



## **Advisory on Scam Targeting Law Firms - 17 June 2014**

The Suspicious Transaction Reporting Office has received information of a possible syndicated scam targeting law firms. The scam begins with a person ('the suspect'), purportedly based overseas, engaging a law firm for certain matters (e.g. loan repayment, divorce, enforcement of Intellectual Property rights). The counter party will then contact the law firm, agree to settle the matter, and send a cheque/cashier's order in excess of the amount owed to the law firm. The law firm is then instructed by the suspect to deduct the retainer from the amount received and send the balance to the suspect.

The scam lies in the law firm making an advance payment to the suspect before allowing the counter party's cheque/cashier's order to clear. The law firm would incur a loss subsequently when its cheque/cashier's order clears and the counter party's cheque/cashier's order is dishonoured.

Law firms should remain vigilant and avoid making advance payments to potential clients without stringent checks.

To report an offence bearing the mentioned modus operandi, please contact Mr Chew Jingwei at 6557 3735 (DID) or e-mail [chew\\_jingwei@spf.gov.sg](mailto:chew_jingwei@spf.gov.sg).