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Ex-branch manager in court for bribery over bogus insurance policies

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A former branch manager of an insurance company appeared at the Eastern Magistracy today (Thursday) after being charged by the ICAC with conspiring to accept about \$300,000 in bribes and use bogus insurance policies to deceive commissions of over \$52,600 from the company.

Lai Ka-yee, 38, a former branch manager of Dah Sing Insurance Services Limited (Dah Sing Insurance), who was charged on Tuesday (July 9), faced one count of agent conspiring to accept advantages, contrary to Section 9(1)(a) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (POBO) and Section 159A of the Crimes Ordinance.

She also faced two counts of agents conspiring to use documents with intent to deceive their principal, contrary to Section 9(3) of the POBO and Section 159A of the Crimes Ordinance.

The defendant today pleaded not guilty to the charges. Magistrate Mr Symon Wong Yu-wing adjourned the case to August 16 this year for a pre-trial review.

At all material times, the defendant was a branch manager of Dah Sing Insurance. She was the direct supervisor of several insurance agents, including Wong Chi-wai.

One of the charges alleged that the defendant conspired together with Wong to accept a total of about \$300,000 from him as rewards for giving him insurance policy applications that Wong had not actually secured from his clients, and submitting those applications to Dah Sing Insurance to falsely represent that they had been secured by Wong.

Another charge alleged the defendant of having conspired with Wong to use 20 bogus insurance policy applications of Dah Sing Insurance, with intent to deceive their principal.

The remaining charge alleged that the defendant conspired with Wong and another insurance consultant to submit another bogus insurance policy application for the same purpose.

As a result, Dah Sing Insurance was deceived into paying commissions totalling over \$52,600 to the defendant.

The above alleged offences took place between July 2008 and October 2009.

The defendant was granted cash bail of \$20,000. She was also ordered to surrender her travel documents, not to leave Hong Kong and not to interfere with prosecution witnesses.

Wong Chi-wai, 27, who was earlier charged by the ICAC, pleaded guilty to 14 counts of offering an advantage to an agent and agents conspiring to use documents with intent to deceive his principal. His sentence has been adjourned to July 24 at the Eastern Magistracy.

Dah Sing Insurance rendered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation.

The prosecution was today represented by ICAC officer Alchian Poon.

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