

# Australian casino settles \$68,000 gambling claim

**Court deal is with a businessman  
in Singapore who sued the casino  
after winnings paid to another person**

— A major case was caused by a lawsuit filed by a Singaporean businessman in the Australian Supreme Court. He led his bets with the casino who claimed it was worth A\$800,000 of his winnings.

Wei had sued the casino for the return of his winnings, but after two months the Court heard and announced on Tuesday that the case had

as believed to be worth several hundred thousands of dollars, the court reported.

at the settlement was regarded as a million-dollar case.

Prilyn Warren, a lawyer for the case, had been subject to a settlement agreement.

He criticized his legal fees and gambling losses. The court was not staying while the case progressed.

He alleged the casino was negligent in its contract with him and had acted in misleading conduct.

He said his solicitor, Mr Wu, had said that the casino had broken its confidentiality with him nor his client.

He has houses in Singapore and the lawyer told the

court he was astonished when Crown failed to pay up after a gambling spree in September 2000.

He said he trusted Crown because on a previous visit to Melbourne, he had won A\$200,000 which was paid promptly into his Singapore bank account.

The court had heard that during a three-day organised gambling junket, Mr Wu won A\$1.1 million at baccarat and was paid A\$300,000 by cheque along with A\$56,000 commission in cash.

It was arranged with Crown managers that A\$800,000 would be converted into US dollars and transferred to his New York bank account, but the money never arrived.

Instead, the high roller's winnings were paid into the account of Mrs Chen Jia Feng, who organised the junket of which Mr Wu was a member.

Over a few days, she then lost Mr Wu's A\$800,000 at the Crown tables along with a further A\$219,000 the casino gave her on credit.

Crown confirmed that it had agreed to send the money to New York but claimed that difficulties over the details of Mr Wu's account led it to pay the money to Mrs Chen.

Mr Wu said Mrs Chen could not explain why Crown had given her the money and said the casino then "seduced" her to lose it back to them.



SHANEY BALCOMBE

**Big winner Mr Wu Guo Wei says  
he is 'only a businessman'.**

## Gambling continued as case went on

MELBOURNE — High roller Wu Guo Wei continued to gamble in the Crown Casino here even as he was suing its management.

He told a Supreme Court judge on Tuesday that he had been gambling daily at the casino during the case.

He said he began his latest visit on March 3, the day before the case opened.

He also acknowledged having taken his wife to the casino on Feb 14 and having visited the Mahogany Room there with a friend on Feb 22.

Described as a Singapore-based businessman by The Age newspaper, Mr Wu also disclosed that he had been gambling at Star City Casino in Sydney when he was recruited to play at the Crown Casino in Melbourne.

During the case, he described his winnings of A\$800,000 as "not really a big sum of money".

"I am not a professional gambler. I am only a businessman," he added.