

# CLP Awards CLP-A Credential

Certified Licensing Professionals, Inc. launched the [CLP Associate \(CLP-A\)](#) program in early 2022. The CLP-A program is designed for individuals who are either new to or re-entering the licensing and technology transfer field. The CLP-A credential is tailored to individuals who are interested in demonstrating a commitment to the licensing profession but do not have substantial experience in the fields of licensing, technology transfer or intellectual property management, and are not yet eligible to pursue the Certified Licensing Professional (CLP) certification.



[Kurt McWilliams](#) was the first professional awarded the CLP-A credential. As an Intellectual Property Attorney with [Womble Bond Dickinson \(US\) LLP](#), Kurt is focused on patent prosecution and IP licensing. His career began as a scientist, and Kurt quickly transitioned into R&D management with a focus on all aspects of innovation from idea generation to implementation. Most of his career has been spent with a multinational fuels and chemicals company driving innovation at the local and global levels. Recently, Kurt obtained his J.D. and has become an attorney assisting inventors in understanding prior art, patent office procedures, and licensing options for their creations. He has created IP landscapes for business strategy and decision making as well as negotiated and developed secrecy, licensing, and joint venture agreements with third party companies.

## ***What aspects of your licensing work do you find most fulfilling?***

The passion innovators have for their creations is contagious and motivates me to do what I can to help them be successful. That path usually involves some type of license or other arrangement to protect and make the most of their invention or creation. I enjoy helping innovators understand the options that are available and ensure they are fairly compensated. I believe that without licensing professionals many technologies would remain undeveloped and unavailable to the public at large.

## ***How do you prioritize and select professional development activities to best support your career and skills development goals?***

There are many choices for professional development. I have found that picking the activities that most pique my curiosity and interest provide the highest levels of satisfaction and success.

## ***How do you anticipate having earned the CLP-A credential will influence your approach to your licensing career?***

The CLP-A designation is a great first step to indicate my intention to be a licensing professional. The CLP-A certification signals to others that I have a ground floor understanding of licensing while I work towards the more comprehensive CLP certification.

For more information about the CLP and CLP-A credentials, visit the [CLP website](#) or contact [clpinfo@licensingcertification.org](mailto:clpinfo@licensingcertification.org).