



The NNA Executive Biographies

Milton G. Valera, President

Milt Valera has led the National Notary Association since 1982 when he became the president of the non-profit organization following the retirement of founding President Raymond C. Rothman. With the NNA since 1969, Valera has played an indispensable role in the organization's tremendous growth and increasing influence in the business and legal communities.

In his nearly four decades at the Association, Valera initiated nearly all of the NNA's major educational programs, including the annual Conference, the popular seminars and workshops, the telephone "Hotline" service, the *Notary Home Study Course*, the video and CD-ROM curriculums, and the new Notary Signing Agent certification program.

Valera founded *The National Notary*, a full-color, in-depth magazine, and created the *Notary Bulletin*, a special Notary newspaper for members, with seven separate state editions. He has been instrumental in the conception and publication of nearly 50 notarial publications, including how-to texts, reference books and study guides.

Valera's greatest achievements as the NNA's leader were two landmark sets of standards that have been widely influential over the years: the *Uniform Notary Act* of 1973 and its successors, the *Model Notary Acts* of 1984 and 2002, and *The Notary Public Code of Professional Responsibility*. The UNA and subsequent MNA have become the preeminent guide and resource for legislators and state officials to draw from in preparing new Notary legislation, while the *Code* is considered the definitive ethical guide for Notaries in the United States.

Valera was also an advisor to the Uniform Law Commission's *Uniform Law on Notarial Acts* Drafting Committee.

Before beginning his career with the NNA, Valera had already been successful in the newspaper field, as well as in marketing and public relations. A native of Hawaii, he attended California State University Northridge, where he graduated with a BA in journalism.

Valera's active professional and community commitments include:

- The Science & Technology Section and International Law & Practice Section of the American Bar Association
- The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners
- The Property Records Industry Association
- The International Union of Latin Notariats
- The National Notary Foundation
- The Journalism Alumni Association of California State University Northridge
- The California State University Northridge Alumni Association



Deborah M. Thaw, Executive Vice President

Debbie Thaw has more than a quarter-century of experience in leadership positions with the National Notary Association and has been instrumental in the organization's emergence as the nation's preeminent educator of Notaries.

Having served as the NNA's Executive Director from 1981 to 2004, Thaw is also Executive Editor of the NNA publications, including *The National Notary* magazine and the *Notary Bulletin* newspapers. She continues to be a regular contributor to NNA publications.

Additionally, Thaw directs the National Notary Foundation, a non-profit corporation established to advance scholarship, promote education, encourage research and support personal achievement.

Thaw earned a BA in journalism from Syracuse University. Before working for the NNA, she attained extensive journalistic experience in both print and broadcast media in Los Angeles and Pennsylvania.

Thaw is a frequent participant in symposiums and task forces that advance the status of Notaries, such as *The Notary Public Code of Professional Responsibility* Drafting Commission and the advisory committee for both the *Uniform Notary Act* and *Model Notary Act*.

Thaw has also served in various advisory or liaison capacities with several prominent organizations, including:

- The American Bar Association
- The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners
- The American Society of Association Executives
- The International Union of Latin Notariats



Tim Reiniger, Executive Director

Timothy S. Reiniger brings strong leadership qualities and varied experiences in law, politics, business technology and association management to the NNA. Tim is only the third person to hold his current position in the Association's 47-year history.

An attorney admitted to practice in California and New Hampshire, Reiniger for over ten years has litigated cases involving commercial disputes. In addition, he has served in senior management in both the private and public sectors, including three terms as an Alderman in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Reiniger was graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and received his law degree from the University of Michigan.

Charles N. Faerber, Vice President of Notary Affairs and Notary Affairs Group Manager

With the National Notary Association since 1978, Chuck Faerber has become one of the nation's foremost experts on Notary regulations, customs and practices. Faerber is also Editor-at-Large of NNA publications and involves himself in all matters affecting Notaries.

During his tenure with the NNA, Faerber has been an adviser to the panel that drafted the *Uniform Law on Notarial Acts* and was the primary draftsman of the NNA's own *Model Notary Act*. He is also the author of the *U.S. Notary Reference Manual*, the definitive reference on notarial laws for all U.S. states and territories and published biennially.

Additionally, Faerber served on the drafting committee for *The Notary Public Code of Professional Responsibility* in addition to supervising production of the *Notary Home Study Course* and the Association's extensive series of state *Notary Law Primer* books.

Faerber earned a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, then relocated to the West Coast to obtain a master's degree from San Diego State University. Prior to the working for the NNA, he was a reporter and editor for several newspapers.

Ozie H. Stallworth, Government and Association Outreach Manager

Ozie Stallworth began with the Association in 1995 as a Seminar Instructor, but has since served in increasingly important management capacities. He has served as Special Projects Manager and Communications Group Manager prior to his current position, in which he represents the NNA before governmental bodies and other associations.

An experienced California Notary Signing Agents and notarial practices expert, Stallworth graduated from Howard University in Washington, D.C., with a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications and public relations.