

National Victoria

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## High-roller not guilty of groping

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One of China's wealthiest men has been acquitted by a jury of indecently assaulting a female Crown casino "greeter" in the complex's high-rise hotel.

Xiangcai Yun, 52, a married father of two, was accused of groping the woman on the breast while in a lift on the 39th floor of Crown Towers.

Melbourne's County Court heard that Mr Yun had asked the woman, who was three months' pregnant at the time, to be his girlfriend and offered her \$20,000 to go back to his room.

He had pleaded not guilty to the charge and to one of false imprisonment, of which he was also acquitted.

Prosecutor Rebekah Sleeth told a jury that Mr Yun had first stared at the woman's breasts and smelled her outside a lift in the private salon area.

Ms Sleeth alleged in her opening remarks at a trial the assault happened about 8.30pm on February 7, 2011, when Mr Yun pulled the woman into a lift.

Defence barrister Scott Johns said his client "vehemently" denied the allegations and told the jury there was no incident in the lift.

He said Mr Yun was alone with the woman for less than a minute and he asked the jury if it was likely he would drag her into a lift while on his way to meet his wife and family for dinner.

He asked them to consider if there was a "financial motive" for the woman's statements and noted that Mr Yun's DNA had been excluded as a contributor to that found on the woman's bra.

Ms Sleeth said Mr Yun was accused of touching the woman's breasts and restraining her in the lift.

Mr Yun was the 113th richest Chinese national on the Forbes rich list and has made his fortune in steel mills.

The court heard he had made his fortune in steel manufacturing and had gambled with \$4 million during his visit to Melbourne.

It was also revealed in evidence the camera in the lift failed to record the alleged incident because it was faulty.

Ms Sleeth told the jury the defence wrongly portrayed the woman as a "gold digger".

A close friend, Alex Cai, told Fairfax Media after the verdict that Mr Yun had been under great stress and pressure over the allegations for the past two years.

Mr Cai said that his friend appreciated and trusted the Australian legal system, but that his character and reputation had temporarily been tarnished by the allegations.