

## **Press Release**

On 4 August 2020, Ms. Lin Yang, a corporate executive from Singapore, instituted an action in Cape Town High Court against South Africa Butler Academy Close Corporation (SABA), Butler Holdings Pty Ltd (BH), Butler Training (BT), Guild Recruitment Close Corporation (GR), Mr. Newton Hilton Cross and his husband, Mr Willem Adriaan Coetzer.

Ms. Yang had taken at face value misrepresentations made by the companies and Mr. Cross, who had claimed, amongst other things, to have been the butler of four presidents and a line of celebrities, including Mr. Mandela, George Bush Senior, Tiger Wood, Uma Thurman, etc. In May 2019, she paid a training fee of 5,200 USD, twice that of other students and enrolled in the eight-week “butler training programme in the World No.1 Butler School.”

She attended two days of demeaning orientation and was then evicted by Mr. Cross, who would not return her fee.

Ms Lin Yang stated, “The highly-surveillanced environment at SABA reminds me of Orwell’s Nineteen Eighty Four, while the incompetent defendants and their employees glorified and promoted themselves, and intimidated the students. The atmosphere was suffocating. The ‘training’ was insulting to any adult’s intelligence.”

Ms. Yang's subsequent research connected her with hospitality industry owners who had won court cases against the defendants, and many ex-students who had signed up after being enticed by advertisements for “high-paying jobs”. They found it unacceptable that fee-paying clients should be reduced to menial servitude and be made fearful of their service providers. Click [here](#) to view Ms. Yang’s high court action summons.

If you would like to share information about the defendants, please contact the chief litigant, Ms. Lin Yang via [e-mail](#).