



**AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF
PARALEGALS, INC.
A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION – FOR THE INDIVIDUAL
PARALEGAL**

The American Alliance of Paralegals, Inc. (“American Alliance”) was formed and incorporated in the State of Delaware on January 22, 2003. The American Alliance is a national paralegal organization which focuses on the individual paralegal and the advancement of the paralegal profession. American Alliance membership is nationally based, but has international members. The purpose of the national paralegal association is to promote and improve the profession of paralegals; to advance the educational and literary standard of such profession; and to foster, encourage and disseminate information concerning the profession.

Annual dues for membership are affordable at only \$35 (Member), \$35 (Associate Member), \$25 (Emeritus – Retired), \$50 (Sustaining) and \$200 (Sponsor/Vendor). The American Alliance also has an extensive website (www.aapipara.org).

As the purpose of the American Alliance is to advance the paralegal profession by focusing on the individual paralegal on a national basis, this has been very successful for current members by establishing minimum educational criteria, adhering to ethical standards, providing networking opportunities, creating a resource center, and associating with national and local organizations.

The American Alliance has corporate bylaws and several Position Statements which include: Definition of a Paralegal, Paralegal Education, Paralegal Regulation, Unauthorized Practice of Law, Mission Statement and Goals, and most importantly, a Code of Ethics. The American Alliance also has an extensive website (www.aapipara.org).

The American Alliance advocates a Bachelor's Degree that includes, or is combined with, a paralegal studies program for persons entering the profession. Members are encouraged to continue their education throughout their careers. It is recommended that members participate in no less than nine hours of continuing legal education annually, including at least one hour of ethics. Goals and standards of the American Alliance are to establish minimum educational criteria, adhere to ethical standards, provide networking opportunities, create a resource center, and associate with national and local organizations.

The American Alliance is the only national paralegal organization that aligns with the

ABA Standing Committee on Paralegals' jurisdiction. The ABA Standing Committee, through its Approval Commission, continues to serve as the body to set standards for paralegal education. The American Alliance has the only certification program that requires the school from which a paralegal degree or certificate is earned be ABA approved or be a voting institutional member of the American Association for Paralegal Education ("AAfPE").

The American Alliance established a voluntary program for the certification of paralegals, the American Alliance Certified Paralegal ("AACP"). Every paralegal seeking American Alliance certification must meet educational requirements. In order to maintain American Alliance certification, every AACP shall renew their certification status every three (3) years and complete eighteen (18) hours of continuing legal education ("CLE"), with three (3) of the eighteen (18) hours being in ethics. Proof of completion of the requisite CLEs along with the two-year renewal fee in effect at the time of renewal shall be submitted to the AACP Commission. At the time of renewal, an AACP must be employed as a paralegal. Every AACP will be bound by the American Alliance's Code of Ethics. Any AACP who violates any provision of the Code of Ethics, or who is convicted of a felony, crime of moral turpitude or engages in the unauthorized practice of law will have their American Alliance certification revoked.

Other American Alliance Information:

Annual Dues \$35 (Member), \$35 (Associate Member), \$35 (Emeritus – Retired), \$50 (Sustaining), \$200 (Sponsor/Vendor).

American Alliance of Paralegals, Inc. is listed on the American Bar Association website (www.aba.org).

The American Alliance advocates a Bachelor's Degree that includes, or is combined with, a paralegal studies program for persons entering the profession.

The American Alliance has the only certification program that requires the school from which a paralegal degree or certificate is earned be ABA approved or a voting institutional member of the American Association for Paralegal Education ("AAfPE").

Criteria for the AACP certification are based on Department of Labor standards which do not require a testing mechanism.

It is recommended that American Alliance members (exclusive of AACP members), participate in no less than nine hours of continuing education annually, including at least one hour of ethics.

In the delivery of legal services, the American Alliance fosters the ethical standards that a paralegal shall not engage in the unauthorized practice of law.

American Alliance membership requirements do not exclude or discriminate because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age or physical handicap.

American Alliance publishes a quarterly newsletter, *The Alliance Echo*.

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Advancing the Paralegal Profession by Focusing on the Individual Paralegal