

## **SJPA PARALEGAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

**ADOPTED NOVEMBER 15, 2010**

WHEREAS, South Jersey Paralegal Association (SJPA), formed in 1980 and incorporated in 1983, is a New Jersey non profit organization composed of paralegals, paralegal students, educational institutions and other entities that support the paralegal profession;

WHEREAS, SJPA's goals and objective is to provide professional support to its members, expand recognition of the paralegal profession, offer continuing legal education and educational resources, facilitate improvements in paralegal education, be actively involved in the events surrounding the development of paralegal regulation, improve the cost-effective delivery of legal services and promote the paralegal image;

WHEREAS, in March, 1991, SJPA adopted a Policy on Paralegal Regulation supporting the concept of paralegal regulation which would include minimum standards relating to education and experience and rules of professional responsibility and that any regulation of paralegals in NJ be mandatory;

WHEREAS, in May, 1999, following a study commissioned by the Supreme Court of New Jersey, the Court made a determination to reject the Supreme Court Committee on Paralegal Education and Regulation's recommendations to create a Court-directed paralegal licensing and regulation system;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of New Jersey, in the above-noted determination, encouraged the development of an appropriate credentialing system that would provide a means of recognizing qualified paralegals;

WHEREAS, there currently exists an absence of a mandatory or voluntary credentialing system instituted by an entity approved by law to regulate the paralegal profession in New Jersey;

WHEREAS, SJPA currently does not have the authority to implement mandatory certification of paralegals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

SJPA contends a need exists for a certification program for paralegal employees and employers to serve as a benchmark identifying individuals who are qualified and competent to provide legal services under the supervision of an attorney;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

SJPA offer a voluntary certification program for paralegals who are members of the South Jersey Paralegal Association and who meet the qualifications set forth in the NJCP (New Jersey Certified Paralegal) Plan introduced and approved by the SJPA Board of Directors in October, 2010.

