

LEGAL ALERT

July 20, 2026

Fraud Alert: Scammers Are Impersonating Law Firms and Other Vendors to Divert Invoice Payments

Young, Minney & Corr, LLP ("YM&C") has learned that scammers recently sent fraudulent emails impersonating the firm's billing department in an attempt to redirect a client's invoice payment to their own bank account. If your organization receives an email from any vendor, including YM&C, asking you to change payment or banking information, do not act on it until you have verified the request by telephone using a number you already know to be genuine.

The emails were convincing. They reproduced the firm's logo and signature block, claimed the firm was "updating our online payment platform," and attached a professional-looking "banking change request" letter with new account and routing numbers. This scheme, known as "vendor impersonation" or "business email compromise fraud", is not limited to law firms: any vendor your organization pays can be impersonated, and funds sent by ACH or wire to a fraudulent account are typically moved within hours and are very difficult to recover.

How to Protect Your Organization

- Verify by telephone, every time. Before changing any vendor's banking information or paying a first invoice to a new vendor, call the vendor at a number you already have on file or from its official website, never one provided in the email.

- Read the sender's address character by character. Lookalike domains add, drop, or swap a single letter. Check the actual address behind the display name.

- Treat urgency and "new payment platform" claims as red flags. Pressure to pay quickly and persistent follow-ups asking when payment will be scheduled are hallmarks of this fraud.

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If You Have Already Responded to a Suspicious Request

Act immediately: ask your bank to recall or freeze the transfer, notify the real vendor by telephone, report the incident to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov, and notify your insurance carrier. Recovery is most likely in the first hours after a fraudulent transfer.

YM&C's only email domain is ymclegal.com. The firm has not changed its banking information and will never ask you to redirect a payment by email alone. If you receive an unusual email about a YM&C invoice, do not reply; call the firm at 916-646-1400.

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If you have any questions about this legal alert, please contact
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