



**Office of the District Attorney**

*18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Kansas*  
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**For Immediate Release**

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**DISTRICT ATTORNEY NOLA FOULSTON** warns of an internet scam targeting local attorneys and law firms. These scams have previously been reported in other states such as California, Georgia, Mississippi and Wisconsin and now Kansas. The American Bar Journal Daily News printed an article on February 6, 2009 describing the scam. The link to the article is:

[http://www.abajournal.com/news/law\\_firm\\_scam\\_alert\\_beware\\_of\\_phony\\_eagle\\_power\\_checks/](http://www.abajournal.com/news/law_firm_scam_alert_beware_of_phony_eagle_power_checks/)

The scam begins with an attorney/law firm receiving an email solicitation for legal representation from an overseas company needing local representation regarding a collection or contract dispute with a local company. The overseas company informs the attorney that it has or will resolve the dispute with the local company. The overseas company/client then notifies the attorney it has resolved the matter and the local debtor will issue a cashier's check to the attorney/firm to resolve the matter. The attorney/firm then receives what appears to be a bona fide check from a well known national bank. The client instructs the attorney to place the check in attorney/firm's trust account, deduct his or her fees and to then wire the balance to the client. In reality, the check is a counterfeit check.

In the case reported in Sedgwick County, a local law firm contacted the Consumer Fraud Division of the District Attorney's Office requesting assistance to determine whether the contact received from an overseas company as well as the subsequent check in an amount exceeding \$300,000 received by the law firm was legitimate. The Consumer Fraud Division determined that the check was counterfeit after contacting the national bank in New York. Although the routing number was in fact the routing number for a national bank in New York, the account number shown on the check was invalid.

The Comptroller of the Currency, part of the U.S. Treasury, [[www.occ.treas.gov](http://www.occ.treas.gov)] provides the following information:

**“If you have become victimized by a fraudulent check scam, please follow these guidelines:**

Anytime a scam involves a cashier's check, official check, or money order from a bank, and you believe that it could be counterfeit, you should contact the issuing bank directly to report receipt of the check and to verify authenticity. When contacting the bank, do **not** use the telephone number provided on the instrument, as this number is probably not associated with the bank, but rather with the scam artist.

To locate a bank's mailing address, you can check the FDIC's Web site at: [http://www2.fdic.gov/idasp/main\\_bankfind.asp](http://www2.fdic.gov/idasp/main_bankfind.asp)"

For additional information on protecting yourself from these crimes, contact the Consumer Fraud and Economic Crimes Division of the District Attorney's Office at 660-3600 or go to the District Attorney's website at <http://sedgwickcounty.org/da> for helpful links.

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