

COVID-19 – Newsletter, March 18, 2020

Dear colleagues,

1) ECONOMIC RELIEF MEASURES FOR THE PUBLIC AND MEMBERS OF THE BAR : It is clear, that the Canadian and Quebec governments are now preparing to inject significant amounts of money into the economy in order to alleviate the economic effects of COVID-19 on businesses, the self-employed and employees - three criteria that apply to lawyers. These initiatives are obviously welcome. We strongly support them in both the private and public sectors. At the Barreau du Québec, we are also exploring the full range of options we can, to avoid to the extent possible, a member being left behind in the profession.

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2) LEGAL AID: The *Commission des services juridiques* has published notices announcing, amongst other things, an acceleration of the review of applications. The notices are available on our website in the section designated to [COVID-19](#).

3) PRATIQUE DANS LES TRIBUNAUX : We receive notices from the various tribunals on a daily basis. The notices are available on our website in the section designated to [COVID-19](#). We invite you to consult them on a regular basis. We completely agree that district-by-district solutions are not ideal, but we should be through this in a matter of days.

4) STAGES : We have begun addressing this question. You can consult the letter that was sent to all *maîtres de stage* [here](#). The situation is evolving on a daily basis and we are progressing in our thought process.

5) SWORN STATEMENTS: We are in the process of clarifying all ambiguities such that individuals can be sworn in by technological means.

6) LEGAL CLINIC : We are almost ready to launch our special legal clinic. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our partners, including the Minister of Justice, the CAIJ, the *Commission des services juridiques*, Éducaloi, Justice Pro Bono, Juripop, the young bar association and the list goes on. Thank you also to the astounding number of lawyers who have offered their time to volunteer. Obviously, due to the necessary social distancing measures, a clinic of this type, which takes place by telephone throughout Quebec, is a huge logistical challenge.

7) BAR OF QUEBEC ELECTIONS : We will slightly extend the deadline for receiving nominations. The election will take place as planned since electronic voting allows us to hold it without violating public health requirements.

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

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

Good health to you all!

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Bâtonnier du Québec