

**COVID-19 – Newsletter, March 19, 2020**

Dear colleagues,

Good morning.

Here is the news of the day:

- 1) ECONOMIC RELIEF MEASURES: We have summarized the details of the [stimulus packages announced with the governments yesterday](#). We expect there to be more developments announced in the coming days.
- 2) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT : In order to determine whether or not a training or professional development conference has been cancelled and if the conference is not being offered by the Barreau du Québec, please inquire directly with the organisation that is offering the conference. Please note that in most cases, these trainings and conferences are being cancelled. For information regarding professional development services offered by the Barreau du Québec, please [click here](#). We have received questions regarding the 30 hours of mandatory continuing education for the period from 2019-2021. We still have some time before we have to address this issue because we are in the middle of a two-year reference period and not at the end.
- 3) BAR SCHOOL : Our current students are particularly distressed by the current situation and we understand their concern. We are currently working on finding alternatives in order to allow exams to take place and/or for the graduation of our students. Honestly, we are all presently living the same situation as all other educational institutions: there are many questions and few answers at present. We will be methodical and compassionate, and we will find a solution.
- 4) TECHNOLOGICAL MEANS IN OUR COURTHOUSES: Yesterday, I mentioned our willingness to allow individuals to be sworn in using technological means. We will confirm with you as soon as we have been assured that this is possible. Overall, the system of justice is experiencing a kind of technological shift at a high speed.
- 5) PAMBA : I invite all lawyers to call upon the services offered by PAMBA if needed. Here is a [notice to this effect](#).
- 6) LEGAL CLINIC : The legal clinic will be launched on Friday in conjunction with Minister of Justice, the *Commission des services juridiques* (CSJ) and the CAIJ. I will also thank all our partners by way of social media. For the purpose of the launch, the consultation services will be offered by lawyers from the CSJ. In the coming days, we will be in touch with the numerous attorneys who expressed interest in participating in the legal clinic. I wish to thank you all again.

For all practice court updates, please consult our continuously updated website, [HERE](#)

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](mailto:covid19@barreau.qc.ca)

Kind regards,

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Bâtonnier du Québec