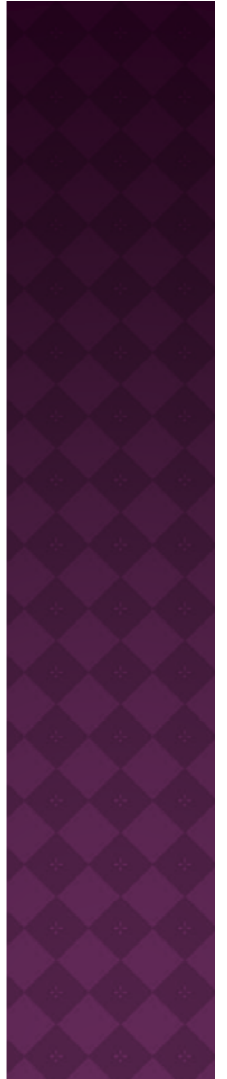


THE HISTORY OF NOTARIES

Kathy Robinson

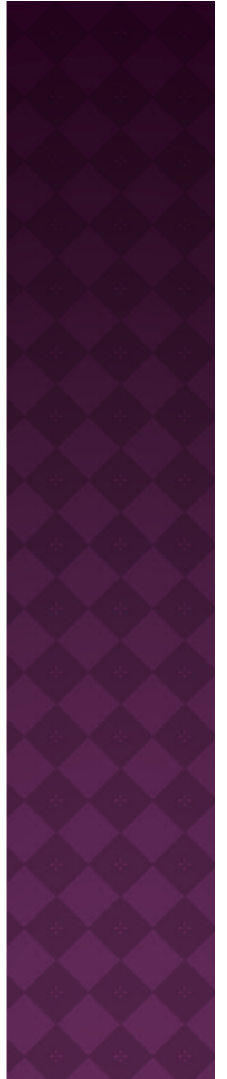
THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC NOTARIES:

- ◉ Dates back to ancient Rome when few were taught to read and write
- ◉ Public officials called 'scribae' or scribes
- ◉ Permanent officials attached to the Senate and courts of law
- ◉ Eventually, a new form of shorthand was invented and certain arbitrary marks and signs, called *notae*, were substituted for words in common use
- ◉ A writer who adopted the new method was called a *notarius*



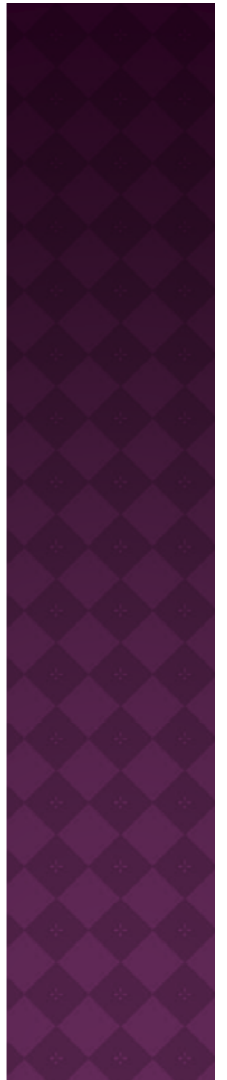
THE HISTORY OF THE SEAL

- First seals were wax with individualized engravings or symbols
- In later centuries, ribbons were affixed to the edges of documents as a sort of binding to hold the pages together
 - Wax seals were placed over the ribbon binding to ensure that no pages were added or removed
- This was the 'birth' of the notary seal and certificate



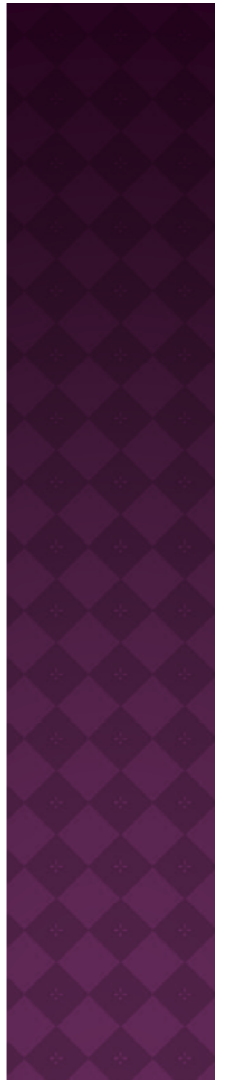
THROUGH THE YEARS

- ◉ Easily, the oldest continuing branch of the legal profession
- ◉ Scribae, notarius or tabellius
- ◉ Notaries in England (introduced in the 13th Century) were appointed by Papal authority
- ◉ In those early days, many of the notaries were members of the clergy
- ◉ Began to assume the official character and functions of a modern public notary



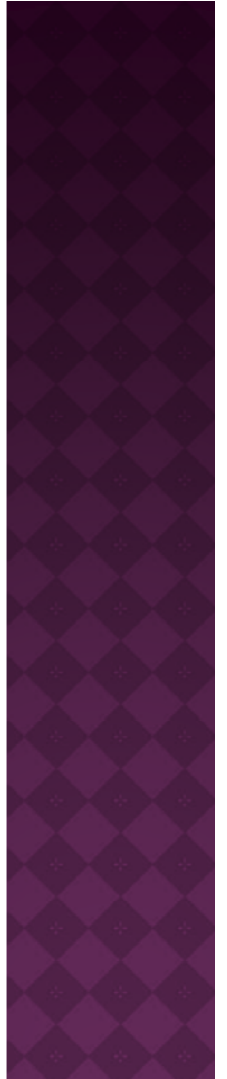
NOTARIAL SERVICES VARY GREATLY

- In many countries, a notary is a practitioner trained in the drafting and execution of legal documents
 - Drawing international documents
 - Executing deeds, sales or purchases of property
 - Executing wills in English and in foreign languages
- Civil law notaries are not the same as public notaries



NOTARIES IN THE UNITED STATES

- ◉ Primary role is to serve the public as an impartial witness when important documents are signed
- ◉ May be appointed by the governor, state secretary, probate judges, or in some cases the state legislature
- ◉ A state officer, and in most cases, is prohibited from acting outside his or her home state unless they also have a commission there as well



IN ALABAMA

- ◉ Notaries in the State of Alabama are appointed and commissioned by the probate judges of the various counties
- ◉ The probate judge reports to the Secretary of State the name, county, date of issuance and date of expiration of the commission of each notary appointed and commissioned under applicable law
- ◉ The Secretary of State does not commission or appoint notaries, but maintains records

