

How would you categorize your community?

Instructions

Indicate the category that best describes your community (examples: activity-based groups and volunteer groups, online communities or social networks, religious or political groups, diasporas, language communities, supporters of a celebrity or sports team).

Limit: 4,000 characters and/or a document of no more than 10 pages in an accepted file type.

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0. Definitions

"Profession d'avocat" (referred to as ***"Legal Profession"*** in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer exclusively to the legal profession of lawyer, as regulated in France by Law No. 71-1130 of 31 December 1971, reforming certain judicial and legal professions, Decree No. 91-1197 of 27 November 1991, and the Barreaux' national rules of procedure.

"Avocat" (referred to as ***"Attorney"*** in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to any person practising the Profession d'avocat and registered on the Tableau, whether a natural person (an Avocat individually registered with a Barreau) or a legal entity (a company or practice entity of Avocats registered with a Barreau).

"Barreau" (referred to as ***"Bar Association"*** in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to all Avocats practising before each French judicial court, as well as before the Conseil d'État and the Cour de cassation, and registered on the Tableau.

"Ordre" (referred to as ***"Bar Association"*** in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to the democratic institution representing each Barreau, administered by a Conseil de l'Ordre chaired by a Bâtonnier (or by a President in the case of the Ordre des avocats près du Conseil d'État et de la Cour de cassation), elected by all avocats of that Barreau.

"Conseil de l'Ordre" (referred to as "Bar Association Board of Directors" in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to the representative and deliberative body of the Barreau, elected by all its Avocats.

"Bâtonnier" (referred to as "President" in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to the person who chairs the Conseil de l'Ordre and whose mission is to represent the Avocats of their Barreau, uphold professional ethics, ensure discipline, and promote the activities of the Ordre.

"Tableau" (referred to as "Roll" in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to the official list of Avocats of each Barreau adopted by the Conseil de l'Ordre, including two main sections: natural persons (Avocats individually registered with the Barreau) and legal entities (companies or practice entities of Avocats registered with the Barreau).

"Conseil National des Barreaux" and/or **"CNB"** (referred to as "National Council of Bar Associations" in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to the public-interest organisation responsible for representing the Profession d'avocat nationally before public authorities.

"Conférence des Bâtonniers" shall hereinafter refer to the association representing 163 Barreaux and 45,000 Avocats.

"Centre Régional de Formation Professionnelle des Avocats" and/or **"CRFPA"** (referred to as "School of Attorney" in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to the institution providing the initial professional training of Avocats to-be after they have passed the entrance examination organised through the Instituts d'Études Judiciaires, preparing them for the Certificat d'Aptitude à la Profession d'Avocat (or **"CAPA"**), and providing continuing training for Avocats.

"Caisse Autonome des Règlements Pécuniaires des Avocats" and/or **"CARPA"** (referred to as "Attorney Payment Fund" in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to the intra-professional institutions that secure fund-handling transactions carried out by Avocats on behalf of their clients.

"Conseil de discipline" (referred to as "Disciplinary Council" in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to a professional disciplinary jurisdiction established at each french court of appeal and competent

to hear breaches and misconduct committed by Avocats belonging to the Barreaux established within that jurisdiction.

"Syndicat d'avocats" and/or ***"Association d'avocats"*** (referred to as ***"Attorney's Union"*** and/or ***"Professional Union"*** in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to a collective organisation of Avocats, distinct from the Ordres and Barreaux, responsible for advancing claims, defending professional interests, and participating in debate on the development of the Profession d'avocat.

"Institution de la Profession d'avocat" (referred to as ***"Professional institution"*** in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer interchangeably to the Ordres, the CNB, and the Conférence des Bâtonniers.

"Communauté professionnelle des Avocats" shall hereinafter refer collectively to the Avocats, the Ordres, the CNB, the Conférence des Bâtonniers, the CRFPAs, the CARPAs, the Conseils de discipline, the Syndicats and Associations d'avocats, as well as ad hoc entities mandated by the Institutions de la Profession d'avocat and social and/or technical bodies mandated by the Institutions de la Profession d'avocat.

1. Members of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats

The Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux intends the application for the « .AVOCAT » gTLD to benefit all of the following stakeholders:

- The Avocats;
- The Ordres;
- The CNB;
- The Conférence des Bâtonniers;
- The CRFPAs;
- The CARPAs;
- The Conseils de discipline;
- The Syndicats and Association d'avocats;
- The ad hoc entities mandated by the Institutions de la Profession d'avocat;
- And the social and/or technical bodies mandated by the Institutions de la Profession d'avocat.

Collectively referred to herein as the « ***Communauté professionnelle des Avocats*** ».

The Communauté professionnelle des Avocats falls within the category of **professional communities**, within the meaning of the ICANN criteria applicable to communities that are clearly delineated, organised, and objectively identifiable.

The vast majority of the members of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats are Avocats. A minority consists of social and/or technical bodies mandated by the Institutions de la Profession d'avocat to meet the needs of its members.

Access to, practice of, and professional ethics governing the Profession d'avocat are strictly regulated by a body of rules specific to the Profession d'avocat.

Accordingly, in order to become an Avocat and **gain access to the Profession d'avocat, several legal, objective and verifiable conditions must be met:**

- **A morality requirement:** an applicant to the Profession d'avocat must not have been convicted of conduct contrary to probity, honour, or accepted standards of morality. The applicant must not have been subject to certain disciplinary or administrative sanctions and must not have been declared personally bankrupt;
- **A nationality requirement:** access to the Profession d'avocat is restricted to French nationals, nationals of a Member State of the European Union or the European Economic Area, nationals of a third country granting French nationals reciprocal rights to practise, or persons whose refugee or stateless-person status has been recognised by the Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides;
- **A training requirement:** Avocats must hold a Master's degree in law or a qualification recognised as equivalent. Admission to the Centre Régional de Formation Professionnelle des Avocats, which provides the professional training of Avocats to-be, is conditional upon passing an entrance examination organised through the Instituts d'Études Judiciaires. Once admitted to the CRFPA, future Avocats must complete 18 months of initial

professional training comprising periods of academic instruction and internships. At the end of that initial professional training, the future Avocats must pass the Certificat d'Aptitude à la Profession d'avocat in order to be entitled to practise the Profession d'avocat;

- **A compatibility requirement:** any person wishing to practise the Profession d'avocat must not engage in commercial activities, hold a management position in a company whose purpose is not the practice of the Profession d'avocat or the management of family interests, or practise any other profession not authorised under the rules specific to the Profession d'avocat;
- **An admission and oath-taking requirement:** an applicant to the Profession d'avocat must submit an application for admission to the Bâtonnier of the Barreau with which the applicant wishes to be registered on the Tableau, together with evidence of qualifications, nationality, and good character. The application is reviewed by the Conseil de l'Ordre of the Barreau. If the Conseil de l'Ordre grants the application, the applicant must take the oath before the court of appeal of the Barreau;
- **A registration-on-the-Tableau requirement:** the official list of the Avocats of the Barreau is adopted by the Conseil de l'Ordre and comprises two main sections: natural persons and legal entities. It is published annually on 1 January, including on 1 January 2026.

Once an Avocat is registered on the Tableau, the Avocat **remains subject to legal requirements throughout the period during which the Profession d'avocat is practised:**

- **Modes of practising the Profession d'avocat:** an Avocat may practise individually, within a group, as a self-employed associate, or as an employee;
- **Professional address:** an Avocat must maintain a professional address within the territorial jurisdiction of the judicial court before which the Avocat is established. Subject to certain conditions, a secondary office may also be maintained;
- **Insurance:** an Avocat must be insured for professional civil liability in order to cover any faults that may be committed in the practice of the Profession d'avocat;

- **Deposit of funds received by an Avocat with a specialised body:** funds received by an Avocat in the course of professional activities must be deposited without delay with the CARPA of the Barreau.

In addition, compliance with the **professional ethics rules** specific to the Profession d'avocat is required:

- **Compliance with the essential principles of the Profession d'avocat: an Avocat must comply with:**
 - o The principles arising from the oath of the Avocat: dignity, conscience, independence, probity, and humanity;
 - o Furthermore, in the practice of the Profession d'avocat, the Règlement Intérieur National also requires compliance with the principles of honour, loyalty, selflessness, collegiality, tact, and courtesy;
 - o In dealings with clients, an Avocat must also demonstrate competence, dedication, diligence, and prudence. Failure to comply with any of these principles may constitute disciplinary misconduct.
- **Compliance with professional secrecy and confidentiality:** an Avocat is bound by professional secrecy, which is a rule of public policy that is general, absolute, and unlimited in time. Communications between Avocats are confidential as a matter of principle;
- **Independence:** an Avocat must be absolutely independent and free from any pressure. An Avocat must also refuse to represent, advise, or defend where a conflict of interest or a serious risk of a conflict of interest exists;
- **Collegiality and courtesy:** an Avocat must act loyally towards fellow practitioners and show courtesy towards the various parties to proceedings;
- **Mandatory continuing training:** an Avocat must complete twenty hours of continuing training per calendar year or forty hours over two consecutive years.

Any breach of these obligations exposes the Avocats, who constitute the majority of the members of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats, to disciplinary sanctions imposed by the Conseil de discipline, up to and including removal from the Tableau.

The mandated ad hoc entities and the social and/or technical bodies mandated by the Institutions de la Profession d'avocat support Avocats throughout their practice of the Profession d'avocat and help ensure compliance with these various obligations.

2. Institutions and administrative bodies specific to the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats

The Communauté professionnelle des Avocats has its own Institutions and administrative bodies responsible for supervising, representing, and regulating it:

- **The Conseil de l'Ordre;**
- **The Bâtonnier;**
- **The Conseil National des Barreaux;**
- **The Conférence des Bâtonniers;**
- **The Centres Régionaux de Formation Professionnelle des Avocats (CRFPA);**
- **The Caisses des Règlements Pécuniaires des Avocats (CARPA);**
- **And the Conseils de discipline.**

This organisation ensures the **normative, ethical, and territorial coherence** of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats, which is highly structured and characterised by:

- The existence of legally recognised representative bodies;
- Uniform and enforceable professional ethics rules, implemented through specific Règlements Intérieurs for each Barreau;
- Internal disciplinary mechanisms specific to the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats;
- Organisation through formalised professional networks.

This structure ensures the objective identification of the members of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats and the stability of its scope.