

REGULATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SEVERAL OFFICES

Article 1

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 430, 2° of the Belgian Judicial Code, a lawyer registered on the lawyers' roll may establish several offices in one or more judicial districts, within Belgium or abroad.

However, a lawyer who practices within an alliance may not establish individual offices outside that alliance. Alliance offices are established by the registration of one or more of its members on the lawyers' roll of a Bar Council where that lawyer permanently practices as part of this alliance.

An alliance *for the purpose of these regulations* means a professional partnership having a commercial form, a professional partnership of financial resources having a commercial form, a civil partnership and a professional partnership of financial resources.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 430, 2° of the Belgian Judicial Code, a trainee lawyer may, in addition to any office that he may have with his supervising principal, only establish one office, which must be in the same judicial district.

Article 2

A lawyer is obliged to register himself on the lawyers' roll of every Bar Council where he has an office. A lawyer must give notice of every office that he has to the administration of every Bar Council where he is registered.

He will be a member of each of these Bar Councils, be entitled to vote and be eligible for election and must pay the contributions as determined by each Bar Council.

A lawyer is subject to the authority and supervision of the chairman and board of the Bar Council of every bar where he is registered.

The following rules will apply when several lawyers are involved in a problem or dispute:

The only competent person to deal with the matter will be the common chairman, namely of the bar where all the lawyers involved in the problem or dispute are registered.

If the lawyers involved do not have a common chairman, the chairman of the Bar Council of the relevant postal address will be competent to deal with the matter.

If lawyers from different judicial districts are involved who are not registered at the same bar, the lawyer making the complaint may bring the case before the chairman of the Bar Council of any judicial district where he is registered himself. This chairman will consult with the other chairmen involved.

Any disciplinary sanction will be communicated to the chairmen of the Bar Councils where the lawyer is also registered.

Article 3

A lawyer's stationery must clearly state the postal address and other relevant details and refer in a secondary manner to the location of the other offices. For the rest, the stationery must be identical for all branches.

The stationery of an alliance must clearly state which lawyer is registered at which bar(s).

A trainee lawyer who has an office at his supervising principal or his supervising principal's alliance must use separate stationery for any individual office, however without any reference therein to the name of the office to which he is associated as a trainee lawyer.

The stationery of the lawyer or alliance to whom/which the trainee lawyer is associated, may not refer to the trainee lawyer's individual office.

Article 4

A lawyer who has several offices must organise himself so that he has the infrastructure which makes it possible to actually practice the profession at each office and that is in keeping with the normal standards for running a practice.

Article 5

A lawyer who is registered at several bars must always pay the full annual contribution to one and the same bar, including the cost price for all communal facilities to that bar.

At the other bars where he is registered, he must pay half of the annual contribution that he would have been obliged to pay if he were only registered at that bar.

Approved at the general meeting of the Flemish Bar Council of 04.06.2003.

Notice given in accordance with Article 497 of the Belgian Judicial Code on 11.06.2003.

In force since 12.08.2003.

These regulations amend the regulations on the establishment of several offices, approved at the general meeting of the Flemish Bar Council of 18.09.2002 (the amendment was indicated in italics).