

# ART GALLERY MAN'S LAWYERS DEMAND OBSERVER APOLOGY

**'We do not doubt that following discovery, interrogatories and subpoenas, the real motivation for this article will be readily inferred and our clients will be entitled to aggravated damages'**

*- Tao Jiang Lawyers,  
acting for Guildford Lane Gallery operator Robert Cripps*

## DEFAMATION CASE IN SUPREME COURT

■ Lawyers acting for Guildford Lane Gallery owner Robert Cripps have demanded that the *Melbourne Observer* prints an apology for publishing excerpts of a Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal determination by Acting President Judge John Bowman.

Tao Jiang Lawyers of Suite 1005, 530 Lt Collins St, Melbourne, faxed a nine-page 'concerns' letter to *Observer* Editor Ash Long, demanding that the newspaper remove a May 30 article about the case from the *Observer* website.

The report quotes Judge Bowman's summary of proceedings between Mr Cripps and Redleg Museum Services Pty Ltd, against Demetrios Vakras and Lee-Anne Raymond.

Mr Cripps has taken out defamation proceedings in the Supreme Court against the pair, alleging that comments made by them at their website have defamed him.

Judge Bowman declined the application of Vakras and Raymond to have some of the issues heard by VCAT.

Lawyer Tao 'Jean' Jiang requested an urgent response from the *Observer*, claiming that the newspaper report was "not accurate and it is not fair"

"The pretence of reporting the VCAT proceedings has clearly been used as no more than a fig leaf to cover a deliberately damaging article."

In her 'Notice of Concerns', Ms Jiang contends the *Observer* misunderstood court proceedings.

**'Defamation matter will  
be contested vigorously'**

■ "In the May 30, 2012, edition, the *Melbourne Observer* published a report of proceedings in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal between Mr Demetrios Vakras and Ms Lee-Anne Raymond on one side and Mr Robert Cripps and Redleg Museum Services Pty Ltd on the other.

"The report referred to allegations being made in those proceedings and related Supreme Court proceedings for defamation.

"Those proceedings are at an early stage and Mr Cripps and Redleg wish to make it clear that they reject the accusations being made against them and will contest the matter vigorously."

## Latest News

### Flashes Around Victoria

#### Nixon to face charges

■ Troubled football player manager Ricky Nixon is due to face Court on Friday (July 20) to face charges of intentionally causing serious injury, false imprisonment, and assault with a weapon.



#### Attack at Bendigo

■ Jack Howarth, 21, of Bridgewater, and Jayden Ryan, 22, of Golden Square, have been given suspended jail terms after they bashed a man in his own home.

Summary from VCAT judgement available here <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/vic/VCAT/2012/579.html> is reported by Melbourne Observer . Cripps threatens to sue Melbourne Observer as well as us.