

2004 Special Honoree: Victoria Rivera

Trailblazer in the Notary Field

By: **Nevin Barich**

The National Notary — January 2004



Few people have done more to lead the way for Notary Signing Agents than Victoria Rivera of Panama City, Florida. From performing hundreds of notarizations and logging tens of thousands of miles in travel a year, to creating Signing Agent training material, Rivera's focus is on helping Signing Agents reach their potential.

Formerly a Notary in North Carolina, Rivera obtained a commission because she thought it would make her work as a paralegal more valuable. After moving to Florida, she became a Notary Signing Agent in 1996, working for Heritage Title Company in Orlando.

"I was thrown into the fire right away," Rivera said. "I really flew from the seat of my pants."

It wasn't too long, however, before Rivera caught on. Within two years, she decided to branch out on her own, figuring "there was enough Signing Agent work out there to give it a shot." In February 2000, she joined the National Association of Signing Agents — which later became the NNA's Notary Signing Agent Section — working closely with NASA cofounder Susan Pense in setting standards for the new industry. That year, Rivera was named NASA's Signing Agent of the Year.

Last year, Rivera started a training program, "[Just Point and Sign](#)," which is designed to teach loan closers how to do the job properly. It includes a book and training video in which Rivera does a loan closing "to help teach how to do the presentation, maintain control and keep papers flowing," she said.

And if all that wasn't enough, two years ago Rivera became involved with the Florida Mobile Notary Association, a group 60 members strong which helps Notaries get more education in their field and teaches them how to get started in their mobile careers.

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Victoria Rivera

Choosing the Notary of the Year



By: **NNA Media**
The National Notary — January 2004

Selecting the Notary of the Year for 2004 and the four Special Honorees from the many excellent nominees were not easy tasks.

Nonetheless, the National Notary Association's selection panel persisted, focusing on nominees whose penchant for serving their communities and promoting high standards for the Notary profession distinguished their work. The panel was particularly attentive to excellence in the following areas:

- Making notarial services available to the less fortunate.
- Achieving high ethical standards.
- Unusual dedication and conscientiousness in performing notarial acts.
- Working to improve respect and appreciation for Notaries among the general public.

Visit the ["Notary of the Year" page](#) for more information on qualifications and judging criteria.

Here are our Notary of the Year and Special Honorees for 2004. You can also find write-ups on both the Special Honorees and Notary of the Year in the January 2004 edition of *The National Notary*.

2004 Notary of the Year: [Jamie Johns](#)

2004 Special Honorees:

- [Dina Elardo](#)
- [Laura Johnson](#)
- [Victoria Rivera](#)
- [Trisha Rush](#)

The search begins now for a distinguished Notary whose special brand of service can be an inspiring example to others. The 2005 Notary of the Year will be selected in the fall of 2004 and announced in the January 2005 issue of *The National Notary*.

If you would like to nominate someone for 2005 Notary of the Year, call the NNA at (800) US NOTARY (800-876-6827), ext. 4097, to request an application. It can also be downloaded [via this link](#).

2004 Notary of the Year



2004 Special Honorees

