

## **CP Certification Mark Successfully Registered to NALA**

The “CP” certification mark, signifying Certified Paralegal, has been registered by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The mark was registered to NALA on July 20, 2004.

The mark itself is:

CP®

The mark may be used instead of the CLA certification mark for those who prefer the term “paralegal” instead of “legal assistant.”

The certification mark is a distinctive visual symbol that indicates that an individual is qualified to provide paralegal services by virtue of having

- completed the education, and examination requirements for national certification by NALA
- agreed to adhere to the Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility of NALA; and
- agreed to continuing education requirements to maintain the national certification.

The certification mark is awarded by NALA to paralegals who have met these requirements and its use may be revoked for failure to comply with ethical standards and recertification requirements. Unauthorized use of the mark is strictly forbidden.

**CP® Description.** The design of this mark was chosen because of its intended use in law firm promotional literature and letterhead. Its simple design is meant to be distinctive and noticeable but not to detract from other designs of the firm or corporation. It consists of block letters c and p in bold, black.

**Legal Assistant or Paralegal.** NALA filed in 2003 to protect the CP certification mark for those who prefer the term “paralegal,” rather than “legal assistant.” Since the terms are synonymous, choice of which certification credential (CLA or CP) to use is purely a matter of personal preference. Registration of the CP mark by NALA ensures the integrity of the credential earned by those who pass the rigorous certification examination.

The Certified Legal Assistant program was established by NALA in 1976, and more than 12,000 paralegals have earned the distinction of using the CLA designation—or the CP if they prefer—as a means of identifying their professional proficiency. A CP pin is now available at NALA Headquarters, and the CLA certificate has been redesigned to use either the CLA or CP credential.

Details regarding proper use of the CLA or CP marks are presented on the NALA Web site ([www.nala.org](http://www.nala.org)).

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