

ATTORNEYS & CYBER SCAMS

Tips to Protect Your Law Firm



How are the perpetrators scamming law firms?

FAKE CLIENT

- ▶ “Client” offers attorney to deduct an added bonus from the final settlement and requests an immediate wire for the remaining balance, later to find out the adverse party’s cashier’s check is fake or stolen.

PHISHING

- ▶ You’re working on a deal & the seller’s email gets hacked. The hacker assumes the seller’s identity and asks for money to be wired to a different account.

- ▶ Immediate Action Required
- ▶ Requesting a transfer of a significant amount of money before funds clear
- ▶ Client whose initial or only means of contact is email
- ▶ Offered a substantial fee for a limited amount of work
- ▶ Last minute changes to the disbursement of funds that is made via email
- ▶ At least one party is located outside the U.S.

Signs To Look Out For:



Ways to prevent fraud:

- ▶ **Hold deposits** in trust until the funds clear and notify client in advance of this policy
- ▶ **Exercise an abundance of caution** before accepting a client representation
- ▶ **Verbally confirm** wire instructions and account numbers with the phone number you have on file
- ▶ **Verify the accuracy** and modes of contact information for your client and any adverse/third parties with whom you are dealing
- ▶ **Review your firm’s wire transfer procedures** for adequate safeguards to detect and prevent wire fraud

TOP TAKEAWAY:

Where there are checks, there is fraud. Continue to be vigilant and trust your instincts. If it sounds too good to be true, it may be a scam.



How We Can Help:



- ▶ Payee Positive Pay
- ▶ Custom payment approval settings in Business Online Banking
- ▶ Multi-factor authentication for wires/ACHs
- ▶ Prevent transactions to and from sanctioned countries