



# Certification *Profile*

By his own admission, **Roger Pida, CPP**, believes that you *can* teach an old dog a new trick. He says that he proved it to himself by

attaining his Certified Protection Professional (CPP) credential a year ago, some 43 years into his career.

Pida was formerly with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), retiring in 1989 after 25 years on the job. He credits his LAPD experience as a detective running a violent crimes unit with providing much of the education needed to pursue his professional certification.

“During this time, I dealt with crime-scene investigations but did not realize how it matched up to the ASIS CPP training,” Pida says. “I had to deal with lighting, locks, barriers, alarms, and interviews as I progressed with my investigations.”

In his present position with Wells Fargo Bank—where he has been employed for 15 years—Pida serves as vice president and regional manager for California, overseeing nine team members to provide physical security for all Wells Fargo sites in the state. He conducts investigations of workplace violence, robberies, and information protection. Pida also assists law enforcement at all levels.

Pida, who also holds a Certified Fraud Specialist (CFS) credential bestowed by

the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, says that he was inspired to finally pursue the CPP by professional pride as well as by the desire to gain knowledge and credibility in his field. He also viewed it as another way to motivate his team.

He’s very pleased with the clout his CPP adds. “It’s amazing, the doors of communication it has opened. I wish I [had become] certified sooner,” Pida says. “It lends credibility when dealing with the federal and local agencies that monitor the banking world, and also boosts the morale, pride, and professionalism of my team members.”

Pida says Wells Fargo paid all of the costs associated with his certification and even gave him a bonus for attaining it. He believes the company is committed to the idea of professional certification. “Our corporate security has over 100 team members, and most are certified in the various disciplines that relate to their field,” he says. “The goal is 100 percent certification.”

Pida has praise for the specific certification he has earned through ASIS. “The CPP is a great resource and commands respect and acceptance of knowledge and professionalism,” he states. “I am proud to have achieved this certification. It just feels good.”

---

*Profile by Chris Flynn, ASIS public relations manager*