

December 1, 2015

Conseil National des Barreaux
22, rue de Londres
75009 Paris

Dear Colleagues:

As we are sure is the case with all citizens of free and democratic countries worldwide, we write to express our horror at the events that took place in Paris on November 13, 2015. These are profoundly distressing times for citizens of both Paris and France as a whole, and we cannot find words to express our sense of revulsion to those who perpetrated the attacks in your country.

As lawyers, we recognize the difficult situation in which your profession now finds itself in France. As you know, the rule of law is the foundation of a civilized society. It ensures that all adhere to the principles that both liberate and protect. As lawyers, it is our duty to speak out in support of the rule of law.

It is in times of profound national trauma that it is most important to speak out in support of the rule of law. Lawyers must always support measures to protect and preserve public safety, and recognize the exceptional challenges that government is faced with today from the threats of terrorism worldwide. There is, however, always a delicate balance to be struck in the promotion of public safety and the protection of rights and freedoms in order to ensure our common values are not eroded. At this point in time when it is doubly important for the legal profession to uphold and protect the rights and freedoms of French citizens, consistent with the rule of law, and consistent

with a civilized society, we stand with you. We wish you all the best as you undertake these very difficult challenges and offer our support in any way that you may find useful.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Walker', written in a cursive style.

Ken Walker, QC
President

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