

Mr. Ozie Stallworth, the 2020 recipient of the North Carolina Governor's Award for Excellence in Innovation and Efficiency arguably has more experience in the unique area of eNotarization than any other individual in the country and easily qualifies as the nation's foremost expert on eNotary policies, procedures and implementation and is the Department's resident expert on eCommerce.

Among his many accomplishments in the field of eCommerce is launching the North Carolina eClosing Initiative after successfully overseeing the execution of the first electronic mortgage closing in the history of North Carolina. The first electronic recording of a plat in the nation also was completed under his direction in addition to directing the efforts of the Secretary of State's office to promulgate rules for electronic notarization and electronic recording, resulting in nearly 90% of the state's population having access to electronic recording; and organizing the first international conference on electronic notarizations and electronic apostilles with the Hague Conference, the International Union of Latin Notaries and the National Notary Association (NNA).

Stallworth served on the North Carolina Office of the State Controller's Digital Signature Higher Assurance Work Group to procure an enterprise eSignature solution (DocuSign) for use by state and local government agencies, and routinely consults with officials within state government, principals in the business community as well as trade association executives on electronic signature laws, practices and policies.

He also developed the Secretary of State's Continuing Legal Education Series where he develops and presents courses on eCommerce and notary subject matter as a means to educate the state's legal community on the laws governing electronic commerce. Stallworth also regularly teaches notary and electronic notary courses at Wake Tech Community College and North Carolina State University.