



Ms. Flavia Ioana MAIER
President of the Cluj Bar Association
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Barcelona, 22nd May 2020

Dear President, Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your letter and the information provided regarding measures that are being adopted both by your Bar Association and the Romanian authorities. We sincerely wish that the situation in Romania is showing signs of improvement and that personal losses have been kept to a minimum.

I agree that in these dire circumstances, which have consequences worldwide, sharing knowledge and experiences is a powerful way of fighting back the effects of the global pandemic.

In Spain, as you are probably aware, a state of alarm was decreed on 14 March 2020, which, as of the present date, will be in place until 22 May and probably extended until 7 June. Nonetheless, the Government is currently negotiating its extension for another month. As a consequence of the state of alarm, a large part of the economic activity has been forcibly shut down, which has led many companies to suspend most of their employment contracts. Additionally, all judicial and administrative proceedings, with

some exceptions, were generally suspended, with the ensuing drop in activity of most lawyers and law firms in Spain.

As regards the measures that are being adopted in Spain to support the lawyers and the functioning of the judicial system, please find some of the measures adopted by the Bar Association and the Spanish government:

- The Bar Association has given the option to postpone the payment of membership fees; besides the ICAB Council has also agreed to donate 100,000€ to the Foundation's social work grants, Ignasi de Gispert Foundation. The purpose of this foundation is to contribute to improving the situation or alleviate the problems of lawyers who are in a more delicate situation by offering temporary financial assistance or through the provision of any type of service, and will require the existence and accreditation of a state of need to the potential beneficiary.
- In order to support self-employed workers (including self-employed lawyers), the Spanish Government has set in place a subsidy which may be requested by any self-employed attorney who is affected by the closing of business due to the state of alarm or whose turnover on a particular month falls by 75% from the monthly average of the previous semester may request a subsidy;
- Regarding some measures that affect the judicial system, the following have been adopted:
 - Once the state of alarm is lifted, judicial terms, which were suspended as of 14 March, will be deemed to start running again from the beginning.
 - The days 11 to 31 of August 2020 have been declared business days for procedural purposes.
 - The term set out by law to file appeal has been extended.
 - Certain proceedings have been categorised as preferential.
 - Measures aimed at extending health protection under the COVID-19 pandemic have been adopted, facilitating social distance in judicial acts and even avoiding physical presence in the courts insofar as this is possible.

From the Bar Association of Barcelona and in order to continue offering training services despite the confinement derived from COVID-19, we have been promoting online training sessions on current hot topics through webinars, conferences and courses that can be seen on video streaming, which have already overcome half a million impressions and have reached almost 50.000 visits, in order to clear up any doubt relating different legal questions generated by the state alarm (civil law,

bankruptcy law, consumer law, family law, tax law, labor law, commercial law, civil liability and insurance and second opportunity).

We hope all this information is useful to you.

I very much look forward to meeting you soon in an international legal event later this year and strengthening the links between the Cluj and the Barcelona Bar Associations for the benefit of our members.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gay', with several large, overlapping loops and flourishes.

M^a Eugenia Gay

President of the Barcelona Bar Association