

Are the pursuits of the identified community enduring and sustainable?

Instructions

- 1 Provide evidence of the community's sustainability.
- 2 The applicant entity must provide documented evidence of the following practices carried out during the two years preceding the submission of the application:
 - a) evidence of recurring or scheduled activities demonstrating continuity over time;
 - b) documented archives of past activities demonstrating a longstanding tradition or established practice;
 - c) records of debates highlighting the enduring presence of the identified community or its cultural significance.

Are the pursuits of the identified community enduring and sustainable?

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. Recurring activities and continuity over time

The Communauté professionnelle des Avocats, whose members are entered on the Tableaux of the 164 French Barreaux, has enduring, **sustainable, and institutionally established pursuits.**

The Profession d’avocat is governed by a permanent regulatory framework, continuous professional self-governance, and recurring professional practices.

Each year, more than 4,000 trainee Avocats prepare to join the Profession d’avocat. This dynamic contributes to the continuing growth and development

of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats, which now comprises nearly 80,000 Avocats. <https://cnb.avocat.fr/chiffres-cles-2026-de-la-profession-d-avocat>.

Beyond its substantial membership, the sustainability of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats is also ensured by documented and continuous activities over the past two years, as well as by its longstanding historical structure.

The Communauté professionnelle des Avocats is characterised by **structural, mandatory, and recurring activities**, including:

- The mandatory continuing professional training of Avocats: the Centre Régional de Formation Professionnelle des Avocats, operating within the jurisdiction of each court of appeal, provides continuing training to the Avocats within its jurisdiction. Each Avocat can thereby satisfy their continuing education obligation, which requires 20 hours of training per calendar year or 40 hours over two consecutive calendar years;
- Regular meetings at local and regional levels:
 - At national level: the General Assembly of the Conseil National des Barreaux meets regularly to deliberate on matters relating to the Profession d'avocat. On these occasions, its members are called upon to take positions on various issues affecting the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats: <https://cnb.avocat.fr/assemblees-generales>. The CNB also conducts advocacy initiatives intended to address contemporary challenges facing society and legal professionals: <https://cnb.avocat.fr/les-actions-d-influence>;
 - At local level: the Ordres of the 164 Barreaux are administered by Conseils de l'Ordre, which meet between once and several times each month. These representative bodies are also subject to strict annual deadlines, particularly regarding the adoption and publication of the Tableau of the Barreau.
- Collective reflection by the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats on subjects and themes presenting major issues for society and for the Profession d'avocat, which may affect all Avocats of the 164 Barreaux of France:

- The organisation of permanent professional commissions publishing work on fourteen different themes, including professional ethics, criminal law, civil law, and digital matters: <https://cnb.avocat.fr/>;
- The establishment of working groups within the CNB, which contribute to collective reflection by the Profession d'avocat on various legal, professional, and institutional matters: <https://cnb.avocat.fr/>;
- The holding of various conferences organised nationally and by the 164 local Barreaux:
 - A conference organised on 18 December 2025 by the Conseil National des Barreaux, the French section of the International Prison Observatory, and the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: <https://cnb.avocat.fr/medias/CNB-LDH-Programme-droit-de-visite-des-batonniers-dec-2025-694a610fcc0e92.05956018.pdf>;
 - A list prepared by the Barreau de Strasbourg of the various conferences held or scheduled in 2026: <https://www.avocats-strasbourg.com/formations/>;
 - A labour-law conference at the University of Lille, held on 25 and 26 November 2025: <https://www.avocats-lille.com/fr/actualites/communication/id-887-colloque-en-droit-social>;
 - A conference on Standards and the Rule of Law organised in June 2025 by the Barreau de Bordeaux, the Conférence des Bâtonniers, and the CNB: <https://www.adden-leblog.com/colloque-rencontres-territoriales-de-droit-public-normes-et-etat-de-droit/>;
- The organisation of congresses and periodic meetings of the Conférence des Bâtonniers: <https://www.conferencedesbatonniers.com/fr/>;
- The organisation of nationwide events, such as the Convention nationale des Avocats, which will be held from 21 to 23 October 2026 in Toulouse, Albi, and Montauban: <https://www.cna2026.fr>.

These activities demonstrate the existence of **permanent and scheduled organisational continuity within the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats**.

2. Archives and an established professional tradition

Historically, the Profession d'avocat has existed in France **since the Middle Ages**.

Today, the Profession d'avocat in France is regulated by several texts, including a statute more than 50 years old: the Law of 31 December 1971.

This founding legislation unified and structured the Profession d'avocat by establishing:

- The existence of the Barreaux as professional self-governing structures;
- A sustainable national regulatory framework.

This law applies uniformly at national level to all French Avocats.

A Law of 31 December 1990 also established a “new Profession d'avocat”, intended to be independent and practised on a self-employed basis, notably incorporating the former legal advisers.

The Conseil National des Barreaux also adopted a national internal regulation intended to apply to all Avocats. This text is then implemented locally by the 164 Conseils de l'Ordre, each of which establishes its own internal regulation adapted to the local characteristics of its Barreau.

The Communauté professionnelle des Avocats benefits from **institutionalised continuity**, as evidenced by:

- The longstanding and uninterrupted existence of the Barreaux in France;
- The modern structuring of the Profession d'avocat initiated by Law No. 71-1130 of 31 December 1971;
- The professional archives of the Ordres and the CNB;
- The historical publications and annual reports of the Institutions de la Profession d'avocat;

- Consolidated statistical data on the Profession d'avocat (78,000 Avocats and 164 Barreaux).

These elements demonstrate a **stable professional tradition and continuity over time**.

3. Debates, reflection, and the enduring importance of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats

The Communauté professionnelle des Avocats regularly takes positions on current issues and implements practical solutions to address contemporary challenges. These positions and initiatives concern in particular:

- Public debates on access to law and justice:
 - The CNB's position on the freedom of expression of the Avocat and the requirements of a fair trial, a fundamental right: <https://cnb.avocat.fr/actualite/rapport-sur-la-victimisation-secondaire-le-cnb-rappelle-les-enjeux-de-sa-prevention-dans-le-respect-de-la-liberte-d-expression-de-l-avocat-et-des-exigences-du-proces-equitable>;
 - A strike by the Barreau d'Aix-en-Provence in response to the SURE bill: <https://barreauxaix.com/projet-de-loi-sure-greve-du-barreau-daix/>;
 - An article by the Barreau de Bordeaux opposing the SURE bill: <https://www.barreau-bordeaux.com/non-au-projet-de-loi-justice-criminelle-et-respect-des-victimes/>;
- Reflection on the digital transformation of the Profession d'avocat and the impact of artificial intelligence upon it, together with the development of tools enabling Avocats to adopt these new technologies:
 - A Conseil National des Barreaux tool designed to help Avocats compare legal artificial-intelligence solutions: <https://cnb.avocat.fr/actualite/ia-juridiques-un-outil-pour-vous-aider-a-comparer-les-solutions>;
 - The Conseil National des Barreaux's reflection on digital sovereignty and a partnership with the Legal Data Space: <https://cnb.avocat.fr/actualite/souverainete-numerique-vers-un-partenariat-avec-le-legal-data-space>;

- o The commitment of the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux regarding artificial intelligence: <https://www.barreau-bordeaux.com/barreau-bordeaux-ambassadeur-ia/>;
 - o A partnership between the Ordre des Avocats aux Conseils and Jimini AI: <https://www.ordre-avocats-cassation.fr/question-actualite/2025/ia-lordre-des-avocats-aux-conseils-sassocie-jimini-ai#:~:text=Ce%20partenariat%20constitue%20une%20étape,rapports%20avec%20les%20juridictions%20suprêmes> ;
 - o A partnership between the Barreau de Paris and Jimini: <https://www.avocatparis.org/actualites/partenariat-barreau-de-paris-x-jimini>.
- The congresses and conferences of the Barreaux and Institutions de la Profession d'avocat:
 - o The Conseil National des Barreaux agenda listing past and forthcoming events: <https://cnb.avocat.fr/nos-evenements>;
 - o Convention nationale des Avocats 2026: <https://www.cna2026.fr>;
 - o The Third International Congress of Labour Avocats: <https://cnb.avocat.fr/evenement/3eme-congres-international-des-avocats-du-travail> .
- The publications and positions of the Ordres, the Conseil National des Barreaux, and the national bodies of the Profession d'avocat:
 - o General Assemblies of the Conseil National des Barreaux: <https://cnb.avocat.fr/assemblees-generales>;
 - o Advocacy activities of the Conseil National des Barreaux and positions on legislative, regulatory, and professional developments: <https://cnb.avocat.fr/les-actions-d-influence>;
 - o Votes, motions, and deliberations of the Conférence des Bâtonniers: <https://www.conferencedesbatonniers.com/fr/travaux-de-la-conference/vote-motions-et-deliberations>;

- o Communications and publications of the CARPA:
<https://www.carpafrance.org/presse>.

These extensively documented debates highlight:

- The **continuity of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats over time**;
- The essential role of the Profession d'avocat in the rule of law;
- Its ongoing adaptation to social and technological developments.

The pursuits of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats are **enduring and sustainable**, as evidenced by:

- The recurring nature of professional and self-governance activities;
- The existence of archives and a longstanding legal tradition;
- The regular holding of structured debates and reflection;
- The institutional stability of its governing bodies.

These elements demonstrate that the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats is **professional, stable, historically rooted, and institutionally continuous**, and that its pursuits are designed to endure over time.