing director and former director of DTZ Debenham Tie Leung Project Services Limited (DTZ), were found guilty of one count of conspiracy to solicit an advantage and one of agent accepting an advantage.

Magistrate Mr Henry Mierczak adjourned the case until February 2 for sentence, pending background reports. The defendants were remanded in the custody of the Correctional Services Department.

The court heard that in April 2006, Grandway Construction and Design Limited (Grandway) was subcontracted to carry out the renovation works of a yoga centre operated by a fitness company at \$8.4 million.

DTZ was employed by the fitness company as the consultant responsible for monitoring the progress of the works and certifying payments to Grandway.

Between April and September 2006, Li and Wong conspired with a design manager of DTZ to solicit from Pun Shun-hung, a director of Grandway, and another site supervisor of Grandway a commission equivalent to \$140,000 or 2% of the contract sum payable to Grandway in respect of the renovation works.

The commission was the reward for Li and Wong showing or having shown favour to Grandway in supervising the renovation works conducted by the latter.

The design manager of DTZ, however, told the site supervisor of Grandway to offer Li and Wong a reward of \$90,000 only as he himself did not want his share of the commission.

In August 2006, Li and Wong, through the design manager of DTZ, accepted \$40,000 and \$50,000 from Pun respectively.

DTZ prohibited its employees from soliciting or accepting advantages in relation to the company's business, the court was told.

Pun, 58, was earlier charged by the ICAC with one count of conspiracy to offer an advantage to agent. He had pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to 80 hours of community service.

The prosecution was today represented by prosecuting counsel David Fitzpatrick, assisted by ICAC officer Pan Pan.