

THE e-APP In the U. S.

Presented by:

A

Lori Hamm
Notary & Certifications Administrator
Montana Secretary of State's Office

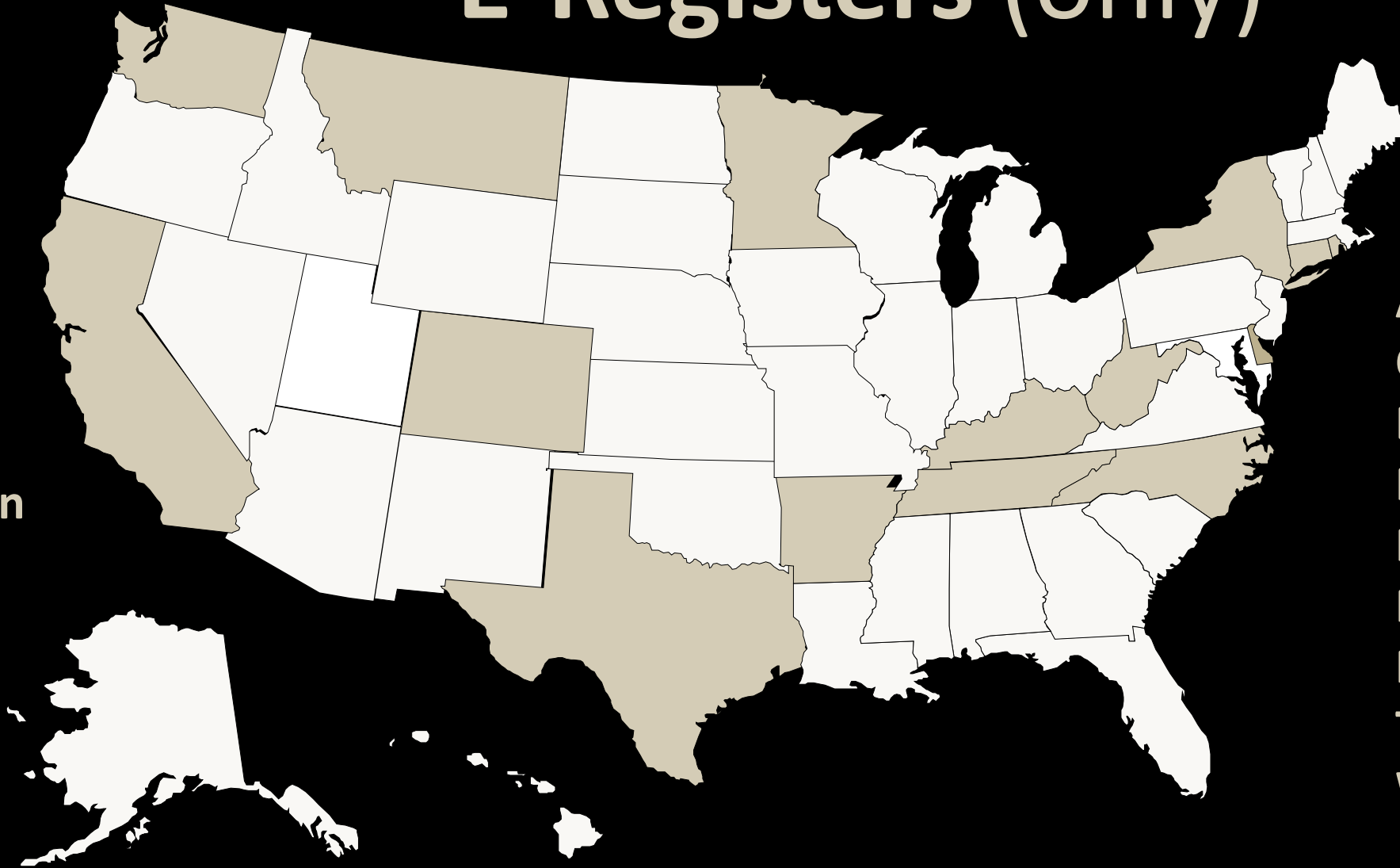
A satellite night view of North America, showing the United States and parts of Canada and Mexico. The landmasses are dark blue, and the cities and population centers are illuminated with bright yellow and white lights. The state of Kansas is highlighted with a solid yellow outline, making it stand out from the rest of the map. The text "Two apostilles issued in 5-year period..." is overlaid in white, italicized font in the upper left quadrant of the image.

Two apostilles issued in 5-year period...

Kansas – 2007 - 2012

E-Registers (only)

California
Colorado
Montana
Texas
Washington



Arkansas
Connecticut
Delaware
Minnesota
New York
North Carolina
Rhode Island
Tennessee
West Virginia

e-APP IN THE UNITED STATES – EOY 2022

A 21st Century Expedition



Issued 4 e-Apostilles

- 1 Customer in California
- RON Notary in Montana
- 3 Accepted, 1 Rejected

Spreading the Word

- Presentation at NASS
- Working with State Dept
- Created Advisory Board

In Production

- Partner with MT RONs
- 35% e-Apostilles YTD
- Promoting e-APP

2020

2022

2024

2021

2023

2025

Partner with Paradigm

- In-depth research
- Focus on CeDiploma
- Outreach to universities
- Worked with HCCH, Israel, UK

Ready to Launch

- Phase 1 – Pilot
- First 2 e-Apostilles – Georgia (Country)
- Underwhelmed - Back to the drawing board
- **SUCCESS!**
75 e-Apostilles

Moving Forward

- @Gov platform operational
- Fully automated process
- Work towards digital Vital Records
- Target 55% e-Ap by EOY

MONTANA'S STORY

Security Features

Digital Signature

Background Filaments

- Woven through text

e-Apostille Border

- Microscopic text, not solid line

Competent Authority

Digital Signature

- Multi-colored

State Seal Embossed

- Looks dimensional

Active Hyperlink

- Links to e-Register

Document Description


- Identifies underlying document

Certified by CeCredential Trust, CeCredential Trust, certificate issued by GlobalSign Atlas R45 AATL CA 2020. Signature Panel


SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF MONTANA

APOSTILLE
(Convention de La Haye du 5 octobre 1961)

1. Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
This public document
2. has been signed by KRISTI STROUF
3. acting in the capacity of NOTARY PUBLIC
4. bears the SEAL/STAMP OF KRISTI STROUF, NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MONTANA, U.S.A.
5. at HELENA, MONTANA
6. on 25TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023
7. by CHRISTI JACOBSEN, STATE OF MONTANA
8. No: 08984
9. Seal/Stamp
10. Signature


Christi Jacobsen
Montana Secretary of State


Verification #: 08984 Verify Online: <https://biz.sosmt.gov/apostille>

Document Description	Document Description - serves to append this eApostille to the accompanying underlying document. Parameters are customer specified. The eApostille neither confirms, denies, or makes any inference about the underlying document.
Last Name Sample_Passport	
Security: With Adobe Reader , certification and encryption are designated by a blue banner and black ribbon, which signifies the document has not been modified since issuance and cannot be repudiated. Do not trust the document if any other symbol is displayed:	
This e-Apostille: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only certifies the authenticity of the signature and the capacity of the person who has signed the public document, and, where appropriate, the identity of the seal or stamp which the public official bears.• Does not certify the content of the document for which it was issued.• Constitutes an Apostille under the Hague Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents only if the Convention is in force between the United States and the country where it is to be presented.• Complies with the proceedings of the International Forum for the electronic Apostille Programme (e-APP).	

- ✓ Contains all the required elements of an Apostille
- ✓ Verifies all the same information as paper Apostille
- ✓ Both documents are contained in a secure tamper-evident file
- ✓ Underlying record can be electronic or scanned copy of hard-copy document
- ✓ Completed file with e-App and document transmitted to recipient electronically
- ✓ Entire process takes less than 1 day

MONTANA'S e-APOSTILLE

Step 1: Click the hyperlink and enter the Apostille number.



Apostille & Authentication Verification

Apostille/Authentication Number

11051

Submit

Please enter the Number on the form you were provided from the State of Montana to verify the Apostille or Authentication.

Step 2: Compare the information here to the information on the e-Apostille.

[< Back to lookup](#)

Verification Information

Apostille/Authentication Number	Issue Date
11051	04/09/2024

Signed Details

Country

United States

Signed By

SUSAN TAYLOR

Acting Capacity

NOTARY PUBLIC

Seal/Stamp

seal/stamp of SUSAN TAYLOR, NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MONTANA, U.S.A.

Certified Details

Certified Date

04/09/2024

Certified By

Christi Jacobsen, Montana, Secretary of State

Apostille/Authentication Number

11051

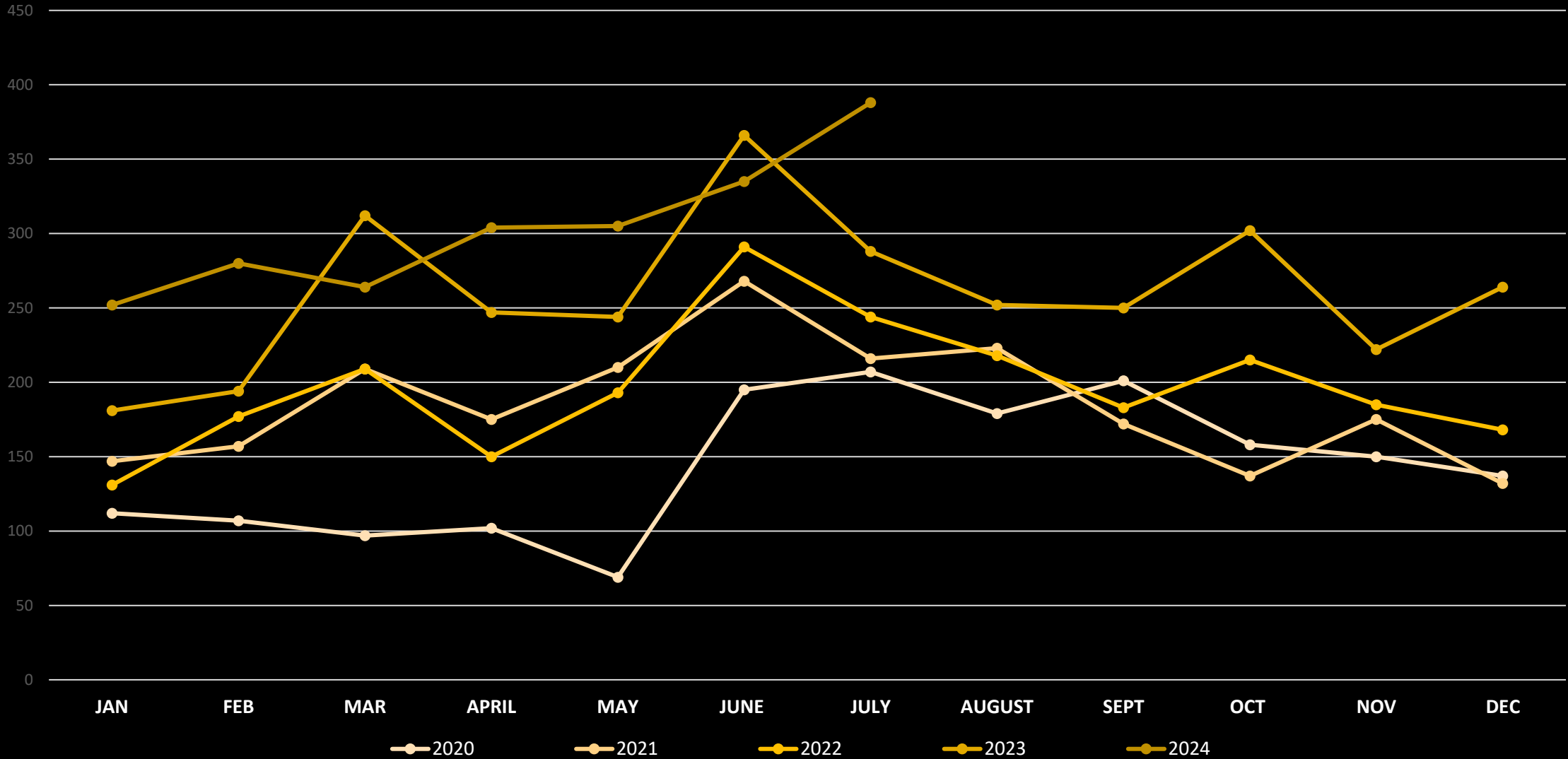
City, State

HELENA, MT

- Acceptance by Destination Countries
- Cost to Implement System
- Cost to Customer
- Statutory Impediments
- Lack of Demand

CONCERNS

MONTANA APOSTILLE PRODUCTION 2020 - 2024



ANNUAL TOTALS

2024 (YTD) = **2128**

2023 = **3122**

2022 = **2364**

2021 = **2221**

2020 = **1714**

THE NUMBERS

CUSTOMER

- ✓ **FASTER**
- ✓ **MORE RELIABLE**
- ✓ **MORE SECURE**
- ✓ **LESS EXPENSIVE**
 - No Shipping Costs
 - One e-Ap – Multiple uses
 - Easily replaced if lost or undelivered

COMPETENT AUTHORITY

- ✓ **FASTER**
- ✓ **MORE SECURE**
- ✓ **LESS STRESS**
 - No Paper Handling
 - No lost documents
- ✓ **MORE EFFICIENT**

BENEFITS

Financial Dossier – Paper Process

Registering a Business Abroad

(6 documents, 3 states, 2 countries)

Law firm in **California**

Company registered in **Texas**

Principals located in **California** and **Peru**

Notaries in **California** and **Montana** (RON)

Transaction in **Turkey**

Minimum
At least
24 – 30 days*
\$650 – \$????

** ...and hope nothing gets lost in the mail along the way*

STORIES BEHIND THE NUMBERS

Financial Dossier – e-Apostilles Process

Registering a Business Abroad

(6 documents, 3 states, 2 countries)

➤ **Transaction initiated 3/11/24 - 10:30 a.m.**

[details arranged with RON & MT SOS]

✓ **Documents notarized 3/12/24 - 10:20 a.m.**

✓ **Apostilles requested 3/12/24 - 10:37 a.m.**

➤ **e-APPs sent to & accepted in Turkey 3/12/24 - 2:13 p.m.**

*Total Time:
< 28 hours*

*Est. cost:
\$250 - \$350*

STORIES BEHIND THE NUMBERS

A Montana company contracted with the government of South Korea to provide 45 trained forest firefighters during the peak fire season. They needed all personnel to have FBI background checks submitted prior to departure in 30 days.

THE PROCESS:

Day 1: Employee obtains fingerprints locally

- ✓ Contractor sends the electronic fingerprint card to the FBI
- ✓ Electronic FBI report returned to Contractor

Day 2: FBI file sent to MT SOS for notarization and apostillisation

- ✓ Completed e-APP returned to Contractor

Day 3: File sent to South Korea Forest Service and accepted

STORIES BEHIND THE NUMBERS



KRISTI STROUF

Montana RON Notary

Apostille Advocate

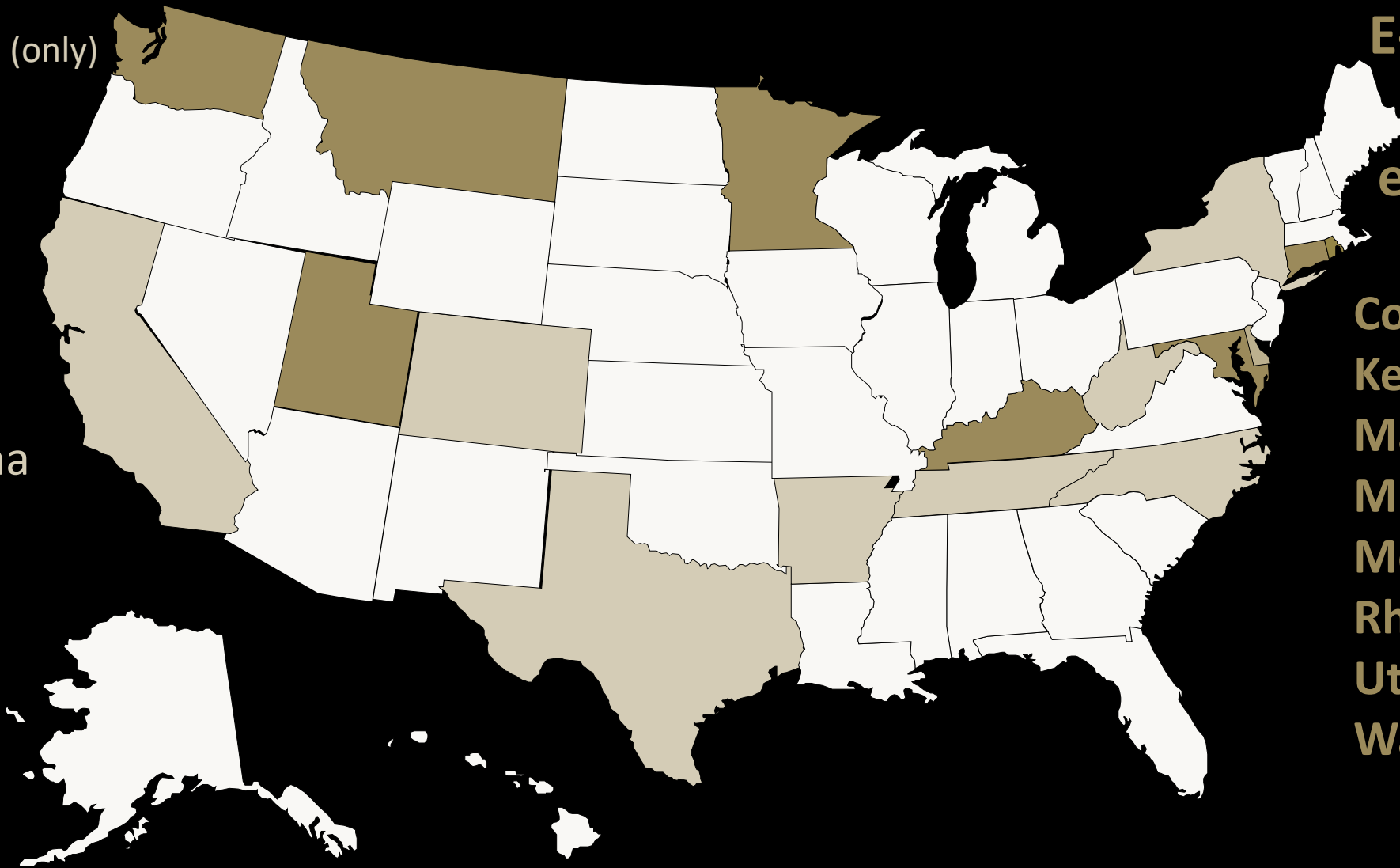
EXPERIENCES

JUDITH (JUDI) LAWRENCE
PENNSYLVANIA NOTARY
APOSTILLE AGENT

EXPERIENCES

E-Registers (only)

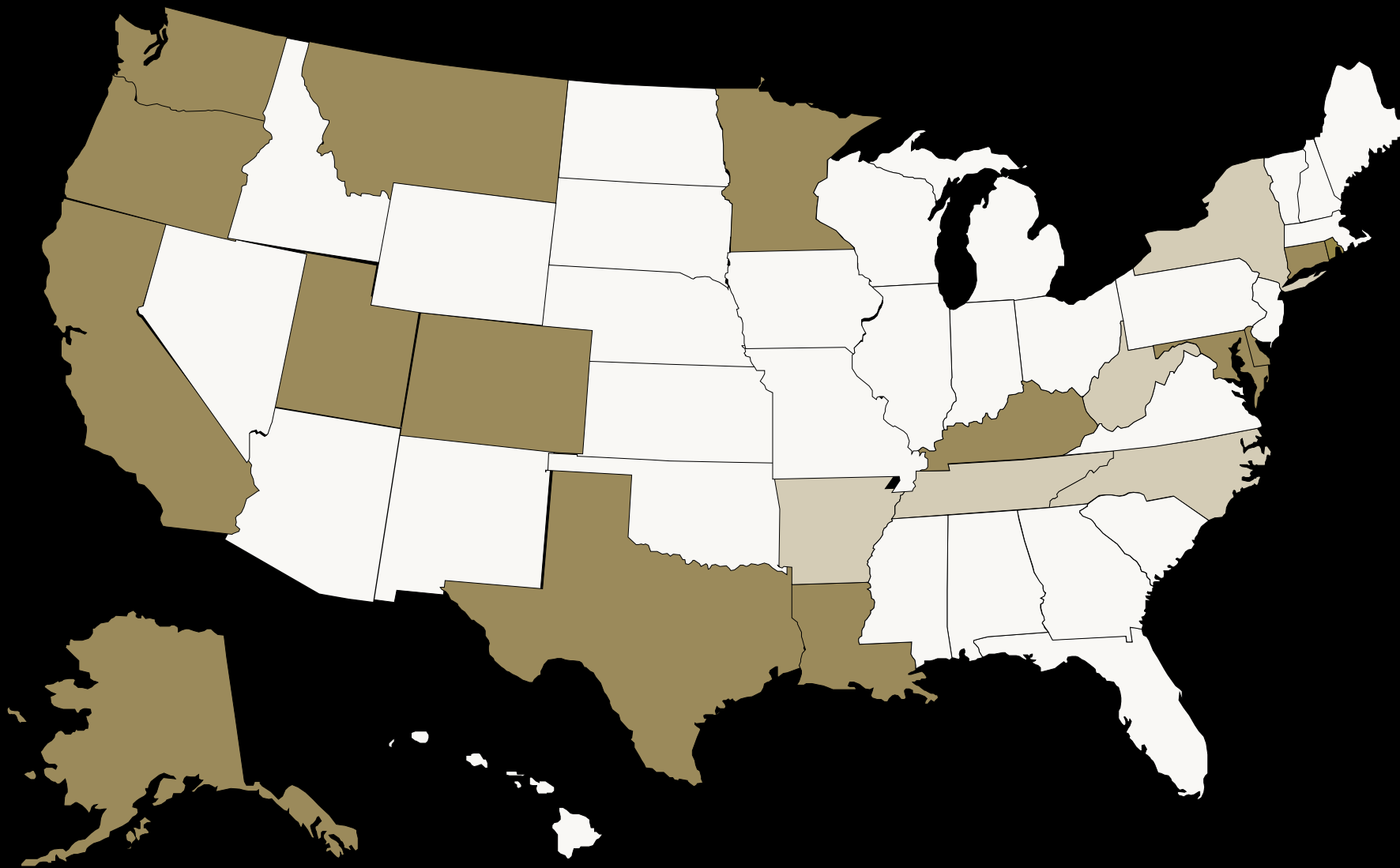
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Delaware
New York
North Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
West Virginia



E-Apostilles & e-Registers

Connecticut
Kentucky
Maryland
Minnesota
Montana
Rhode Island
Utah
Washington

e-APP IN THE UNITED STATES - TODAY



e-APP IN THE UNITED STATES – 2026?

PASS UP THE PAPER

- Give up the Grommets
- Skip the Staples
- Stop with the Stamp
- Embrace the FOMO
- Get over the FOF

YOUR MOVE...

e-APOSTILLES



**INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONS
AT THE SPEED OF **LIFE!****