

COVID-19 – Newsletter, Monday, March 23, 2020

Dear colleagues

I would like to begin by wishing you all a good week in this COVID-19 era. Despite the uncertainties, and personal and professional anxieties, we strongly believe that that we will recover from this crisis. Yes, we will face difficult times but, one day at a time, one step at a time, we will become more and more creative and we will continue to move forward. Thank you for spreading your optimism as often as possible, not only with your colleagues, but with the general public as well.

Here is the news:

- 1) VIRTUAL TRIALS: As I previously mentioned last week, our legal system needs to be up and running again as soon as possible, online, and not only regarding urgent issues. We will dedicate our efforts to finding online solutions to the current closures. The institution of justice must function, even in times of crisis. The strength and capacity of our institutions, including our legal system, to adapt will help us return to a semblance of normalcy. Justice is not only essential to the respect of fundamental rights - it is necessary to the economic activity, if only for settling disputes and interpreting contracts.
- 2) SWORN STATEMENTS: Late Friday evening, we clarified the ambiguity of sworn statements via technological means. They are allowed, see [the details below](#). This step gives us hope for the use of technological means in the legal system.
- 3) COLLABORATION: I would like to thank all attorneys who are acting in a collaborative manner in their day-to-day practice. Certain domains particularly require collaboration during these challenging times, family matters being one of them in particular. I have the utmost confidence in your abilities and your judgment.
- 4) LEGAL CLINIC: At present, I am expecting the clinic to last for two weeks. If you have volunteered and have not yet been contacted, you will be contacted shortly. Thank you again to all for your quick response and efficiency in helping us establish this clinic on such short notice.

For all information regarding practice court, please follow the [continuous information](#).

Do not hesitate to join our Facebook group «Avocates et avocats du Québec - Groupe d'entraide - COVID19».

For any questions email: covid19@barreau.qc.ca

Finally, please note that you will now receive these messages on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays until further notice.

Best regards,

Paul-Matthieu Grondin

Bâtonnier du Québec