

PROPOSED RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CREATION OF THE OREGON  
CERTIFIED PARALEGAL (OCP) PROGRAM – A VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION  
PROGRAM OFFERED BY OPA

PURPOSE: The Oregon Paralegal Association (OPA) Membership voted to research and develop a voluntary, paralegal certification program for Oregon. This Resolution would approve the creation of the proposed Oregon Certified Paralegal (OCP) Program.

WHEREAS, the OPA Membership voted to approve the concept of a Voluntary Certification Program in Oregon at the 2014 Annual Business Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the OPA Membership voted to approve the research and development of an Oregon Certification Paralegal (OCP) Program at the 2015 Annual Business Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the OPA Board of Directors voted to create the Regulation Committee at the December 2015 Board of Directors meeting, whose purpose was to research and develop an Oregon Certification Paralegal (OCP) Program; and

WHEREAS, the OPA Board of Directors voted to approve the Bylaw Amendment incorporating the administration of a voluntary paralegal certification program into the Bylaws of OPA at the August 2016 OPA Board Meeting in order to support the purposes of the association; and

WHEREAS, the OPA Regulation Committee hosted two Quarterly Business Meeting discussions with OPA's membership in February 2016 and July 2016 regarding the research and proposed OCP Program proposal in order to solicit comments and direction from the membership on research and the proposed draft; and

WHEREAS, the Regulation Committee has proposed a multi-tiered approach to voluntary certification and regulation in Oregon based upon its research, the current political climate and costs associated with any proposed legislation; and

WHEREAS, the Regulation Committee members and its co-chairs met and solicited feedback and recommendations about the proposed program with a number of respected members of the legal community including: the executive director, president and lobbyist of the Oregon State Bar; PCC Paralegal Program faculty; representatives from the Oregon Secretary of State Offices, representatives from the Department of Justice; the Pacific Northwest Paralegal Association and other legal organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Regulation Committee incorporated the recommendations and comments from all of those meetings into the proposed draft in order to establish a standard for paralegals in Oregon; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of OPA and its members to approve the proposed Oregon Certified Paralegal Program.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the membership of the Oregon Paralegal Association, by a vote of a majority of those members present at the 2016 Annual Business Meeting held November 4, 2016 at the KahNeeTa Warm Spring Resort and Spa, vote to approve the creation of the Oregon Certified Paralegal (OCP) Program – a voluntary certification program with the following provisions:

1. The guidelines for the program include those presented at the 2016 Annual Business Meeting, or as subsequently revised and amended by the OPA Regulation Committee, with approval by the OPA Board of Directors; and
2. The members of the OPA Regulation Committee must be appointed and approved by the OPA Board of Directors for a two year appointment for no more than two consecutive terms beginning January 1, 2017; and
3. The policies and procedures of the OPA Regulation Committee previously approved by the OPA Board of Directors may be subsequently revised and amended by the OPA Regulation Committee, with approval by the OPA Board of Directors; and
4. The Regulation Committee, headed by the Regulation Committee Chairs or Co-Chairs, will administer the OCP Program using the Wild Apricot Member Management system (or another management system approved by the Board) for tracking the applications, renewals and payments made to the program and will provide a report on the success of the program to the membership within six months of the effective date of the program and at subsequent Annual Business Meetings of OPA; and
5. The OCP Program will be effective January 1, 2017 to allow the Regulation Committee time to effectively roll out the program.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Julianne Maguire, OPA President

Witnessed before me: \_\_\_\_\_

Jamie Lynn Summerfield, OPA Secretary