

**A SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT
TO
OUR LEADER**

Elaine Wright Harris

A Passionate, Driven, and Innovative Educator

Maryland Notary Public and Title Insurance
Producer Independent Contractor

Presented by Wanda Moore

2020 NNA Special Honoree

November 2021

This is a brief overview acknowledging Elaine Wright Harris' efforts and contributions as a Notary Public Educator. Over the last 19 years, she has worked diligently to ensure that Maryland Notaries Public are knowledgeable about notarial laws, rules, regulations, and procedures so that they are equipped to execute notarizations correctly.

Overview includes:

- Special Honors and Recognitions
- Education and Training Venues
- Invitational Speaking Engagements and Resource Services
- Seminar, Specialty Education and Training Events
- Participation in Leading-Edge Notary Public Developments
- Collaboration and Outreach Activities
- Other Activities

Special Honors and Recognitions

Over the years, Elaine has received many compliments, acknowledgments, and awards for her service to notaries public and the notary profession.

TAGLINE (Elaine's Goal): Commitment to Elevate the Notary Public Office Through Professionalism and Education

[Click on magazine image to read the full article.](#)



- Elaine was awarded the 2009 Notary of the Year by the National Notary Association.
- Elaine has experienced a wide variety of notarial circumstances and opportunities which are an invaluable asset for teaching her students and collaborating with colleagues and oversight organizations.
- Elaine is regarded as a very knowledgeable and resourceful notarial expert.

“Elaine has a great passion for the Notary profession. From the beginning of her notary career, she set out to be more than the best that she could be. She is a pioneer, innovator, motivator and a born leader. Elaine loves sharing her knowledge and experiences and stimulates the interest of new notaries and inspires inactive and seasoned notaries.” - Wanda Moore

NNA Scholarship Award Donated to PGCC Notary Program



William Anderson

Dr. Mosser

Elaine Wright Harris

Dr. Mosser, Vice President of Workforce Development and Continuing Education Division, accepted a \$500 Scholarship award on behalf of Prince George's Community College presented by National Notary Association Vice President of Best Practices and eNotarization, William Anderson.

As part of her recognition as the National Notary Association 2009 Notary of the Year, Elaine received a monetary award that could be donated to an organization of her choice. She chose to donate her monetary award to Prince George's Community College (PGCC) to subsidize the cost for students participating in a notarial certificate program.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Notary puts stamp on her profession by raising standards

■ Mitchellville woman teaches others to be vigilant

Whenever adjunct professor Elaine Wright meets a student who's been a notary for years, her first thought is, "uh-oh."

"That's because I'm sure the person hasn't been trained properly," said

Making a Difference

LAURA C. JACKSON

Wright, who teaches courses on various notary subjects at Prince George's Community College. At the end of her classes, those longtime notaries often express thanks and appreciation because they just didn't know many of the proper skills, she said.

Wright, who lives in Mitchellville, says notaries do more than just stamp documents: They help protect the community from fraud. As a notary signing agent, Wright works hard to educate notaries, increase the field's professionalism and serve the public with care. For her hard work and dedication, the National Notary Association recently honored Wright as its 2009 Notary of the Year.

"I was elated when I found out I'd won because I'm passionate about what I do," said Wright, who became a notary in fall 2002. In addition to gaining a new skill, Wright teaches and empowers others. Further, she serves as a mentor in the profession by constantly speaking at national conferences and developing her expertise.

At the community college, Wright works with students who need retraining for their jobs or who want to transition into a new field. Notary signing agents such as Wright, for instance, can assist homeowners who are refinancing their homes. That particular line of work often interests retirees who need supplemental income, although the field has taken a hit during the current mortgage crisis.

Wright teaches all these students



RAPHAEL TALISMAN/THE GAZETTE

Elaine Wright of Mitchellville conducts a class at Prince George's Community College Monday that teaches people to become notary publics.

ELAINE WRIGHT

How she makes a difference: The National Notary Association recently named Wright its 2009 Notary of the Year for her efforts to promote exemplary notary standards. She also serves as an election judge and volunteers for her community association.

how to take their role seriously. The state of Maryland has about 87,000 notaries, she said. By serving the public, these professionals can deter mortgage fraud and help prevent identity theft. But they must know how to do their jobs properly.

"You never know when someone might challenge you," she said. "If the notary can't verify something, he or she could be in hot water."

Wright recalled a client who showed her a passport that didn't look correct.

"The picture was raised, but in passports pictures are embedded," she said, adding that the passport also lacked a signature. "I just courteously asked the person to bring back another type of ID."

She provides notarizations for friends, co-workers and the general public, and she never charges for those tasks. She only charges for loan documents. Wright further assists the community by serving as an election judge, as well as managing the Web site and editing the newsletter for her community civic association.

Her next goals include publishing a book on notary public procedures and learning more about e-notarizations, which require notaries to use electronic notary seals for electronic documents.

"Technology is just taking over," Wright said.

Elaine Wright Harris
was recognized
in
"The Gazette"
Community Newspaper
for
increasing Notary Public
professionalism through
education.

Newspaper purchased by Jeff Bezos (Founder, Amazon) in 2013 and ceased publication in 2015.



Elaine was presented with the
2011 Adjunct Professor of
the Year Award
by
Dr. Charlene Dukes,
President,
Prince George's Community
College.

Education and Training Venues

Elaine teaches at various colleges, universities, conferences, and conducts in-person and virtual seminars.

Prince George's Community College, Largo, MD Notary Public Education Program



Elaine's "Elevate the Notary Public Office through Professionalism and Education" journey began in 2002 with one notary public class. Today, Elaine teaches many notary classes at Prince George's Community College.

Prince George's Community College, Largo, MD Workforce Development Program

Westphalia Training Center



Notary classes were taught to skilled-trades students at its Westphalia Training Center in Upper Marlboro, MD.

Norfolk State University Fall Regional Continuing Education Workshops



*Elaine was invited several times to teach at Norfolk State University
Fall Regional Continuing Education Workshop in Norfolk, VA.
Workshop Title: "Notary Best Practices: Being Solidly Grounded"*

Workshop Presenter National Notary Association Conference



Elaine has been a workshop presenter at the National Notary Association Conferences for 17 consecutive years. She teaches on a variety of notary public topics.

Charles County Public Libraries



The public library system in Charles County, Maryland, provides staff notaries at each branch to serve the public. Annually, Elaine provides training to library staff notaries.

Invitational Speaking Engagements and Resource Services

Elaine has been invited by a variety of organizations to speak on the Notary Public profession. She also serves as a notarial resource to organizations.

Professional, Governmental, and Community Speaker



Law Firms



Government



Community Centers

Notary Resource Service Provider

As a resource, Elaine locates notaries public to fulfill requests of organizations. Paid and pro bono notarial services are provided to legal clinics, nursing homes, hospital patients, and the general public.



Estate Planning
Clinics



Law Firms



Pro Bono Feedback From a Notary Professional.

“Elaine, I want to provide some feedback from today's Estate Planning Clinic. First, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve today. Today there were approximately 24 total clients with the support of four notaries. We were all from various backgrounds and experiences which made it even more engaging and rewarding. There were Notaries today who performed their first notarial act today and it was an absolute pleasure to have them "shadow" and then for them to "fly on their own" without reservation. We all spoke highly of you and each of our experiences with you and how much we truly value and appreciate your expertise in this field and your willingness to share so that we can all be successful, accurate and confident that the services we provide are accomplishing the tasks at hand. Again, a big thank you for entrusting us to not only get the job done, but to represent you and all you've taught us very well.”

LeJuene Wynn, MD TIPIC

Seminar, Specialty Education and Training Events

In addition to regular classroom training, Elaine saw the need for venues for information sharing about new laws, industry standards and best practices to enhance the knowledge base and experiences of notaries public.

1st Notary Public Day Program Prince George's Community College November 17, 2012

NPD 2012

----- Original Message -----

From: Carol Burroughs

To: thedeskofelainewright@comcast.net

Date: 01/25/2012 9:43 AM

Subject: First State Notary Public Day

Ms. Wright, I am following up on my telephone voice message to you this morning regarding the above. **Secretary John McDonough** is delighted to participate on **November 17, 2012**. Please contact me with specific time, exact location on campus and to reconfirm the topic you want the Secretary to speak on: "Identifying document signers and deterring fraud. Looking forward to speaking with you soon. Thank you.

Carol I. Burroughs

Executive Assistant
Office of the Secretary of State
16 Francis Street
Annapolis, MD 21401



Secretary John P. McDonough



The Honorable Secretary of State, John McDonough, accepts invitation to be Guest Speaker.

Notary Public Day Fashion Show – “*Dress for Success!*”

Prince George’s Community College
November 16, 2019




[Click here to view fashion show.](#)

Notary Professionals enjoyed the fashion show presented at the College each year.

Maryland Pre-licensing and Continuing Education Provider

**Trusted Agent Services Group
Handbook (TASGH)**

**Title Insurance Pre-Licensing Course
State of Maryland
Pre-licensing Student**



Trusted Agent Services Group, LLC
Elaine Wright Harris, President
thedeskofelainewright@comcast.net | e
<http://www.trustedagentservicesgroup.com> | w
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You just ~~have~~ to have the guidance to lead you in the right direction until you can do it yourself. — Tina ~~Yothers~~

New Maryland legislation identified and clarified duties and responsibilities for notaries public performing loan closings. Notaries must become licensed as Title Insurance Producer Independent Contractors aka TIPICs.

Elaine expanded her education program to include a Title Insurance Producer Pre-licensing (TIPIC) Course which prepares notaries to take the state title examination and she also developed and conducts TIPIC Continuing Education (CE) classes required for license renewal.

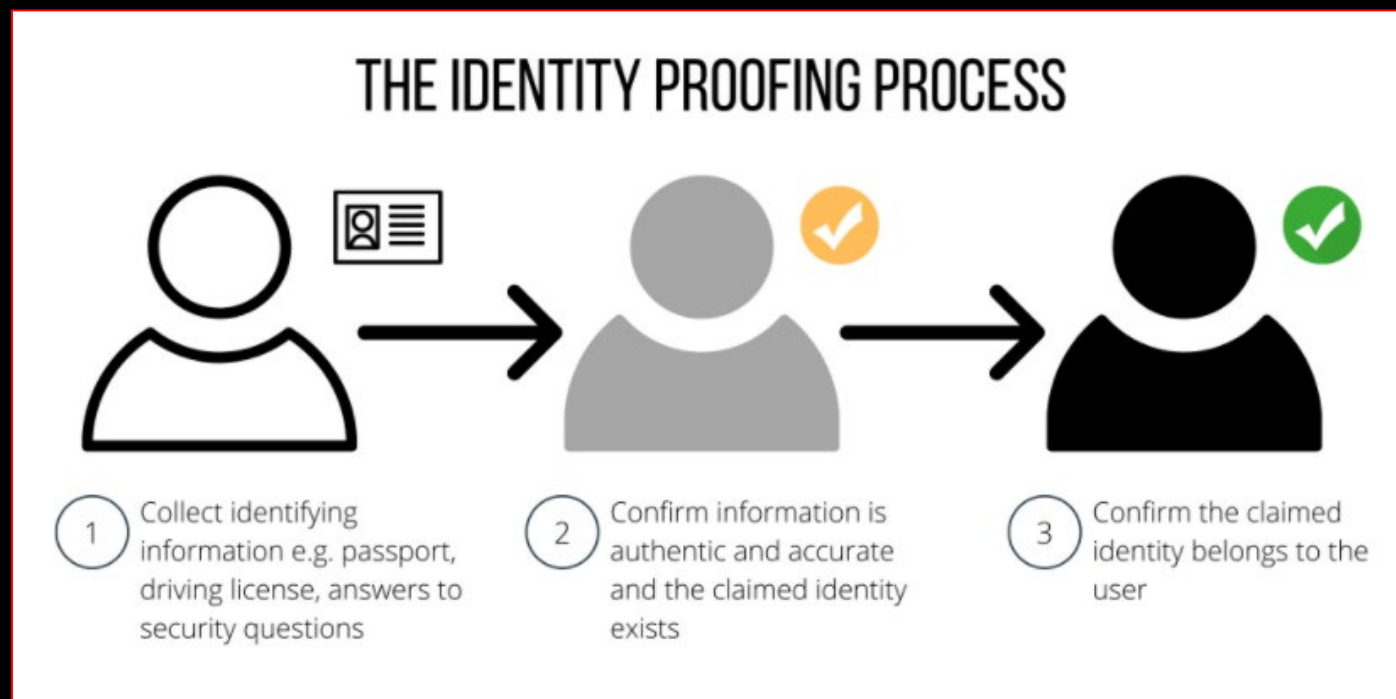
Participation in Leading-Edge Notary Public Developments

Over time, notary public operations have evolved to include technology in the performance of duties and responsibilities.

Pilot Program – In-Person Identity Proofing

March 2008

Invited by the National Notary Association to participate in a pilot program to provide in-person ID proofing service to staff at a major company.



“We are thrilled that you are doing this for us. This pilot is very important to ... You are leading the way to what we believe will be new opportunities for professional Notaries Public.”

- NNA

First Digitally Signed Judicial Order in U.S.

[Click here for view news article.](#)



Company representatives include: Adobe Systems, Inc., SAIC, VeriSign, Inc., and National Notary Association.

WASHINGTON – September 21, 2009 – “Ushering in a new era of efficient and secure delivery of legal judicial orders, the Honorable John M. Facciola, Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia, has issued the first digitally signed judicial order in U.S. history.”

“A judge signs his or her name many times each day,” said Facciola, who issued the first digitally signed court order on Aug. 26 at 12:08 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. *“The capability to sign electronically an order or other document should create in the people who see it an assurance that the document was signed by the judge and eliminate corrupt attempts to use forged, electronically created documents for improper ends.”*

Elaine Wright Harris was the Trusted Enrollment Agent who performed the identity authentication proofing session for The Honorable John M. Facciola.

**Elaine Performed Her First Remote Online
Notarization in May 2020 during
Maryland's COVID-19 State of Emergency Order.**



Collaboration and Outreach Activities

During her travels, Elaine seeks out information on how entities in other countries and territories conduct notarial activities. She regularly consults and collaborates with the Maryland Secretary of State Office on a variety of notarial issues and concerns.

Q&A: Elaine Wright Reflects On The Global Role of The Notary

By NNA Staff on September 11, 2012

Mackay & Moxey Chambers
Shirlaw House, Shirley Street
Nassau, Bahamas
September 2, 2013



Fred and Elaine Harris met with Attorney Joseph J. Moxey, Attorney-at-Law & Notary Public.

“Elaine Wright, NNA’s 2009 Notary of The Year, loves traveling around the world and, as a dedicated Notary educator and Signing Agent, takes time during her sojourns to meet with Notaries worldwide. The International Section caught up with Elaine to discuss her recent trip to Australia and New Zealand and what she discovered after her encounter with Notaries Down Under. ...”

[Click here to read NNA’s article.](#)

Interesting Notarial Procedures in Nassau, Bahamas:

- When one receives a law degree, he/she automatically becomes a Notary Public.
- The duties of a Notary and Justice of the Peace Notary (JP) are the same.
- The fee for notarization can be as high as \$50
- All notarized documents are considered Affidavits.

Q&A: Elaine Wright Reflects On The Global Role of The Notary



Sydney, Australia
April 16, 2012

Elaine met with Natasha Lee, Justice of the Peace (JP) Notary, at the Sydney Courthouse. Natasha said, *“Notarizations in Australia are performed by both Notaries Public and Justices of the Peace. A Notary Public has more powers than the Justice of the Peace. Justices of the Peace are limited to notarizing certain types of documents such as affidavits. Notaries Public have the power to notarize documents such as wills, deeds of trust, including documents going out of the country.”*

London, England
March 18, 2005

Cheeswrights, EC3M Notary Public

Cheeswrights
10 Philpot Lane
London
EC3M 8BR
Categories
Notaries Public
📞 020 76239477

Elaine met at the Office of the Notary Public in downtown London at 9:00 am. She learned that Notaries Public must have 5 years of legal studies beyond college and speak a minimum of 2 languages to be a Scrivener Notary practicing in the City of London.

Elaine works closely with the Maryland Secretary of State Office to ensure that notaries public receive correct notary public information on Maryland laws, rules and procedures.



Maryland Secretary of State
The Honorable
John P. McDonough



Division Administrator
Charities and Legal Services Division
Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Schlein



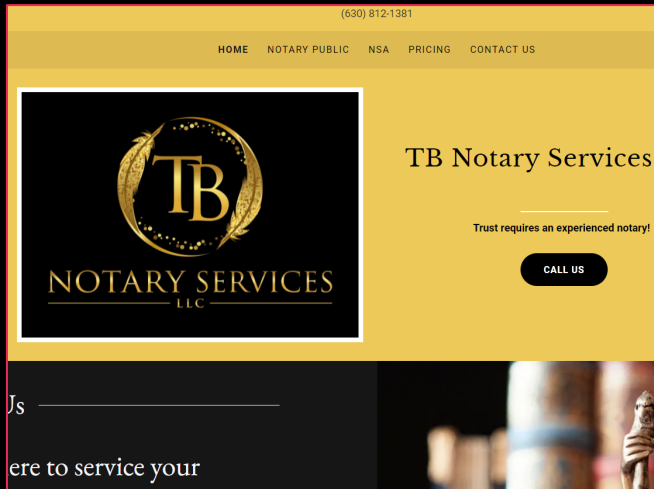
Maryland Secretary of State
The Honorable
John C. Wobensmith

Other Activities

Web Design and Development Training
E-Mail Newsletters

Elaine seeks to enhance her students' ability to carry out their notarial activities by stimulating their interests and providing support services that can augment their businesses.

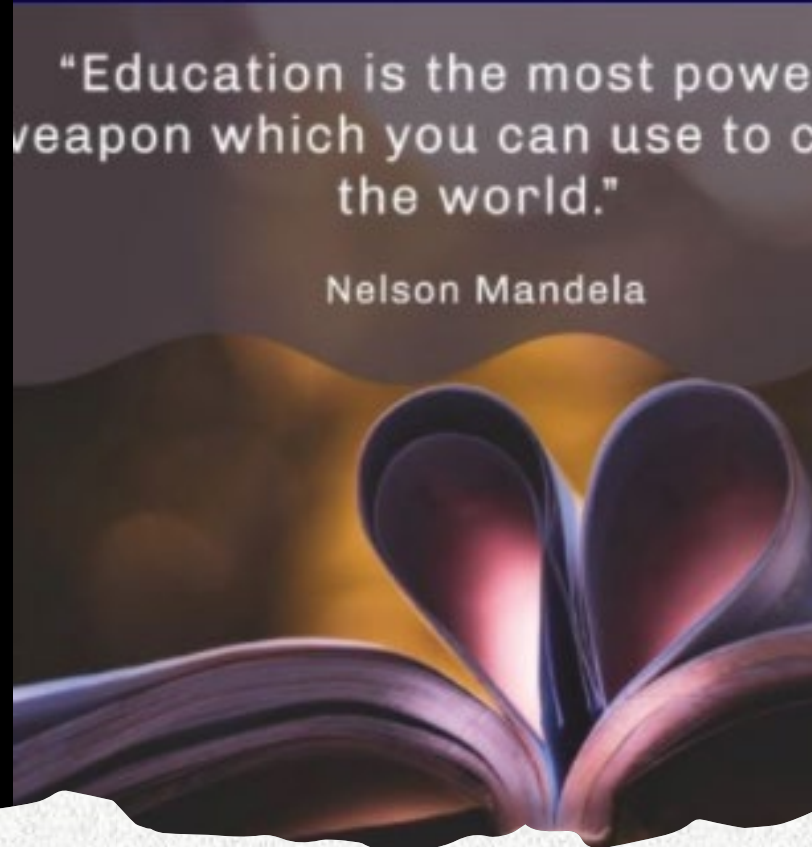
Elaine regularly conducts free demo sessions on “How to Build an Affordable Website” to increase the skill set of the Notaries Public.



KENTUCKIANA MOBILE NOTARY & BUSINESS SERVICES, LLC

SEALING DEALS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE WATER





An informational and educational column on general and Maryland notary best practices and procedures.

Training Schedule

An inspirational column that recognizes Notary Public Professionals who strive to be the best that they can be.

E-Mail Newsletters

Elaine regularly publishes e-mail newsletters to educate, train, recognize and inspire Notary Professionals.



IN APPRECIATION

Elaine

Maryland Notaries Public present this token of appreciation for your service and contributions to Notaries and the Notary Public Profession.

Thank you for helping to pave the way for Maryland Notaries to be viewed as more than just “rubber stampers.”

We are Notary Public Professionals who provide meaningful and valuable services to the community.

Your determination and efforts are appreciated by Maryland Notaries Public in particular, the community and other notaries across the USA.

For more information
on education and training provided by
Elaine Wright Harris, please visit:

<https://trustedagentservicesgroup.com>