

COVID-19 – Newsletter, March 17, 2020

Dear colleagues,

Here is the news based on the most frequently seen topics contained in the emails we received at covid19@barreau.qc.ca :

- 1) BAR FEES AND MEMBERSHIP: following yesterday's announcement that the delay to pay our bar fees has been extended to June 1st, 2020, we received questions from many of you regarding the possible impact on delaying our annual registration, on our insurance, on making payments by preauthorise debits, on the validity of our bar cards and our ability to enter the courthouses. You will find [the answers to your questions here](#).
- 2) OPERATING PROCEDURES IN THE VARIOUS TRIBUNALS: we are aware that at present there are certain differences in operating procedures from district to district and that there are certain guidelines in the press releases that could be refined. We have also received many questions regarding the suspension of certain delays. The judiciary, the Minister of Justice and other relevant bodies are working together in an effort to resolve this situation and we are confident that the situation will improve with every day. We strongly encourage you to regularly consult the notices issued by the tribunals and published on our website in the section dedicated to [COVID19](#). We invite you to continue to send us any questions to which you cannot find an answer on our website.
- 3) LEGAL AID: we are aware of the concerns of attorneys who accept legal aid mandates privately regarding legal aid mandates being issued. All of those concerned are working together in order to resolve this situation.
- 4) LEGAL INTERNSHIPS (ARTICLING STUDENTS): At this stage, we are unable to provide you with a final response. This question will require further reflection. We will get back to you with a final response as soon as possible.
- 5) SWEARING-IN OF ARTICLING STUDENTS: With respect to the swearing-in of articling students that were already scheduled to take place in the near future, do not worry – those articling students will be able to begin practicing on the same date as previously established. It goes without saying that scheduled group swearing-in ceremonies will have to be administered differently for the time being – they will likely take place virtually. Please be assured that the interns in question will be kept duly informed and will be sworn-in with delay.
- 6) FACEBOOK : Please do not hesitate to join our Facebook group «Avocates et avocats du Québec - Groupe d'entraide - COVID19». Please keep in mind that this group is not an official

mode of communication used by the Barreau du Québec.

7) LEGAL CLINIC: Shortly we will provide more details regarding the legal clinic mentioned in previous notices. This will be a wonderful opportunity for all of the actors in the legal community to collaborate. I wish to thank you again for the abundant expression of interest to participate in this project.

I will write to you again tomorrow.

Kind regards,

Paul-Matthieu Grondin
Bâtonnier du Québec