

## **ATTORNEYS IN THE CONSULAR DISTRICT OF STRASBOURG**

### **Definition:**

**AVOCATS:** An "avocat" must be a lawyer or attorney. "Avocats" may render legal advice on all matters, draft agreements and contracts, handle commercial disputes and collection cases, and plead and defend civil and criminal cases before the French courts to which they are admitted.

**NOTARIES (NOTAIRES)** A French "notaire" is a public official appointed by the Ministry of Justice, and not the equivalent of a notary public in the United States. The number of "notaires" in each jurisdiction is limited, and their fees fixed by law. Their functions include the preparation and recording of notarial acts (wills, deeds, acts of incorporation, marriage contracts, etc.), the administration and settlements of estates (excluding litigation in court) and serving as the repository of wills. They are not lawyers, but very specialized members of the legal profession. They may not plead in court.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

\* **Consular District:** The Strasbourg consular district, roughly the eastern part of France ( Alsace, Lorraine and Franche-Comte), includes these departments:

**Bas-Rhin, Haut-Rhin, , Moselle, Meurthe et Moselle, Meuse, Doubs, Jura, Territoire de Belfort,  
Haute Saone**

\* **French Postal Information.** France uses a postal code system similar to the U.S. zip code. The code number precedes the name of the city. The first two digits designate the department, the last three the city or an area within the city. Postal rates vary by weight and destination. Within France, the rate for a 20 gram (approx. 2/3 oz.) letter is 2.80 francs. The air rate for a 30 gram (approx. 1 oz.) letter to the U.S. is 7.90 francs. Registered (recommandé) mail can be sent through the French postal service with return receipt requested.

\* **Credit Reports.** Credit reports can be obtained through major banks represented in Paris. These include the Bank of America, Chase Manhattan, First National City Bank of New York (Citibank) and Morgan Guaranty Trust.

\* **Collection Agencies.** Not all attorneys accept collection cases. A list of collection agencies is available from the Embassy's Commercial Affairs Section.

\* **Service of Legal Process and Taking of Evidence.** Information sheets on these judicial assistance matters are available from the Embassy's Office of American Services.

\* **The List of Attorneys.** The following individuals and firms have informed the Consulate that they are qualified to adjudicate law in the categories specified, and that they are sufficiently competent in the English language to provide services to English-speaking clients. **The Consulate assumes no responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of the individuals or firms listed herein.** The Consulate has neither the authority nor the facilities to act as a bar association grievance committee. If you encounter unsatisfactory services by parties listed, however, set forth the circumstances in writing and the complaint will be noted in our files.

**THIS LIST IS RELEASED ON THE CONDITION THAT IT NOT BE PUBLISHED OR REPRODUCED.** French law prohibits members of the legal profession in France from advertising their services. Publication of the names of attorneys with data on their professional qualifications would be a violation of this law.

### **Bas-Rhin**

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