

A newly admitted Nova Scotia lawyer recently reported to us that he received an email request for services from a Hong Kong based company. His acceptance of the request for services would require receiving payment on behalf of the company from customers in North America and paying those funds over to the client.

The company requesting the lawyer's services advised him that they obtained his contact information from the Online Lawyers Directory as a result of their search for a reliable firm or individual to provide legal services. He was also advised that after a careful review of his profile, qualifications and experience, it was logical to believe that he was capable and qualified to provide the legal services they requested. This surprised the lawyer. Being newly admitted he did not believe that his profile or qualifications were listed anywhere that the company could access. They hadn't even yet been posted to his law firm's website.

While this request for services may be entirely legitimate, the reference to the lawyer's qualifications and profile together with other parts of the "request for services email" raised red flags to him. He decided not to respond to this particular email.