

From which entities has the applying entity obtained support to operate the applied-for string on behalf of the identified community?

Instructions

Provide evidence that the applying entity's application is supported by attaching letters of support from the governing bodies of the identified community (in connection with Question 136).

From where does the applying entity have the support to run the applied-for string on behalf of the identified community?

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.

Support from entities representing the identified community

The application for the “.AVOCAT” TLD is supported by representative bodies, professional Ordres, and recognised stakeholders of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats, as defined in this application.

This support confirms that the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux, as the applying entity and future registry operator of the “.AVOCAT” TLD, has recognised legitimacy to sponsor and operate this extension on behalf of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats.

The support obtained demonstrates the endorsement of several components of this professional community for the creation of a trusted digital space reserved exclusively for authorised members of the Profession d’avocat, with the objectives of strengthening the digital identification of Avocats, protecting the public against identity theft, and promoting a digital presence consistent with the applicable professional and ethical requirements.

The support obtained comes from different categories within the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats, including professional institutions, representative organisations, and stakeholders contributing to the operation and digital transformation of the Profession.

The corresponding letters of support are attached to this application.

Conférence des Bâtonniers

The Conférence des Bâtonniers supports the application for the “.AVOCAT” TLD.

The Conférence des Bâtonniers represents 163 French Barreaux and approximately 45,000 Avocats. It is a major representative organisation of the Profession d’avocat in France and contributes to the collective representation of the Barreaux and to supporting developments within the Profession.

Its support demonstrates the interest shown by a national representative body in creating a secure and identifiable digital space reserved for authorised members of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats.

This support is a major indication of institutional recognition for the “.AVOCAT” project and confirms its consistency with the collective objectives of the Profession.

Ordres des avocats

The application also benefits from the support of several Ordres des avocats from different Barreaux of significant importance.

The Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de **Lyon** supports the creation of a new gTLD dedicated to the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats, intended to serve the 4,000 Avocats registered on the Tableau of the Barreau de Lyon. The Barreau de Lyon is a key partner of numerous institutions, stakeholders, and major events in its region.

The Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de **Marseille** also supports this 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, reflected in particular in the succession of its Bâtonniers since 1811, demonstrates its longstanding role in French judicial life. It is also a Barreau deeply rooted in a region open to the Mediterranean and international exchanges.

The Ordre des Avocats du Barreau des **Hauts-de-Seine** supports the application of the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux. This support is particularly

significant because this Barreau alone comprises 2,493 Avocats. It also occupies a major position in business law, since the French structures of the law firms affiliated with the four leading global audit and advisory networks, commonly known as the « Big Four », are registered on its Tableau.

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

- The Deloitte Avocat firm, based in Tour Majunga;
- The Ernest & Young (EY) Avocat firm, based in Tour First;
- The KPMG Avocat firm, based in 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, with the presence of Avocats in Lille documented as early as the eleventh century. It is also distinguished by its international outlook, linked to its location at the heart of a region strongly shaped by economic and cross-border exchanges.

The Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de **Montpellier** also supports the application of the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de Bordeaux. With 1,260 Avocats registered on its Tableau, this Barreau is characterised by the diversity and high degree of specialisation of its members, 200 of whom hold a recognised specialist qualification.

The Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de **Rennes** likewise supports this application. With more than 1,000 Avocats, it is one of the leading Barreaux in western France. Its importance also derives from its location in a major university, economic, and administrative metropolitan area, giving it significant regional influence.

The Ordre des Avocats du Barreau **d'Aix-en-Provence** also supports this project. It has 946 Avocats registered on its Tableau. The Barreau d'Aix-en-Provence is one of the oldest Barreaux in France, and many eminent figures in the French legal world have been among its members.

The Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de **Versailles**, founded more than 200 years ago, also supports the application. It represents 800 Avocats and is regarded as one of the pilot Barreaux in developing new technologies for 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 recognised position in the judicial landscape of the Paris region. It operates in a densely populated department characterised by the diversity of its economic stakeholders and the legal needs of its residents.

The Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de **Nîmes**, comprising 293 Avocats registered on its Tableau, and the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de **Carpentras**, comprising 91 Avocats, also support the application of the Barreau de Bordeaux. Although their memberships are smaller than those of certain major metropolitan Barreaux, their support remains significant. It demonstrates the interest generated by the application for the new « .avocat » gTLD among smaller Barreaux, which are equally concerned by the issues and considerations underlying the project.

The Ordres des avocats are the representative institutions of the Barreaux and are responsible in particular for representing registered Avocats, maintaining the Tableau, and ensuring compliance with the professional and ethical rules applicable to the Profession d'avocat.

The support of these Ordres illustrates the endorsement of institutional stakeholders directly responsible for representing and supporting the members of the professional community concerned.

Further letters of support from Ordres des avocats are being obtained and will be submitted as part of the application to supplement the evidence of territorial support for the project.

GIE Barotech

GIE Barotech also supports the application.

GIE Barotech was established by 16 major regional Barreaux and provides digital management solutions to 73 Barreaux representing more than 30,000 Avocats.

As a recognised technical stakeholder in the digital ecosystem of the French Barreaux, its support confirms the relevance of the “.AVOCAT” project to the challenges of digital transformation, the security of professional data, and the digital identification of the Profession.

Barotech’s support provides additional evidence that the “.AVOCAT” TLD is aligned with the operational and technological needs of the professional community concerned.

Voix des Barreaux

The trade-union organisation Voix des Barreaux supports the application.

As a collective organisation representing the professional interests of Avocats, Voix des Barreaux contributes to discussions concerning developments in the Profession and the challenges it faces.

Its support demonstrates the interest shown by a professional organisation of Avocats in creating a community-based digital space that addresses the Profession’s specific needs for trust, identification, and security.

Diversity and scope of community support

The support obtained does not result from an initiative limited to a particular group of stakeholders, but reflects the progressive endorsement by different components of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats of a shared project intended to strengthen digital trust associated with the identity of Avocats.

It covers several categories of stakeholders within this community, including:

- Professional institutions representing Avocats;
- Representative organisations of the Profession;
- Stakeholders contributing to the digital environment of the Barreaux;
- Collective organisations participating in discussions concerning developments in the Profession.

This support demonstrates that the application for the “.AVOCAT” TLD addresses a shared community objective and that the Ordre des Avocats du Barreau de

Bordeaux benefits from recognised support to operate this extension for the benefit of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats.

The list of support presented in the application may be supplemented by additional letters of support from Ordres des avocats and other members of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats.

The attached letters of support constitute the supporting evidence enabling ICANN to assess the community support for the application and the legitimacy of the applying entity to operate the “.AVOCAT” TLD on behalf of the identified community.