

More than 150 people from 38 countries attended the two-day forum. Most were Notaries involved in international documentation and commerce. The goal was to determine how the Apostille can be transmitted electronically using the Notary's digital signature—and still ensure the integrity and validity of the document and its attachments.

Our colleague Jeffrey Talpis, Notary and Université de Montréal professor, helped analyze the presentations to determine whether e-notarizations are relevant and if they will provide the appropriate legal effect. Talpis posed 23 questions for the conference attendees, including the following.

- Should there be a uniform definition for electronic signatures for the purpose of the convention or should it be left to each State to determine whether an electronic signature is equivalent to a handwritten signature?
- Where conservation of the original public document is required, should special measures be adopted for the conservation of electronic documents?
- Should there be specific requirements for the establishment, consultation, and control of electronic registers?

Each week, hundreds of documents cross my desk for my examination and signature before they are sent to another country, a foreign consulate, or to the Lieutenant Governor of BC for signatures. Clients include people looking to travel, bring relatives into the country, or adopt a child—and businesspeople and manufacturers looking to market their product or idea to another country.

Electronic transfers preclude the time delays of sending hard-copy documents from one authority to another. BC Notaries and lawyers are currently using today's technology to apply their digital signatures with the appropriate authentication by the governing authority.

Notaries and lawyers from around the world are working together to enhance and improve the lives and requirements of the communities we serve. ▲

PRESIDENT

Chris Dupuis

Salute to Allied Professionals

This issue of *The Scrivener* pays tribute to Allied Professionals—most specifically BC lawyers.

In the process of writing these articles, I draw upon some of my life/Notary practice experiences—45 years of living—the last 22 as a sole-practitioner Notary.

The fact that I am a sole practitioner was never supposed to happen but “the best laid plans of mice and men...”

My late father, you see, was a practising Notary who thought it best that, since I was a tad young to be set loose on the unsuspecting public—and fellow professionals—he would guide my formative years as a Notary. I think he was also taken with the idea that his 23-year-old-son would, as part of his indenture, hold forth for holiday relief at his command.

In hindsight, my father's actions were a minor stroke of genius.

Unfortunately, that was not to be. During our first year together in practice, my father suffered complications from open heart surgery, was forced into retirement, and quite tragically and prematurely passed away.



What he did, however, upon the realization of his plight, was speak to one of his friends, a lawyer from Surrey, who lived in New Westminster and who had a very busy real-property practice.

In hindsight, my father's actions were a minor stroke of genius. He asked his friend if he would be so kind as to “check in” on his son from time to time and maybe help him out if he needed it.

The fact that we did not compete in the same market, that the friend was 12 years my senior—more of an older brother or uncle than a nagging parent—and that he held many of the same interests I did outside of our professions made for an amazing relationship.

My father's friend helped me through some very interesting times. He was, for all intents and purposes, my coach, confidant, and mentor—by all accounts, an ally.

So for this issue, I would like to salute our Allied Professionals. And I personally and most specifically would like to pay tribute to my friend David Worthington, senior partner of the firm MacQuarrie Hunter in Surrey.

Thank you, David. You have made the journey great. And as my ally, you have taught me more than you will ever know.

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