

What is the applying entity's connection to the community?

Instructions

Describe and document the relationship between the applying entity and the identified community.

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 the professional association of Avocats of a Barreau.

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. Direct institutional relationship with the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats

The applying entity, namely the **Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux**, maintains **institutional, representative and direct ties** with the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats.

Its status as an **Ordre authority** and the **support for its application from other significant members of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats**, acting in the interests of the Profession d'avocat as a whole, strengthen the **legitimacy of its application**.

The Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux, represented by its Bâtonnier, performs representative, administrative, and disciplinary regulatory duties with regard to the Avocats registered on the Tableau of its Barreau.

Its geographical significance is clear, as its jurisdiction is the largest territory covered by a Barreau in metropolitan France; accordingly, more than one million litigants fall within the remit of the applying entity.

Historically, the Barreau de Bordeaux was founded in 1462 and is one of the oldest and most important Barreaux in France. It holds a symbolic place within the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats, notably because, over the centuries, it has produced major intellectual and judicial figures strongly committed to fair justice, the defense of citizens' rights, and the maintenance of a high-quality public justice service.

As a matter of fact, more than 2,300 Avocats are registered with the Barreau de Bordeaux, out of the 78,000 Avocats practising in France. Accordingly, the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux is one of the principal Ordre bodies of the Profession d'avocat in France: it is France's fifth-largest Barreau and the third-largest Barreau outside Île-de-France.

The applying entity is a **legally constituted professional authority** entrusted with representative, administrative, and disciplinary regulatory duties in relation to the Avocats registered with its Barreau.

It is also a committed stakeholder serving the Profession d'avocat as a whole and works in synergy with other regional Barreaux and various Institutions de la Profession d'avocat serving the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats.

Within its jurisdiction, the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux represents the collective interests of the Avocats registered with the Barreau de Bordeaux, notably through:

- Institutional representation of the Profession d'avocat at local level;
- Administration of access to the Profession d'avocat at local level;
- Defence of the professional interests of its Avocats who fall under the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux;
- Contribution to the organisation and development of professional practices;

- Promotion of the Profession d'avocat among citizens, litigants, and Internet users.

This mission gives the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux the role of **institutional representative of a significant part of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats**.

At national level, the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux participates in the **election of members of the Conseil National des Barreaux**. Its members are elected by direct vote of the members of the Barreaux, divided into two separate electoral colleges, each of which elects half of the CNB members:

- The general electoral college: composed of all Avocats registered on the Tableau;
- The Ordre electoral college: composed of the Bâtonniers, vice-Bâtonniers, and members of the Conseil de l'Ordre of the various Barreaux.

Given the number of Avocats represented by the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux, they have a significant influence on voting on and approving the general policy of the Profession d'avocat.

Members and former members of the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux are also involved in the Institutions de la Profession d'avocat whose purpose is to regulate and oversee the regulated community of Avocats.

Furthermore, the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux **regularly takes positions on the general policy of the Profession d'avocat** and, more broadly, on the French justice system. Its voice is heard by the other members of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats.

2. Operational sponsorship of the project for the benefit of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats

As the applying entity, the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux is operationally leading the application for the gTLD « **.avocat** ». This application is intended to benefit the entire Communauté professionnelle des Avocats, on whose behalf it is acting on a precautionary basis.

In this respect, the « **.AVOCAT** » extension represents an important opportunity to strengthen the identification of French Avocats on the Internet, ensure public trust, and combat the risks of identity fraud, deceptive online practices, and the unlawful practice of the Profession d'avocat.

This operational sponsorship therefore aims to help provide an identifiable and secure digital space addressing the specific needs of the Profession d'avocat and the Institutions de la Profession d'avocat.

The application submitted by the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux has received **significant institutional support from the Profession d'avocat**, confirming its roots within the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats.

This support includes, in particular, that of the **Conférence des Bâtonniers**, a representative organisation bringing together 164 French Barreaux and representing approximately 45,000 Avocats. This Institution de la Profession d'avocat acts as a national representative and regulatory body, notably for provincial Barreaux (excluding the Barreau de Paris).

Syndicats d'avocats within the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats also support this project, including the **Voix des Barreaux**, which was established by Avocats from provincial Barreaux to represent them on the Conseil National des Barreaux.

Ad hoc structures mandated by the Institutions de la Profession d'avocat also support this project. The application has therefore received the support of the **Groupement d'Intérêt Économique Barotech**, established by 16 major provincial Barreaux to provide management software for 73 Barreaux

(representing more than 30,000 Avocats), which has also expressed its support for the application led by the Ordre des Avocats du Barreaux de Bordeaux on behalf of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats.

The application submitted by the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux is also supported by several **Ordres des Avocats** from various Barreaux of significant importance:

The **Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Lyon** supports the project, which is intended to serve the 4.000 Avocats registered on the Tableau of the Barreau de Lyon. Therefore, it is the second-largest Barreau in France. The Barreau de Lyon is a key partner of numerous leading institutions, stakeholders and events in its region.

The **Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Marseille**, supports the project. No fewer than 3.030 Avocats are registered on the Tableau of the Barreau de Marseille, making it the third-largest Barreau in France. Its institutional history, notably reflected in the succession of its Bâtonnier since 1811, demonstrates its longstanding role in French judicial life. It is also a Barreau and deeply rooted in a region open to the Mediterranean and international exchanges.

The **Ordre des Avocats du Barreau des Hauts-de-Seine** supports the project. It is particularly significant, as this one Barreau represents 2.493 Avocats. It also holds a major position in the field of business law, since the French entities of the Avocat firms affiliated with the world's four leading audit and consulting networks, commonly referred to as the "Big Four", are registered on its Tableau.

Three of these firms are established in La Défense, the leading business district and one of the most renowned in the world:

- The Deloitte Avocat firm, based in the Tour Majunga;
- The Ernst & Young (EY) Avocat firm, based in the Tour First;
- The KPMG Avocat firm, based in the Tour Eqho.

The fourth, PwC Société d'Avocats, is established in Neuilly-sur-Seine, a municipality also located in the Hauts-de-Seine department, in the immediate vicinity of La Défense.

The **Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Lille** supports this project. It comprises nearly 1,500 Avocats registered on its Tableau. Deeply rooted in the judicial history of northern France, this Barreau has a longstanding tradition, since the presence of Avocats in Lille has been documented since the 11th century. It is

also distinguished by its international outlook, owing to its location at the heart of a region particularly shaped by economic and cross-border exchanges.

The **Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Montpellier** also supports the application submitted by the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux. With 1,260 Avocats registered on its Tableau, this Barreau is characterized by the diversity and high degree of specialization of its members, as 200 Avocats of this Barreau hold a recognized specialization.

The **Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Rennes** also supports this application. Comprising more than 1,000 Avocats, it is one of the principal Barreaux in western France. Its importance also derives from its location within a leading university, economic and administrative metropolitan area, which gives it significant influence throughout the region.

The **Ordre des Avocats du Barreau d'Aix-en-Provence** support the project. It comprises 946 Avocats registered on its Tableau. The Barreau d'Aix-en-Provence is one of the oldest Barreaux in France, and many prominent figures in the French legal community have been among its member.

The **Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Versailles**, founded over 200 years ago, also supports the application. It represents 800 Avocats and is regarded as one of the pilot Barreaux in the development of new technologies aimed at delivering more effective justice.

The **Ordre des Avocats du Barreau du Val-de-Marne** supports the project submitted to ICANN by the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux. It comprises 610 Avocats and holds a recognized position within the judicial landscape of the Paris region. It operates at the heart of a densely populated department characterized by the diversity of its economic stakeholders and the legal needs of its residents.

The **Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Nîmes**, which comprises 293 Avocats registered on its Tableau, and the **Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Carpentras**, which comprises 91 Avocats, also support the application submitted by the Barreau de Bordeaux. Although their membership is smaller than that of certain major metropolitan Barreaux, their support is nevertheless highly significant. It demonstrates the interest generated by the application for the new **".avocat"** gTLD among smaller Barreaux, which are also concerned by the issues and considerations underpinning the application.

The support provided for this application by the Ordres des Avocats of different regions, the Institutions de la Profession d'Avocats, the Syndicats d'avocats, the Associations d'avocat, and the ad hoc structures mandated by the Institutions de la Profession d'avocat demonstrates recognition of the project as serving the collective interest of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats.

The relationship between the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux and the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats is **structural, institutional, and representative**.

The applying entity, rooted in this community, acts in the general interest of the Profession d'avocat. Its application to ICANN and its connection to the said Communauté professionnelle des Avocats are therefore all the more firmly established because the application is legitimate and is supported by the various members of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats.