

Fraudulent request for services by Bangor "attorney"

**From Deborah Gillis QC
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Nova Scotia lawyers have reported receiving a suspicious email request for services from a person posing as a Bangor, Maine "attorney" seeking representation for his "very credible" client on a breach of contract /litigation case in our state (sic).

The "attorney" – a Mr. William Sterns – advises he is out of the office on July 14, but email contact can be made with his paralegal to establish direct communication with the "client".

The Maine Board of Overseers of the Bar has confirmed there is no such "attorney" by that name authorized to practise law in Maine.

Don't be lulled into a false sense of security when contacted by someone purporting to be a lawyer or attorney from another jurisdiction. Fraudsters do pose as lawyers.

If looking to establish whether you're dealing with a lawyer in good standing you may want to review the LLRX article, "[A Compilation of State Lawyer Licensing Databases](#)," which lists the lawyer licensing databases for 43 U.S. states.

My colleague Dan Pinnington references this database plus contacts for Canadian provinces and territories in his "Avoid A Claim" blog, in a May 26, 2010 article titled "[Provincial, Territorial and State Lawyer Licensing Databases](#)."

If you have been targeted by this or other similar schemes, please contact me by email at dgillis@lians.ca or by phone at 902-423-1300 ext345.