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FROM: FOWLER, WHITE, GILLEN, BOGGS, VILLAREAL & BA  
075410001562

ACCT#:

CONTACT: DEBBIE LAMB

PHONE: (813) 228-7411

FAX #:

(813) 228-9401

NAME: RIPA & ASSOCIATES, INC.

AUDIT NUMBER.....H98000004734

DOC TYPE.....FLORIDA PROFIT CORPORATION OR P.A.

CERT. OF STATUS..0

PAGES..... 6

CERT. COPIES.....1

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ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
OF  
RIPA & ASSOCIATES, INC.

I, the undersigned, hereby make, subscribe, acknowledge and file 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  
Name

The name of this corporation shall be:

Ripa & Associates, Inc.

The principal office and mailing address of this corporation shall be 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 110, Tampa, Florida 33619.

ARTICLE II  
Existence of Corporation

This corporation shall have perpetual existence.

ARTICLE III  
Purposes

The corporation may engage in the transaction of any or all lawful business for which corporations may be incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida.

ARTICLE IV  
General Powers

The corporation shall have power:

- (a) To sue and be sued, complain, and defend in its corporate name.

Prepared by:  
David M. Doney, Esq.  
Post Office Box 1438  
Tampa, Florida 33601  
(813) 228-7411  
Florida Bar #: 892734

Fax Audit Number: H98000004734

(b) To have a corporate seal, which may be altered at will and to use it or a facsimile of it, by impressing or affixing it or in any other manner reproducing it.

(c) To purchase, receive, lease, or otherwise acquire, own, hold, improve, use, and otherwise deal with real or personal property or any legal or equitable interest in property wherever located.

(d) To sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, create a security interest in, lease, exchange, and otherwise dispose of all or any part of its property.

(e) To lend money to, and use its credit to assist, its officers and employees in accordance with Section 607.0833, Florida Statutes.

(f) To purchase, receive, subscribe for, or otherwise acquire; own, hold, vote, use, sell, mortgage, lend, pledge, or otherwise dispose of; and deal in and with shares or other interests in, or obligations of, any other entity.

(g) To make contracts and guarantees, incur liabilities, borrow money, issue its notes, bonds, and other obligations (which may be convertible into or include the option to purchase other securities of the corporation), and secure any of its obligations by mortgage or pledge of any of its property, franchises, and income and make contracts of guaranty and suretyship which are necessary or convenient to the conduct, promotion, or attainment of the business of a corporation the majority of the outstanding stock of which is owned, directly or indirectly, by the contracting corporation; a corporation which owns, directly or indirectly, a majority of the outstanding stock of the contracting corporation; or a corporation the majority of the outstanding stock of which is owned, directly or indirectly, by a corporation which owns, directly or indirectly, the majority of the outstanding stock of the contracting corporation, which contracts of guaranty and suretyship shall be deemed to be necessary or convenient to the conduct, promotion, or attainment of the business of the contracting corporation, and make other contracts of guaranty and suretyship which are necessary or convenient to the conduct, promotion, or attainment of the business of the contracting corporation.

(h) To lend money, invest and reinvest its funds, and receive and hold real and personal property as security for repayment.

(i) To conduct its business, locate offices, and exercise the powers granted by law within or without this state.

(j) To elect directors and appoint officers, employees, and agents of the corporation and define their duties, fix their compensation, and lend them money and credit.

(k) To make and amend bylaws, not inconsistent with its Articles of Incorporation or with the laws of the State of Florida, for managing the business and regulating the affairs of the corporation.

(l) To make donations for the public welfare or for charitable, scientific, or educational purposes.

(m) To transact any lawful business that will aid governmental policy.

(n) To make payments or donations or do any other act not inconsistent with law that furthers the business and affairs of the corporation.

(o) To pay pensions and establish pension plans, pension trusts, profit-sharing plans, share bonus plans, share option plans, and benefit or incentive plans for any or all of its current or former directors, officers, employees, and agents and for any or all of the current or former directors, officers, employees, and agents of its subsidiaries.

(p) To provide insurance for its benefit on the life of any of its directors, officers, or employees, or on the life of any shareholder for the purpose of acquiring at his or her death shares of its stock owned by the shareholder or by the spouse or children of the shareholder.

(q) To be a promoter, incorporator, partner, member, associate, or manager of any corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other entity.

#### ARTICLE V Capital Stock

(a) The total number of shares of capital stock authorized to be issued by the corporation shall be 10,000 shares having a par value of \$1.00 per share. Each of the said shares of stock shall entitle the holder thereof to one (1) vote at any meeting of the stockholders. The Board of Directors may authorize shares to be issued for consideration consisting of any tangible or intangible property or benefit to the corporation, including cash, promissory notes, services performed, promises to perform services evidenced by a written contract, or other securities of the corporation. Before the corporation issues shares, the Board of Directors shall determine that the consideration received or to be received for shares to be issued is adequate. All stock when issued shall be paid for and shall be nonassessable.

(b) In the election of directors of this corporation there shall be no cumulative voting of the stock entitled to vote at such election.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**Indemnification By Court Order**

No director, officer, employee, or agent of the corporation who is or was a party to a proceeding may apply to the court conducting the proceeding, the circuit court, or to another court of competent jurisdiction, seeking indemnification or advancement of expenses, or both, pursuant to Section 607.0850(9), Florida Statutes, without the permission, by a majority vote of the disinterested directors, of the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**Affiliated Transactions**

The corporation expressly elects, pursuant to Section 607.0901(5)(a) of the Florida Statutes, not to be governed by the rules pertaining to affiliated transactions contained in Section 607.0901, Florida Statutes.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**Control-Share Acquisitions**

The corporation exercises its right, pursuant to Section 607.0902(5) of the Florida Statutes, to avoid the provisions pertaining to control-share acquisitions contained in Sections 607.0902, 607.1302(c) and 607.1320, Florida Statutes.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**Registered Office and Registered Agent**

The street address of the corporation's initial registered office is 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Tampa, Florida 33619, and the name of the corporation's initial registered agent at such address is Frank P. Ripa. The corporation may change its registered office or its registered agent or both by filing with the Department of State of the State of Florida a statement complying with Section 607.0502, Florida Statutes.

**ARTICLE X**  
**Initial Board of Directors**

The number of directors constituting the initial Board of Directors shall be one (1), and the name and address of the person who is to serve as sole member thereof is as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Frank P. Ripa	3018 U.S. Highway 301 North Suite 110 Tampa, Florida 33619

**ARTICLE XI**  
**Incorporators**

The name and address of the incorporator of this corporation is as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Frank P. Ripa	3018 U.S. Highway 301 North Suite 110 Tampa, Florida 33619

**ARTICLE XII**  
**Amendment of Articles of Incorporation**

The corporation reserves the right to amend, alter, change or repeal any provision contained in these Articles of Incorporation in the manner now or hereafter prescribed by statute, and all rights conferred upon the stockholders herein are subject to this reservation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, the undersigned, have executed these Articles for the uses and purposes therein stated.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank P. Ripa, Incorporator

**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 Section 48.091, Florida Statutes, the following is submitted:

Ripa & Associates, Inc. has named Frank P. Ripa located at 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 110, City of Tampa, County of Hillsborough, State of Florida, as its agent to accept service of process within Florida.

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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank P. Ripa, Registered Agent

Date: 3/10/98

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