

Industry Certifications – Here’s My Lineup

When lawyers choose an expert witness, they need to ensure they have all the requisite experience and knowledge for the case at hand. Experts, therefore, will be required to illustrate they have sufficient knowledge, training and expertise in any field for which they are being retained. This expertise must be backed up with appropriate proof. This is most often affirmed with educational degrees, licenses, work history, membership in professional organizations, formal accomplishments, published articles in trade journals or industry publications and awards or recognition by others in a particular field. Another item that can be included here are industry certifications. I have earned recognized certifications in Information Security, Data Protection and Third Party Risk Management. These certifications add credibility to my area of expertise and show lawyers, judges and juries my value as an expert witness.

Current Certifications

My professional certifications probably do not mean much to most people. They might be viewed as nothing more than a bunch of letters in my CV or resume. However, these certifications are respected, challenging to earn and set me apart from others in my profession. I hold the following certifications:

- CISSP - Certified Information Systems Security Professional
- CIPP/US - Certified Information Privacy Professional – United States Private Sector
- CTPRP - Certified Third-Party Risk Professional
- CTPRA - Certified Third-Party Risk Assessor

Included in this blog post is more information about each of these certifications.

CISSP

The CISSP certification is considered the gold standard by many professionals within the information security industry. This certification is administered by the International Information System Security Certification Consortium or (ISC)². To earn this certification, you must have at least five years of full-time experience in at least two of the following domains:

- Security and Risk Management
- Asset Security
- Security Architecture and Engineering
- Communication and Network Security
- Identity and Access Management
- Security Assessment and Testing
- Security Operations
- Software Development Security

In addition to work experience, you must pass a comprehensive exam that covers all of these domains. CISSP holders must complete a continuing professional education program of 120 credits over three years to maintain the certification. Employers often look for security professionals with a CISSP designation. The compensation for security positions within an organization usually reflect recognition for achieving this certification.



Industry Certifications – Here’s My Lineup (cont’d)

CIPP/US

The CIPP/US certification is considered the gold standard for privacy professionals in the U.S. This designation is administered by the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP). Those who earn this certification must know data privacy laws and regulations and how to apply them as well as understanding the development of privacy programs within organizations to meet these obligations. Unlike the CISSP, there is no level of requisite work experience to take the exam. To pass the exam, however, you will need to understand United States privacy law, the limits on the private-sector collection and use of data, government and court access to private-sector information, workplace privacy and state privacy laws. From an expert witness standpoint, having an CIPP/US puts one in a select group of knowledgeable, capable and dedicated privacy and data protection practitioners.

CTPRP and CTPRA

Both the CTPRP and CTPRA are designated and administered by Shared Assessments, an industry leader in third party risk management best practices, education and assessment tools. Holders of the CTPRP certification have comprehensive training in third-party risk concepts and understand managing the vendor lifecycle, vendor risk identification and rating, and vendor risk assessment, monitoring and management. The CTPRA recognizes knowledge of third-party risk management fundamentals and the role of an assessor relative to the planning, execution and oversight of third party risk assessments.

To qualify for either third party risk management certification, one must have at least five years of experience as a risk management professional and pass a 150-question exam for the particular certification being sought. Additionally, CTPRP and CTRPA holders must earn 60 CPE credits over a three-year period and abide by the Shared Assessments Code of Ethics to remain current.

Conclusion

These certifications, combined with my many years of practical experience, illustrates commitment to the profession and adds to the credibility as an expert witness for lawyers or judges. I can also relate more effectively to juries by breaking down complex technical terms and concepts into easy to understand information. If you have any questions or would like more information, please [contact me](#). I would like to learn about your case and how I can be of service.