

FRAUD ALERT: BP Global Oil email scam and “spear phishing”

Several members have received emails purporting to be from BP Global Oil with a legal services request. They claim to have been referred to the member through the Canadian Bar Association.

Please be advised that this is an international recruitment fraud scheme that targets the trust accounts of lawyers. Do not respond to it. You can read more details on the [Recruitment Fraud](#) page on the BP Global website.

The holiday season is a busy time of year for scammers, especially through “phishing”. A new version of this prolific scam is “spear phishing”, where emails look as though they’ve come from a personal or work contact in your email account, but are attempting to sell a product or solicit personal data. The ‘contact’ relies on your familiarity with their email address to convince you further.

Generally with ‘phishing’, in an attempt to steal your identity, emails will request personal data or direct you to spoofed websites and phony customer support numbers that will prompt you to provide your valuable information. Be aware that the websites these emails are linked to will often include official-looking logos taken from legitimate websites.

Phishing attempts might appear to come from a bank or financial institution, a social networking site, or government websites. Overall, if you receive an unsolicited email that requests personal data of any kind – regardless of its legitimate appearance – you can likely send it right to your delete folder. Banks, schools, government agencies and social networks will not generally contact you to update your profile.

You will be prompted to do this whenever it is that you choose to log in to your site.

If you have any questions on these, or any other fraud-related matters, or want to report a potential scheme, contact Cynthia Nield at cnield@lians.ca or call 423-1300, ext.346