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Ex-lawyer charged with forging payslip

Accused of inflating pay to secure higher salary in next job with UK firm

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AN OFFSHORE lawyer already struck off by the Law Society in England has been charged in a Singapore court with forging a salary statement.

Rudy Lim, 37, is alleged to have bumped up by \$40,000 his salary from DLA Piper Singapore with the intent to use the forged document to cheat his next employer into paying him more.

He told Duane Morris LLP in October 2006 that his monthly salary at DLA Piper was \$65,000, when it was \$25,000.

Lim, who qualified as a barrister and

solicitor in New South Wales and was a solicitor in England and Wales, was a partner with DLA Piper Singapore, a branch of DLA Piper International, when he resigned to join Duane Morris, one of the 100 largest law firms in the world.

The Indonesian-born Chinese was struck off the rolls in England following a disciplinary hearing over this matter in March last year.

A report of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal findings is on the website of England's Solicitors Regulation Authority.

Called before the tribunal then, he denied that his conduct of creating a false payslip had impaired his reputation or that of the profession's.

He also denied having acted dishonestly as he had no intention to cheat for personal gain.

The Law Society in England rejected his contention that the forged document was unrelated to his salary negotiations

but was in the context of a private employment matter between employer and employee.

It charged that he had created the false document to secure a higher salary than he might otherwise have expected to obtain.

Lim, who accepted Duane Morris' job offer in December 2006, left the firm subsequently. His last drawn salary was \$58,200.

DLA reported the matter to the UK's Law Society when it found the forged document in his computer.

Before DLA Piper Singapore, where he chaired its Indonesian practice group, Lim worked for White & Case and Baker & McKenzie.

He is now out on \$80,000 bail. A pre-trial conference has been set for next month. If convicted of forgery, he can be jailed up to seven years and fined.

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