

## Workplace Investigations

## **Contributing Editors**

Phil Linnard at Slaughter and May Clare Fletcher at Slaughter and May

# 05. Can the employee under investigation bring legal action to stop the investigation?



Author: Wynne Mok, Jason Cheng, Audrey Li at Slaughter and May

If the investigation is conducted in a manner that is contrary to an express term of the employment contract or the implied obligation of trust and confidence of the employer under common law (please see question 11), the employee may have a claim for breach of contract and possible remedies may include declaratory and injunctive relief against the investigation.

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#### Switzerland

Author: Laura Widmer, Sandra Schaffner at Bär & Karrer

The accused could theoretically request a court to stop the investigation, for instance, by arguing that there is no reason for the investigation and that the investigation infringes the employee's personality rights. However, if the employer can prove that there were grounds for reasonable suspicion and is conducting the investigation properly, it is unlikely that such a request would be successful.

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### ★ Vietnam

Author: Stephen Le, Trang Le at Le & Tran Law Corporation

The employee can only bring legal action to stop the investigation if he or she claims that his or her rights have been clearly and blatantly violated during the investigation. However, the employee bears a heavy legal burden of proof to substantiate his or her claims. Based on our experience, most of the time, it is very

difficult for the employee to prove this and successfully stop the investigation.

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#### Contributors



#### Hong Kong

Wynne Mok Jason Cheng Audrey Li Slaughter and May



#### Switzerland

Laura Widmer Sandra Schaffner Bär & Karrer



#### Vietnam

Stephen Le Trang Le Le & Tran Law Corporation

www.internationalemploymentlawyer.com