

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**  
**TRADEMARK LAW OFFICE 114**  
**EXAMINING ATTORNEY: EDWARD FENNESSY**

Applicant: Association of Clinical Research Professionals, Inc.  
Serial No.: 88/262,932  
Filed: January 15, 2019



Mark:

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**Attorney's Reference: 32616-496371**

Honorable Commissioner for Trademarks  
P.O. Box 1451  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1451

**OFFICE ACTION RESPONSE**

Applicant submits the following remarks in response to the Office Action dated March 28, 2019 ("Office Action"), in which the Examining Attorney requested a disclaimer of the wording CERTIFIED CLINICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE on the basis that it is allegedly merely descriptive. The office action also included a request for an amended identification of services, a mark description, a declaration to perfect the application and a filing basis. Applicant respectfully requests that the disclaimer requirement be withdrawn for the reasons discussed below.

**REMARKS**

(1) **Disclaimer Requirement**

In response to the disclaimer requirement for "CERTIFIED CLINICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE," Applicant respectfully submits that this wording has acquired distinctiveness based on its substantially exclusive and continuous use in commerce that US Congress may regulate for at least the five years immediately before the date of this statement. A signed declaration attesting to this fact is being submitted herewith. Applicant respectfully asserts that its longstanding use of the wording has resulted in acquired distinctiveness, and Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the disclaimer requirement.

(2) Filing Basis / Signed Declaration

Applicant is submitting a signed declaration assigning a Section 1(a), in use, filing basis. Specimens of use are submitted herewith. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that these requirements have been satisfied.

(3) Mark Description

Elsewhere in this response, Applicant amends the mark description as follows:

The mark consists of a circle, with the wording “CERTIFIED CLINICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE” in uppercase lettering curving around the upper half of the circle, inside of which appears the letters CCRA.

(4) Amendment to Identification of Services

Elsewhere in this response, Applicant amends the identification of services to the following:

~~Class 42~~ **Class 35: Business services for others, namely, testing to determine professional competency in the field of clinical research; business services for others, namely, testing, analysis, and evaluation of the knowledge, skills and abilities of others for the purpose of determining professional competency in the field of clinical research; providing professional competency testing information in the field of clinical research accreditation testing preparation; business services for others, namely, testing to determine professional competency, namely, testing and evaluation of professionals working in the clinical research field to determine their level of education, experience and competency; Accreditation services, namely, developing and administering standards and procedures for certifying professionals in the field of clinical research, and issuing credentials in connection therewith; business services for others, namely, testing, analysis, and evaluation of the knowledge, skills and abilities of others for the purpose of credentialing in the field of clinical research; providing online information in the field of testing, analysis, and evaluation of the knowledge, skills and abilities of others as it relates to credentialing in the field of clinical research**

CONCLUSION

Given the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the applied-for mark is entitled to registration without a disclaimer of CERTIFIED CLINICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE based on Applicant’s substantially exclusive and continuous use of this wording for a period of at least five years immediately before the date of this statement. Having addressed all of the issues raised in the Office Action, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examining Attorney approve the Application for publication in the *Official Gazette*, for opposition purposes, without further delay.

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re: U.S. Trademark Application



Mark:

Serial No.: 88/262,932

Owner: Association of Clinical Research Professionals, Inc.

Our Ref.: 32616-496371

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**Declaration of Acquired Distinctiveness in Part**

“CERTIFIED CLINICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE” in Applicant’s mark has become distinctive of the services identified in the present application through Applicant’s substantially exclusive and continuous use in commerce that the U.S. Congress may lawfully regulate for at least the five years immediately before the date of this statement, or such use by Applicant’s related company, licensee, or predecessor-in-interest.

The undersigned declares and states that he/she is authorized to execute and sign this instrument on behalf of and for the said Applicant; that he/she believes applicant to be the owner of the trademark sought to be registered; that to the best of the signatory’s knowledge, information, and belief, formed after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances, the allegations and other factual contentions made above have evidentiary support; the signatory being warned that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and that such willful false statements and the like may jeopardize the validity of this submission, declares that all statements made of his/her own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

**Association of Clinical Research  
Professionals, Inc.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Jim Kremidas  
Title: Executive Director  
Date: 9/13/19