



THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
LAW CORPORATION
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LAW CORPORATION NAME DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

Group

To remain in compliance with Rule 1-400 of California Rules of Professional Conduct, you must justify the use of the word “Group” in your name. You may do this by naming at least one other individual employed by your corporation. This person need not be an attorney.

Law Offices

Including the term “Law Offices” implies that the law corporation has more than one address, or more than one attorney including the shareholder at the address of record for the corporation. Thus, the term should not be used unless this arrangement is true. The Law Corporation Program will accept a home address as the second office. The law corporation must provide The State Bar with both addresses.

Associate

Per Rule 1-100 “Rules of Professional Conduct in General”, including the term “Associate” means an employee or fellow employee who is employed as a lawyer. The corporation must execute a guarantee in the amounts sufficient to cover the number of attorneys practicing on behalf of the corporation as required by the State Bar Law Corporation Rule 3.158.

Associates

Including the term “Associates” implies that in addition to the shareholder, the corporation must name at least two (2) other attorneys employed by the corporation and execute a guarantee in the amounts sufficient to cover the number of attorneys practicing on behalf of the corporation as required by the State Bar Law Corporation Rule 3.158.

Corporate Designations Allowed

A Law Corporation name must include an ending designation such as: A Professional Corporation, A Professional Law Corporation, Professional Corporation, Professional Law Corporation, Law Corporation, APC, A.P.C., PC, P.C., Prof. Corp., A Professional Legal Corporation, Professional Legal Corporation, A Legal Corporation, Inc., Incorporated, Corporation, A California Professional Corporation, L.C., Ltd., Limited, P.A., and Professional Association.

Corporate Designations Not Allowed

“APLC” & “PLC” are not permitted because in other states/foreign countries, APLC may suggest that the entity is “a Public Liability Company” or “Professional Legal Consultant” and therefore is misleading to the public.

“LLC” is not permitted as a corporate designation, and the State Bar does not certify an “LLC” within California for the purposes of practicing law, based on underlying Corporate Code concerning Professional Corporations. See [Corporate Code Section 17375](#).