50001525 **CORPORATE** 1116-D Thomasville Road Mount Vernon Square Tailahassee, Florida 32303 (904) 222-2666 ACCESS, (904) 222-1666 (Fax) (800) 969-1666 INC. GLINDA P. BENNETT Personal Representative OFFICE USB ONLY CORPORATION NAME(S) & DOCUMENT NUMBER(S) (if known): (Corporation Name) (Document #) (Corporation Name) (Document #) (Corporation Name) (Document #) **Certified Copy** Certificate of Status Will wait Mail out **AMENDMENTS** NEW FILINGS Amendment Profit Resignation of R.A., Officer/Director NonProfit Change of Registered Agent Limited Liability Dissolution/Withdrawal Domestication Other Merger REGISTRATION/ OTHER FILNGS QUALIFICATION Annual Report Foreign

Limited Partnership

Reinstatement

Trademark Other

CR2E031(9/92)

Fictitious Name

Name Reservation

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Examiner's Initials

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

OF

RUPPERT & ASSOCIATES, INC.

SSFEB 23 PH 1:27 GEORGE J. RUPPERT, the undersigned incorporator, hereby makes, subscribes and acknowledges and files with the Secretary of State of the State of Florida, these Articles of Incorporation for the purpose of forming a corporation for profit in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida.

ARTICLE I

<u>NAME</u>

The name of this corporation shall be: RUPPERT & ASSOCIATES, INC.

ARTICLE II

DURATION

The duration of this corporation is perpetual.

ARTICLE III

PURPOSES

The general nature of the business or businesses to be conducted by this corporation, together with and in addition to those powers conferred by the laws of the State of Florida upon corporations organized under and by virtue of the laws of Florida, shall be as follows:

(1) To engage in the business of private investigation and providing professional investigation services related thereto for attorneys, law firms, insurance companies and other clients.

- (2) To buy, sell, option, deal in, lease, hold or improve real estate and the fixtures and personal property incident thereto and connected therewith, and with that end in view, to acquire by purchase, lease, hire or otherwise, lands, tenements, hereditaments, or any interest therein and to improve the property of the corporation, and to sell, lease, mortgage, rent, pledge, or otherwise dispose of the lands, tenements, hereditaments or other property of the corporation.
- (3) To buy, sell, discount and rediscount notes, drafts, bills of exchange, stocks, bonds, securities and choses of action of all kinds, both as principal and as agent; to also buy and sell liens on real and personal property, and to lend money and accept as security therefor liens or pledges of real and personal property; to also act as agent or trustee of persons and corporations in any and all other matters which can be solicited, negotiated, operated and carried on by an agent.
- (4) To purchase and sell for itself personal property, stocks, bonds, warrants, and notes and to negotiate loans thereon; to acquire, enjoy, purchase, hold, sell and transfer the shares of stock of any corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida or any other state of the United States or qualified to do business in any other state of the United States, or subsequently belonging to the United Nations or qualified to do business in any such nation. To purchase, hold, sell, and transfer shares of its own capital stock provided this corpora-

tion shall not purchase its own shares of stock except from the surplus of its assets over its liabilities, including capital; and provided further that shares of its own capital stock owned by the corporation shall not be voted upon directly or indirectly nor counted as outstanding for the purpose of any stockholders' quorum or vote.

- (5) To act as fiscal agent for others, to lend money on notes, bonds, mortgages and commercial securities of all kinds, and while the owner of stock in a corporation, to exercise all the rights of a stockholder therein, to borrow money and secure the payment of same by notes, bonds, drafts or other evidence of indebtedness; to endorse and guarantee the payment of notes and mortgages, and all kinds of indebtedness, and to pledge and mortgage any or all of its real estate and personal property for the payment of its own debts or for the debts of others guaranteed by it.
- (6) To borrow money and contract debts necessary for the transaction of its corporate rights, privileges or franchises, or for any other lawful purpose of its incorporators; to issue bonds, promissory notes, bills of exchange, debentures or other obligations and evidences of indebtedness payable at a specific time or times, or payable upon the happening of a specified event or events, whether secured by mortgage, pledge or otherwise or unsecured, for money borrowed or in payment of property purchased or acquired or any other lawful objects.
 - (7) To acquire, enjoy, utilize and dispose of patents,

copyrights, trademarks and licenses or other rights or interests therein and thereunder and to manufacture, sell and distribute at wholesale or retail all such articles covered by any such patents, copyrights or trademarks.

- (8) To apply and qualify to carry on the general nature of business or businesses as authorized by this corporate charter and/or any amendments thereto in any state of the United States of America.
- (9) To do all and everything necessary and proper for the accomplishment of the objects enumerated in its Articles of Incorporation, or any amendment thereof, or necessary or incidental to the protection or benefit of the corporation; and in addition to the specific powers herein enumerated, have any and all rights, powers and privileges which are, can be or may be granted to corporations incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida, and in that connection to carry on any lawful business necessary or incidental to the attainment of the objects of the corporation, whether or not such business is similar in nature to the objects set forth in the Articles of Incorporation or any amendment thereof.

ARTICLE IV

CAPITAL STOCK

The capital stock of the corporation shall be divided into 7,500 shares of common stock with a par value of \$1.00 per share; and each share shall entitle the holder thereof to vote at any

meeting of the stockholders. All or any part of said capital stock may be paid for in cash, with property or in labor or services, at a valuation to be fixed by the incorporator or by the Board of Directors, at a meeting called for such purpose. All stock when issued shall be fully paid for and shall be non-assessable.

ARTICLE V

INITIAL REGISTERED OFFICE AND AGENT

The street address of the initial registered office of the corporation is 4016 Henderson Boulevard, Tampa, Florida, 33629, and the name of the initial Registered Agent of the corporation at that address is ROBERT E. MORRIS.

ARTICLE VI

DIRECTORS

This corporation shall have one (1) director initially. The number of directors may be either increased or diminished from time to time by the by-laws, but shall never be less than one (1). The name and address of the initial director of this corporation is:

GEORGE J. RUPPERT 321 140th Avenue Madeira Beach, FL 33708

A quorum for the transaction of business shall be a majority of the directors qualified and acting, and the act of the majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the directors. The directors may make or amend the By-Laws; the meeting of directors may be held within or without the State of Florida. A person shall not have to be a stockholder in order to qualify as a director.

ARTICLE VII

INCORPORATOR

The name and address of the incorporator is:

GEORGE J. RUPPERT 321 140th Avenue Madeira Beach, FL 33708

ARTICLE VIII

CORPORATE ADDRESS

The principal office of the corporation is 4016 Henderson Boulevard, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, 33629.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, acknowledged and filed the foregoing Articles of Incorporation under the existing laws of the State of Florida.

OPCE PROPERT (SEAL)

Incorporator

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this

A day of February, 1995	, by GEORGE J. RUPPERT, who is per-
sonally known to me or who h	4 / 0
identification.	
	Notary Public, State of Florida At Large
My Commission Expires:	(NOTARY SEAL)
MS COMMESS AND SHOULD FAMILIES Maich 28, 1907	Typed/Printed Name of Notary

CERTIFICATE DESIGNATING PLACE OF BUSINESS OR DOMICILE FOR THE SERVICE OF PROCESS WITHIN FLORIDA, NAMING AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED

IN COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER 607 OF THE FLORIDA STATUTES AND SECTION 48.091, FLORIDA STATUTES, THE FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED:

FIRST - That RUPPERT & ASSOCIATES, INC., desiring to organize or qualify under the laws of the State of Florida, with its initial registered office at 4016 Henderson Boulevard, Tampa, Florida, 33629, has named ROBERT E. MORRIS, located at 4016 Henderson Boulevard, Tampa, Florida, 33629, as its agent to accept service of process within Florida.

GEORGE J. RUPPERT Incorporator

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HAVING BEEN NAMED TO ACCEPT SERVICE OF PROCESS FOR THE ABOVE STATED CORPORATION, AT THE PLACE DESIGNATED IN THIS CERTIFICATE, I HEREBY AGREE TO ACT IN THIS CAPACITY AND I FURTHER AGREE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ALL STATUTES RELATIVE TO THE PROPER AND COMPLETE PERFORMANCE OF MY DUTIES.

ROBERT E. MORRIS

2/21/95 DATE