



PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA, INC.

Inspiring professional growth...one paralegal at a time®

P.O. Box 14051, Clearwater, FL 33766 | 727-245-0072 | www.pafinc.org

ACTIVE MEMBER

APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP

DO NOT USE THIS APPLICATION TO RENEW YOUR EXISTING ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Preferred Email Address: _____

Alternate Email Address: _____

Preferred Mailing Address: _____ County _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone _____

Employer: _____ Practice Area: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone _____

NALA Member? Designations: CP ACP FCP FRP Other: _____

Total Years Working as a Paralegal: _____ Birth Month/Day: _____ / _____

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, do you have any special needs (check one)? YES NO

Have you ever been convicted of a felony (check one)? YES* NO *In accordance with Articles 3.9 and 3.27 of the NALA Bylaws, by which PAF is also governed, individuals who have been convicted of a felony are not eligible for membership.

CHAPTER AFFILIATION

Visit the PAF website at www.pafinc.org to determine the Chapter location nearest to you. If you do not indicate a PAF Chapter affiliation, a PAF Chapter affiliation will be designated for you based on the geographic location closest to your preferred address. Members at Large will be designated only for those applicants whose preferred address is not located near a PAF Chapter.

INDICATE YOUR PREFERRED PRIMARY CHAPTER BELOW (CHECK ONE BOX ONLY):

BIG BEND BOCA RATON BREVARD BROWARD FIRST COAST HILLSBOROUGH

PALM BEACH PINELLAS SOUTHWEST FLORIDA SUNCOAST TREASURE COAST AT LARGE

If Applicable, indicate ADDITIONAL Chapter(s) (See membership fees section below regarding additional fee): _____

STATE MEMBERSHIP FEE (INCLUDES MEMBERSHIP IN ONE PAF CHAPTER): \$105.00

Membership year: July 1 – June 30. This fee includes a nonrefundable application fee of \$15.00. For any application received March 1 to June 30 the fee covers the current and upcoming fiscal membership year, and will not be subject to renewal until June 30 of the following calendar year.

Additional Chapter Membership: \$25, for each additional PAF Chapter, which you desire to be an active member.

INDICATE MEMBERSHIP FEES ENCLOSED AND METHOD OF PAYMENT:

Total Fee enclosed or paid by credit card \$ _____

Method of Payment: Check / Money Order payable to Paralegal Association of Florida, Inc. Visa MasterCard

Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Billing Address: _____

Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____

DEFINITIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS OF PARALEGAL (ALSO KNOWN AS LEGAL ASSISTANT)

Paralegals are a distinguishable group of persons who assist attorneys in the delivery of legal services. Through formal education, training, and experience, paralegals/legal assistants have knowledge and expertise regarding the legal system and substantive and procedural law, which qualify them to do work of a legal nature **under the supervision of an attorney**. Paralegals may also work for government and corporate entities and perform substantive legal work for which a lawyer is ultimately responsible yet not work under the direct supervision of an attorney while performing these duties.

“Legal Assistant” means a person, **“who under the supervision and direction of a licensed attorney, engages in legal research and case development or planning in relation to modifications or initial proceedings, services, processes, or applications; or who prepares or interprets legal documents or selects, compiles, and uses technical information from references such as digests, encyclopedias or practice manuals and analyzes and follows procedural problems that involve independent decisions.”** (Fla. Stat. ch. 57.104) The terms “Legal Assistant” and “Paralegal” are utilized *interchangeably* and such professional positions are not intended to be misunderstood as two separate professions.

QUALIFICATION FOR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE INITIAL THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AND INDICATE QUALIFICATION FOR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP BELOW:

_____ I hereby apply for membership as an ACTIVE MEMBER in the PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA, INC. (PAF) and certify that the above information is true and correct and that I meet the requirements for Active Membership as set forth at the PAF website (www.pafinc.org). I affirm that I have read and agree to be bound by the Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility adopted by the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc. and PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA, INC. (See PAF website: www.pafinc.org.) If I am advised by PAF that I have been found to be in violation of Sections 3.8 or 3.9 of its Bylaws, I will, on my own initiative, resign my membership from PAF. I HEREBY GIVE CONSENT TO PAF TO CONTACT MY PRESENT AND/OR FORMER SUPERVISING ATTORNEY(S) FOR VERIFICATION OR CLARIFICATION OF MY QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

FAILURE TO PROVIDE PAYMENT AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION WILL DELAY APPROVAL OF YOUR APPLICATION.

CHECK ONLY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS THAT INDICATES HOW YOU QUALIFY FOR MEMBERSHIP AND PROVIDE THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED IN BOLD/UNDERLINE:

- (A) Successful completion of the Certified Paralegal/Certified Legal Assistant (CP/CLA) examination administered by the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc. ("NALA"). **Provide copy of current CP/CLA certificate.**
- (B) Graduation from a currently approved American Bar Association ("ABA") program of study for paralegals. **Provide copy of degree or certificate of completion.** See ABA website at <http://apps.americanbar.org/legalservices/paralegals/directory/>.
- (C) Graduation from a course of study for paralegals which is institutionally accredited, but not ABA-approved, and which requires not less than the equivalent of sixty (60) semester hours of classroom study. **Attach a copy of degree AND a transcript (unofficial is acceptable) showing total hours earned.**
- (D) Graduation from a course of study for paralegals other than those set forth above, plus not less than six (6) months of in-house training as a paralegal. **A copy of graduation certificate AND completed Attorney/Employer Attestation (below) must be submitted with this application.**
- (E) A baccalaureate degree in any field, plus not less than six (6) months of in-house training as a paralegal. **A copy of baccalaureate degree AND completed Attorney/Employer Attestation (below) must be submitted with this application.**
- (F) A minimum of three (3) years of law-related experience under the supervision of an attorney, including not less than six (6) months of in-house training as a paralegal. **Completed Attorney/Employer Attestation (below) must be submitted with this application AND a separate letter from supervising attorney(s) as to three (3) years of law -related experience.**
- (G) Two (2) years of in-house training as a paralegal. **Completed Attorney/Employer Attestation (below) AND a separate letter from supervising attorney(s) as to two (2) years of in-house training as a paralegal must be submitted with this application.**
- (H) Two (2) years of in-house training by a governmental agency or corporation as a paralegal. **A copy of your paralegal training coursework, college degree, or governmental job certificate AND a letter from your employer describing your paralegal related duties.**

I understand that in the event an application has been pending for a period of 90 days or more due to a deficiency of which the applicant has been informed, and the deficiency remains unsatisfied, PAF will impose a 50% processing fee upon return of the application.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

**ATTORNEY/EMPLOYER ATTESTATION
(As to six (6) months of in-house training as paralegal only)**

I HEREBY ATTEST, pursuant to ch. 57.104, Florida Statutes, and Sections D, E, F or G requirements for active membership as referenced in this membership application that _____ is (or was) employed by me and is recognized as a paralegal, and that s/he meets the criteria of the definition of a paralegal/legal assistant set forth by ch. 57.104, Florida Statutes, *to wit*: "Legal Assistant" means a person, ***"who under the supervision and direction of a licensed attorney,*** engages in legal research, and case development or planning in relation to modifications or initial proceedings, services, processes, or applications; or who prepares or interprets legal documents or selects, compiles, and uses technical information from references such as digests, encyclopedias, or practice manuals and analyzes and follows procedural problems that involve independent decisions." S/he is a person, qualified through education, training, and work experience, who is employed or retained by a lawyer, law office, governmental agency, or other entity in a capacity or function which involves the performance, under the ultimate direction and supervision of an attorney, of specifically-delegated substantive legal work, which work, for the most part, requires a sufficient knowledge of legal concepts that, absent such paralegal, the attorney would perform the task. **I FURTHER ATTEST that the applicant qualifies for Active Membership pursuant to the Section D, E, F or G requirements for Active Membership as referenced in this application and has been (or was) employed by me as a paralegal, that the applicant's ethical and professional conduct are above reproach, and that the applicant is recommended by me for Active Membership in PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA, INC.**

Attorney Signature: _____ Date: _____
Print Attorneys' Name: _____ Firm Name: _____
Firm Address: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Attorney Florida Bar Number: _____

Return completed application, qualification documentation, and payment to the address at the top of page 1.