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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALDAP Updates Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility; Adopts LDA Client's Bill of Rights

SAN DIEGO, CA—May 16, 2009: The Alliance of Legal Document Assistant Professionals (ALDAP) yesterday unanimously voted to approve an expanded Legal Document Assistant (LDA) Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility, and a new LDA Client's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. The vote took place at the association's annual membership meeting, after months of careful consideration and deliberation. All association members are required to adhere to the canons set forth in the Code. The new standards are effective immediately.

"In addition to maintaining compliance with governmental regulations—those things we *must* do—it is imperative that our industry implement self-regulation—those things we *should* do—to ensure the protection of the public and the integrity of the legal document assistant profession," said Suzanne Ervine, vice president.

Although it's been more than a decade since California Business & Professions Code section 6400—the legislation governing the LDA profession—was enacted, the industry remains rife with non-compliant, unregistered "rogue" paralegals with neither the requisite training and experience, nor the registration and bond that affords some measure of consumer protection. "In looking to the future of the growing self-help-legal movement, we decided it was time to expand our Code of Ethics, and implement additional consumer protections with the Client's Bill of Rights," said Ervine.

Since ALDAP's inception in 2007, the Code of Ethics has served as the foundation of ethical practices for the legal document assistant profession. The new Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility doubles the number of canons from five to ten, with an increased emphasis on consumer protection.

ALDAP is a California non-profit, mutual benefit corporation serving registered Legal Document Assistants and freelance paralegal/LDA dual-professionals. ALDAP's mission is to promote the integrity of the LDA profession, generate awareness about non-attorney legal service providers, protect the public by educating consumers about self-representation and the unauthorized practice of law, promoting professional responsibility, and integrating LDA services with the legal community and the general public. For more information, visit <http://www.aldap.org>.

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