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TKQP Sweeps Three Awards at the Asialaw Asia-Pacific Dispute Resolution Awards 2017

TKQP's sterling Disputes practice has clinched the "Disputes Boutique of the Year", "Disputes Star of the Year" and the "Matters of the Year" awards from *Asialaw*, amid keen competition from law firms across 14 jurisdictions in the region. The awards ceremony took place at Grand Hyatt Hong Kong on 28 September.

In giving the "Disputes Boutique of the Year" award to TKQP, *Asialaw* took into consideration a number of notable cases that TKQP has handled, including its role in acting for:

- a wealthy individual accused of defrauding Mr Dmitry Rybolovlev, a Russian oligarch and owner of AS Monaco Football Club, of some US\$1 billion from the purchase of numerous masterpieces, including works by Picasso, Monet, Rothko and Da Vinci; and
- a Singapore shipping company against an Indian multinational conglomerate in a complex litigation which involves multiple parties across various jurisdictions.

Asialaw also undertook detailed research from a variety of sources and consulted private practice lawyers, in-house counsel and barristers.

In addition, Senior Partner Paul Seah, beat six other disputes lawyers (including two Senior Counsel) in the region to clinch the "Disputes Star of the Year" award. Paul's main area of practice is in civil and commercial disputes. He also has substantial experience working on various disputes involving directors' duties, employment disputes and representing private banking customers against major financial institutions. Paul has represented clients at all levels before the State Courts, High Court and Court of Appeal – a rare achievement for someone his age.

Despite being relatively young, Paul has been involved in a sterling list of high profile cases such as the headline-making City Harvest Church matter where he is the only non-Senior Counsel to lead a team in this litigation. In the past 12 months, Paul has scored significant victories in a number of widely publicized appeals before the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

TKQP also garnered the "Matters of the Year" award for its role in the City Harvest Church matter – one of the largest, longest running and highest profile white-collar crime cases in Singapore's history, where church leaders were accused of diverting millions of dollars in church funds.

Involving issues of criminal breach of trust and falsification of account, this matter was the subject of front-page news coverage in Singapore for years through over 140 days of trial, and was on appeal before a rare 3-man bench of the High Court. Complex issues of criminal law, including challenges on the issues of dishonesty, agency and dominion in a criminal breach of trust charge, were considered before both the State Courts and the High Court bench. Our client's sentence was eventually reduced from 21 months to 7 months. Since then, the public prosecutor has taken this case to the Court of Appeal, hoping that the original convictions would be upheld.

The decision from this case will have a deep impact on the jurisprudence of criminal breach of trust matters in the future, setting a precedent on a host of key issues.

Joint Managing Partners, Marina Chin and Eddee Ng, said: "We are delighted to receive these awards. They are a testament to the strength of our practice and the quality of our work."

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About TKQP

TKQP is one of the most highly-regarded boutique law firms in Singapore, handling a diverse spectrum of headline-making and precedent-setting matters. Over the years, the firm has earned a stellar reputation for the quality of its work.

TKQP has won a number of awards and accolades in the past 12 months, including:

- being named as one of the Best Boutiques 2017 by *Asian Legal Business* in its inaugural list which profiles law firms across Asia that are gamechangers in their chosen specialism;
- *Asialaw Asia-Pacific Dispute Resolution Awards'* Matter of the Year 2016 award for the widely publicized *Accent Delight International Ltd v Bouvier, Yves Charles Edgar* matter;
- Marina Chin winning the *Euromoney Legal Media Group Asia Women in Business Law Awards 2016 – Best in Dispute Resolution* award;
- Marina Chin being ranked as Recommended Lawyer for Dispute Resolution by *Legal 500 Asia Pacific, 2017*;
- Eddee Ng and Paul Seah being ranked as Recommended Lawyer for Dispute Resolution, and Restructuring and Insolvency by *Legal 500 Asia Pacific, 2017*;
- Eddee Ng being named as one of the leading lawyers in the fields of Litigation and Banking Law in Singapore by the *Best Lawyers* since 2014;
- Senior Partner, Karam Singh Parmar, being ranked as Market-Leading Lawyer for Dispute Resolution & Litigation by *Asialaw Profiles, 2017*. This builds upon *Asialaw Profiles'* recognition of Karam's expertise in 2016;
- Paul Seah being ranked as a Leading Lawyer for Dispute Resolution and Litigation, and Restructuring and Insolvency by *Asialaw Profiles, 2017*;
- Karam Singh Parmar being recognized as one of the leading lawyers in the fields of Arbitration and Mediation, and Construction Law in Singapore by the *Best Lawyers* since 2014; and
- Of Counsel, Keith Tnee, being recognized by *Singapore Business Review* as one of Singapore's "70 Most Influential Lawyers Aged 40 and Under" in 2016. This annual listing profiles young lawyers in Singapore who have shaped the Singapore legal industry. In an effort to showcase and recognise young talented lawyers, *Singapore Business Review* does not rank a lawyer more than once. Our lawyers have been ranked in *Singapore Business Review's* list for three consecutive years.