



## NORTH CAROLINA NOTARY ASSOCIATION

### 24th Annual Conference *Promote \* Advocate \* Educate*



The Honorable Elaine F. Marshall Secretary of State  
NC Department of Secretary of State

In 1996, Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall became the first woman elected to a statewide, executive branch office in North Carolina and has served as President of the National Association of Secretaries of State. A former teacher, small business owner, and private practice attorney, Secretary Marshall was elected to the NC State Senate before rising to statewide office. Under Secretary Marshall's administration, more than 2.2 million businesses have been formed, she has pioneered e-commerce in government, protected investors and intellectual property owners, and promoted financial capital formation in North Carolina. Her latest initiative is Rural RISE NC (Resources for Innovators, Start-ups, and Entrepreneurs), concentrating on connecting newly formed small businesses with mentors, business counselors, funding sources and more within their own communities and beyond. These resources, which are often free, provide entrepreneurs with the necessary assistance at the beginning of their journey to meet their business goals.

She has received numerous state and national awards, including the NC Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award presented by Gov. Cooper in 2022, the 2022 Champion for Children Award from the North Carolina Foundation for Public School Children, the 2020 N.C. Bar Association's Public Service Award, and the 2020 John A. "Pete" Eberhart Ray of Light award from Boundless Impact for her decades of work advancing North Carolina's Global Competitiveness. Most recently in 2025, she received the US Chamber's Award for Excellence in IP Enforcement as well as PMI's United to Safeguard America from Illegal Trade (USA-IT) Community Impact Award. She also received the 2025 IOPL Distinguished Alumni Award, thereafter to be known as the Elaine Marshall Alumni Award; and in 2023, she received the First Annual Achievement Award from the Notary Public Administrators Section of the National Association of Secretaries of State, named in her honor as the Jaeger-Marshall NPA Achievement Award. She has also received the International Trade Lifetime Achievement Award from the Charlotte Business Journal and Lifetime Achievement Awards from North Carolina 4-H and the National 4-H Hall of Fame. She has received Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Campbell University, Lees-McRae College, Meredith College and the Republic of Moldova State University of Medicine.

Secretary Marshall has been Chair of the North Carolina-Republic of Moldova Bilateral Partnership since its inception in 1999. She is also a founding member of the Moldova World Children's Fund Board of Directors. In 2024, she was bestowed with the Order of the Republic, Moldova's highest honor, by Moldova President Maia Sandu.