

Seven in court for alleged \$860,000 invoice inflation scam

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Seven persons, including five former employees of Pizza Hut Hong Kong Management Limited (Pizza Hut), appeared at Eastern Magistracy today (Wednesday) after being charged by the ICAC for their alleged roles in using inflated invoices to claim about \$860,000 from the company.

The five former employees of Pizza Hut were Mary Choy Wai-han, 45, marketing director; Daniel Chan Chun-tim, 37, senior marketing manager; Chan Kin-chung, 35, marketing manager; and Koo Wai-lun, 31, and Becky Kung Pak-ying, 33, both assistant marketing managers.

Co-defendants were Lau Tsan-chuen, 44, director of Artway Printing Design Production Limited (Artway); and Ngan Yeh, 27, account executive of An Agency Limited (An Agency).

The defendants faced two charges of conspiracy for agents to use documents with intent to deceive their principal, contrary to Section 9(3) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (POBO) and Section 159A of the Crimes Ordinance; and 20 alternative charges of agents using documents with intent to deceive their principal, contrary to Section 9(3) of the POBO.

No pleas were taken. Acting Principal Magistrate Amanda Jane Woodcock transferred the case to the District Court for plea on April 19 this year.

The case arose from a corruption complaint. Subsequent ICAC enquiries revealed the above alleged offences.

Artway was a designated contractor of Pizza Hut in printing leaflets, menus and other promotion products, while An Agency, a design company, handled printing orders placed with Artway by Pizza Hut.

The two conspiracy charges alleged that between September 1, 2008 and January 18, 2010, the defendants conspired together and with a senior marketing officer of Pizza Hut for them to use false invoices of Artway with intent to deceive Pizza Hut.

The amount on the invoices of Artway was said to have been inflated by about \$860,000 in total.

The 20 alternative charges alleged that between February and November 2009, the defendants used the above false invoices with intent to deceive Pizza Hut.

The defendants were each granted cash bail of \$10,000, and ordered not to interfere with prosecution witnesses.

Pizza Hut had rendered full assistance to the ICAC in its investigation.

The prosecution was today represented by ICAC officer Kelvin Choi.