



The
Cornwall
Bar
Association

**The Advocates Association
Of Jamaica**

Joint statement as regards scammers targeting Attorneys-at-Law

The General Legal Council, the Jamaican Bar Association, the Advocates Association of Jamaica and the Cornwall Bar Association are advising all Attorneys-at-Law to be on the alert for individuals posing as and purporting to be police officers from the Fraud Squad of the Jamaica Constabulary Force. These persons have been calling Attorneys-at-Law to allege that the Attorney-at-Law is handling conveyancing matters or transactions involving large sums of money. They further allege that the Attorney-at-Law is on a list of Attorneys-at-Law that the Fraud Squad is investigating.

The caller further suggests that an approach is being made to assist the Attorney-at-Law based on the recommendation of a mutual “squaddie” or “friend” because of the respectable status of the Attorney-at-Law. It is suggested by the caller that the Attorney-at-Law should make a payment to the person or otherwise make an “arrangement” to make the issue “go away”.

One such call was made on or about the 16th of April 2015. Three similar cases arose in quick succession on the 18th and 19th May 2015 resulting in detrimental rumors regarding at least one of the Attorneys-at-Law.

So far the caller has identified himself as “Detective Brown” and/or “Roy McLaughlin”. It should be noted that there is an Officer McLaughlin who is the actual head of the Fraud Squad of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, but who denies making any calls. This appears to be a strategy on the part of the caller to give legitimacy to the call by purporting to be an Officer of the Jamaican Constabulary Force.

Attorneys-at-Law are therefore being warned to be on the alert for any calls or dealings involving these unscrupulous persons. If you have received any of these calls please call the MOCA Department of the Jamaica Constabulary Force and your Bar Association. The Bar Associations need to be aware of the numbers of these incidents and to gather information to be of assistance to the authorities.

The MOCA Department of the Jamaica Constabulary Force is aware of this issue and is attempting to apprehend the perpetrators.