

Do the organizing bodies make active and ongoing efforts to engage with the community and build relationships with its members?

Instructions

1 Provide documented evidence of community initiatives undertaken to date.

2 The applicant entity must provide documented evidence of the following practices carried out during the two years preceding submission of the application:

a) provision of support;

b) dissemination of information;

c) response to the community's specific needs;

d) maintenance and strengthening of ties within the community.

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

Do the organizing bodies demonstrate active and consistent efforts to engage and connect with the identified community and its members?

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. Provision of support to the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats

Support provided to the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats is characterized by making available tools, services, training courses and schemes that are directly useful to Avocats in their daily practice of the Profession d’avocat:

The National Avocats' Health Day, organized on 7 April 2026 by the Conférence des Bâtonniers, the Conseil National des Barreaux and the Barreau de Paris, is an example of this category. The CNB describes the day as a nationwide initiative intended to place the health of Avocats at the heart of professional concerns and to address the entire Communauté professionnelle des Avocats, namely:

- The Avocats;
- The Ordres;
- The CNB;
- The Conférence des Bâtonniers;
- The CRFPAs;
- The CARPAs;
- The Conseils de discipline;
- The Syndicats and Associations d'avocats;
- The ad hoc structures 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.

The national programme included a webinar in the morning and local activities in the Barreaux in the afternoon, with each Barreau invited to tailor the day to its own needs. This initiative therefore directly constitutes a support offering, as it provides **practical assistance in health**, prevention and workplace well-being. [CNB – Première édition de la Journée nationale de la santé des avocats](#).

The Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux specifically implemented this initiative locally by organizing a **Health Day for Bordeaux Avocats**. The event was dedicated to the mental and physical health of Avocats, with expert round tables, workshops, meetings with healthcare partners, health screenings and preventive activities including first aid, sophrology, meditation, osteopathy, stretching and yoga.

This local implementation shows that the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux does not merely endorse a national policy: it turns it into an operational programme tailored to the needs of its members. [Barreau de Bordeaux – Journée Santé des avocats bordelais](#).

The same approach applies to support concerning the professional quality of life of Avocats. The CNB made available a self-assessment platform, **Qanopee**, designed to evaluate physical health, mental health, stress, mental workload,

sleep and work-life balance. The platform is presented as a secure and confidential tool compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) adopted by the European Commission and designed to address issues specific to the Profession d'avocat; it provides personalized feedback and recommendations in the form of practical micro-actions. This is again support for the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats, because the CNB provides members with a practical tool that Avocats can use directly to prevent risks associated with their practice. [CNB – Plateforme d'autodiagnostic en matière de qualité de vie professionnelle](#).

At the level of the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux, this concern is also reflected in practical measures supporting work-life balance. The activity report of the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux mentions a micro-day-care centre, as well as partnerships entered into in 2025 with “**Ema ma nounou à moi**” (Ema, my nanny), a childcare service, including emergency childcare, for children aged 0 to 12, and “**Bloomdayz**”, which provides extracurricular holiday care for children aged 3 to 12. These measures address a very practical need of Avocats who are parents, for whom the mental workload and stress associated with childcare are genuine personal issues, and fully form part of the support offered to the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats. [Barreau de Bordeaux – Rapport d'activité 2024](#).

The complementary nature of the measures implemented by the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux, the applicant entity before ICANN for the “.avocat” gTLD, and by the Conseil National des Barreaux demonstrates a shared commitment: the CNB provides national impetus, and the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux makes it effective locally.

2. Dissemination of information within the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats

Information is disseminated through the production of guides, resources, institutional communications, training courses and events enabling members of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats to remain informed of legal, technological, ethical and professional developments.

Artificial intelligence provides a particularly significant example. The Conseil National des Barreaux adopted a **guide on professional ethics and artificial intelligence**, presented as an operational framework to assist Avocats in the use of generative AI. The guide reiterates the fundamental requirements of the Profession d'avocat: professional secrecy, GDPR compliance, competence, prudence, independence, client information and balanced fee-setting. This initiative constitutes information dissemination because it gives Avocats practical and ethical guidance for understanding and using a new technology in compliance with the essential principles of the Profession d'avocat. [CNB – Guide sur la déontologie et l'intelligence artificielle](#).

The Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux acts in the same direction at local level. It was selected as one of the ambassadors of the Government's "**Osez l'IA**" plan, intended to support businesses in adopting and deploying artificial-intelligence tools. The source states that this recognition reflects the commitment of the Barreau de Bordeaux to digital issues, particularly the adoption of AI tools for the benefit of all Bordeaux Avocats. It also mentions the organization of events to train Avocats and raise their awareness of artificial intelligence. [Barreau de Bordeaux – Le Barreau de Bordeaux sélectionné comme ambassadeur IA](#).

This dissemination of information is not merely theoretical: it is accompanied by access to tools. The Barreau de Bordeaux entered into a partnership with **Haiku, a legal artificial-intelligence platform**, to provide all Bordeaux Avocats with an intelligent legal assistant. The tool automates certain time-consuming tasks—case analysis, legal research and document drafting—with the aim of saving Avocats time, improving their productivity and strengthening legal certainty in their cases. This action constitutes both information dissemination and operational support, as it assists Avocats in the practical adoption of AI. [Barreau de Bordeaux – Le Barreau de Bordeaux mise sur l'IA avec Haiku](#).

The **Regional Public Law Meetings**, organized in Bordeaux on 11 June 2025 by the Conseil National des Barreaux, the Barreau de Bordeaux and the Conférence des Bâtonniers, also fall within this category. The event focused on the theme “**Normes et État de droit**” (*Standards and the Rule of Law*). It served both as a means of disseminating legal and institutional information and as a forum for collective reflection on the rule of law and the conditions governing the practice of the Profession d’avocat. [CNB – Rencontres territoriales de droit public à Bordeaux](#).

3. Response to the specific needs of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats

The Institutions de la Profession d’avocat provide **responses tailored to the individual and collective needs of Avocats**.

Artificial intelligence, also discussed in section 2, is a first example. The Conseil National des Barreaux addresses the need to secure AI use from an ethical perspective through an operational guide, while the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux meets the practical need to adopt these tools through partnerships with legal AI platforms and by making an AI assistant available. The sources show that these tools target practical tasks involved in the practice of the Profession d’avocat: case analysis, legal research, document drafting, time savings, productivity and legal certainty. [CNB – Guide sur la déontologie et l’IA ; Barreau de Bordeaux – Assistant IA Haiku](#).

The activity report of the Barreau de Bordeaux also illustrates this response to specific needs through the establishment, since 13 November 2024, of **legal advice sessions for people with disabilities**. The report states that Avocats staff these sessions on the second Wednesday of each month, except in August, and describes them as unique in France. This initiative addresses a particular legal need and highlights the mobilization of Avocats around a targeted issue, supporting access to law and the social utility of the Profession d’avocat. [Barreau de Bordeaux – Rapport d’activité 2024](#).

The response to the “**legal privilege**” proposal for in-house counsel also addresses a specific need: defending the scope of practice and safeguards specific to the Profession d’avocat. A statement issued by the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux indicates that the Barreau de Bordeaux, like the Conseil National des Barreaux and the provincial Barreaux, opposes the bill concerning the confidentiality of legal advice given by in-house counsel. The Barreau de Bordeaux explains that this opposition is not corporatist, but is based on protecting litigants’ rights, the risk of opacity and inequality between large and small companies. [Barreau de Bordeaux – Communiqué sur le legal privilege](#).

Mobilization against **the bill on criminal justice and respect for victims** is another example. The CNB adopted a resolution on 7 April 2026 after noting the mobilization of more than one hundred Ordres d'Avocats and thousands of fellow Avocats. It criticizes the absence of formal consultation with the Profession d'avocat, the threats to the fundamental safeguards of criminal proceedings, and calls for the bill to be withdrawn in its current form. The resolution further supports ongoing mobilizations throughout the French Barreaux and calls for the Profession d'avocat to unite. [CNB – Résolution sur le projet de loi Justice criminelle](#).

At local level, the Barreau de Bordeaux relayed and led this mobilization with other Barreaux, notably through collective communications by the Profession d'avocat. This local action shows that responding to a specific need—here, defending the safeguards of criminal proceedings and the role of the Avocat—is not limited to the national position of the Conseil National des Barreaux: it continues within the Barreaux, which contribute to the practical mobilization of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats. [Barreau de Bordeaux – Communication LinkedIn sur la mobilisation des barreaux](#).

The same approach is apparent in the response of the Barreau de Bordeaux to the Décret Rivage, through a public communication entitled “**Non au projet de décret RIVAGE**” (No to the draft decree RIVAGE). This position illustrates the ability of the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux to respond quickly to a regulatory development perceived as affecting the conditions of practice or safeguards of the Profession d'avocat. [Barreau de Bordeaux – Communication LinkedIn sur le décret Rivage](#).

4. Maintaining and strengthening ties within the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats

Community ties are maintained through meetings, conferences, training courses, professional days and events allowing Avocats to come together, exchange views and develop common positions.

The National Magistrat-Avocat Relations Day illustrates this objective of maintaining and building ties. The Conseil National des Barreaux states that the day is intended to bring together Avocats, judges and court registry staff around issues of common interest, in order to share experiences, promote best practices and strengthen harmonious professional relations in the service of high-quality justice. It is therefore clearly an initiative to foster community ties, as well as

interprofessional ties with other justice-system stakeholders. [CNB – Journée nationale de la relation magistrat-avocat.](#)

In Bordeaux, the same dynamic was implemented through **the National Magistrat-Avocat-Greffier Relations Day**, organized by the Barreau de Bordeaux, the French National School for the Judiciary, the Bordeaux Court of Appeal and the Bordeaux tribunal judiciaire. The chosen theme—“Fostering shared professional ethics in the age of AI”—shows that the event pursues a dual objective: strengthening ties between justice professionals and sharing best practices around a new issue common to the Profession d’avocat and the judiciary. [Barreau de Bordeaux – Journée Magistrat-Avocat-Greffier.](#)

The Regional Public Law Meetings also help strengthen ties within the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats. They were jointly organized by the CNB, the Barreau de Bordeaux and the Conférence des Bâtonniers, demonstrating direct institutional cooperation at both national and local levels. The event, devoted to legal standards and the rule of law, brought Avocats together around a structural issue while also providing continuing professional education. [CNB – Rencontres territoriales de droit public à Bordeaux.](#)

The Convention Nationale des Avocats 2026 (CNA) follows the same approach at national level. The CNA website presents it as three days of reflection, exchanges, conviviality, debates, training, workshops, meetings with partners and shared moments between Avocats from across France. It is explicitly designed as a gathering, an opportunity to develop common positions and a celebration of the unity and diversity of the Profession d’avocat. [Convention nationale des avocats 2026.](#)

Accordingly, the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats works continuously and actively to defend the interests of the Profession d’avocat.

This commitment operates at two complementary levels:

- At **local** level, through the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux for the direct benefit of Bordeaux Avocats, whose needs reflect those of the entire Communauté professionnelle des Avocats, as well as through other Barreaux and Ordres des Avocats;
- At **national level**, through initiatives led by the Conseil National des Barreaux, which the Barreau de Bordeaux supports and implements locally whenever the needs of the Profession d’avocat so require.

