

= Glenn Knight =

Glenn Jeyasingam Knight (born in 1945) is a Singaporean lawyer . He was the first Director of the Commercial Affairs Department (CAD) when it was founded in 1984 . He lost his post in 1991 after being convicted of corruption in a much @-@ publicised trial . In 1998 , he was again tried and convicted for misappropriating money while in office .

= = Background = =

Knight was a student of Anglo @-@ Chinese School . In the 1990s , he was the vice @-@ chairman of its Old Boys ' Association and a member of its board of governors . He obtained his bachelor of laws degree from the National University of Singapore in the 1960s , and played the guitar in a jazz band to raise money for his tuition fees .

He joined the Singapore Legal Service in 1970 and rose through the ranks " with the speed and power of an Exocet missile , " as Queen 's Counsel Roy Allaway later described it . Soon he acquired a reputation for being a law enforcer who prosecuted criminals without fear or favour . News of his ability and integrity impressed the late David Marshall , so much that when he retired he offered to give Knight a full partnership in his law firm ; however , Knight was content to remain in the Legal Service and declined the offer .

Knight is married to Pathmavali Rengayah . The couple have no children .

= = Notable cases = =

In 1978 , Knight was the deputy public prosecutor in the trial of former magistrate Khoo Hin Hiong . In 1983 , he acted for the Prosecution again in the trial of Adrian Lim , who had murdered two children . In 1985 , he was the senior state counsel and deputy public prosecutor who filed an affidavit on behalf of the Attorney @-@ General requesting that the High Court cite five defendants for contempt of court over an editorial published in the Asian Wall Street Journal (AWSJ) on 17 October 1985 . Titled " Jeyaretnam 's Challenge " , the editorial had questioned the " integrity and impartiality " of Singapore 's judicial system . The affidavit led to an apology from the editor of the AWSJ . In 1986 , he was the public prosecutor for the Commercial Affairs Investigation Department who filed charges against key people in Pan Electric Industries (" Pan @-@ EI ") , such as Tan Kok Liang , Tan Koon Swan , and Peter Tham , in the aftermath of the company 's collapse . For his role in the Pan @-@ EI investigations , Knight was commended by then @-@ Finance Minister Richard Hu in 1989 . Knight also led the prosecution team in Singapore 's first case of insider trading , that of former United Overseas Bank banker Allan Ng . On National Day 1990 (9 August 1990) , he was awarded the Public Administration Medal , Gold , for his work as Director of the Commercial Affairs Department .

= = First investigation and trial = =

On 23 March 1991 , Knight was suddenly replaced as CAD director by Senior State Counsel Lawrence Ang in a decision that shocked the local legal community . It turned out that Knight was under investigation by the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) . After an investigation lasting more than two months ? one of the longest probes into the conduct of a public servant in Singapore ? Knight was arrested on 27 May 1991 and charged with corruption the next day . He was the first Singapore legal officer to face such charges . Specifically , he was accused of cheating three businessmen into investing S \$ 3 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 each into the former Batam Island Country Club on the Indonesian island of Batam , as well as giving false information to the CPIB regarding vehicle purchases , an application for a car loan , and his corporate investments . The judge originally set Knight 's trial to commence in October 1992 , but changed his mind and brought it forward to September 1991 after the prosecution complained that its witnesses had been subject to intimidation , and investigating officers had received mysterious phone calls warning them to "

watch out " . In July that year , his wife and two others were also arrested and charged over the Batam resort investments .

In a district court on 29 September 1991 , Knight pleaded guilty to cheating then managing director of Trans @-@ Island Bus Services Ng Ser Miang to try to make him invest in the Batam resort project , which had been planned by Knight and his wife . In October , he was sentenced to three months in prison .

Knight appealed against the sentence , and in March 1992 he managed to get his sentence reduced to a \$ 17 @,@ 000 fine and a day in prison . He served the jail sentence and paid the fine on the day it was announced . In deciding to reduce the sentence , High Court Judge L.P. Thean said that a " nominal custodial sentence " was sufficient given the mitigating circumstances in Knight 's case . In April , all charges against his wife in relation to his case were also dropped .

= = Aftermath of first conviction = =

Although the sentence meted to him was eventually reduced , the corruption case had left permanent damage on Knight 's career as a civil servant . After investigations on him began in March 1991 , he faced disciplinary hearings and his services were terminated on 26 March 1992 . The President also revoked the prestigious Public Administration Medal , Gold , that had been awarded to Knight . In August 1994 , the High Court struck Knight off the roll of advocates and solicitors , meaning that he could no longer practise law . After being disbarred , Knight worked as a consultant in a public @-@ listed company .

= = Second investigation and trial = =

In 1998 , Knight was again charged in court ? this time with criminal breach of trust by misappropriating money totalling \$ 4 @,@ 200 when still the CAD 's Director on two occasions , in 1989 and 1990 . This second charge caused Knight to resign from his job .

During the trial , the defence argued that the proceedings were invalid as Knight had been granted immunity by the Attorney @-@ General 's Chambers in 1991 from further charges arising from his corruption investigations , in exchange for him to plead guilty in the earlier trial . They argued that the latest set of charges stemmed from that investigation and thus were subject to the immunity clause . The CPIB revealed that it had been tipped off about the misappropriation of money only in 1997 by an unnamed informant . The court ruled that the proceedings could continue because the 1991 probe into Knight 's dealings did not investigate his misappropriation of money . Eventually the court found him guilty of two charges of misappropriation and sentenced him to a \$ 10 @,@ 000 fine and another day in jail .

= = Aftermath of second conviction = =

The second conviction left Knight even worse off than before . The company he was working for before his second trial refused to re @-@ employ him . Jobless , he engaged himself in community work in his church , Covenant Community Methodist Church , and often visited a pub in Boat Quay of which his wife was a partner . He faded quietly from public life .

On 25 April 2007 , he re @-@ appeared in the news when he filed an application seeking court approval to be reinstated as a lawyer . His application was granted on 22 May 2007 , making him only the sixth lawyer to be reinstated in the Law Society of Singapore 's 35 @-@ year history . He will be joining the law firm Bernard & Rada Law Corporation .