



Mary G. Morris
Executive Director
Virginia College Savings Plan

In November 2007, Mary G. Morris was named Executive Director of the Virginia College Savings Plan (Virginia 529), the independent state agency that sponsors Virginia's four 529 programs – the Virginia Education Savings Trust (VEST), the Virginia Prepaid Education Program (VPEP), CollegeAmerica and CollegeWealth, each of which offers a different solution to assist families in saving for higher education. She is the chief executive officer of Virginia 529, responsible for direction and oversight of the management, investments, promotion and operations of the largest 529 college savings plan in the country, with more than 1.7 million accounts and assets under management exceeding \$27 billion in the four combined Virginia 529 programs. Morris also is responsible for state and federal legislative and governance initiatives important to the interests of those investing in 529 programs and in creating and promoting new programs to extend the opportunities available to those interested in funding higher education.

A former Treasurer of Virginia and Virginia Senior Assistant Attorney General, Morris came to the Virginia College Savings Plan from the national law firm of Kaplan Fox & Kilsheimer LLP (Kaplan Fox). A tax, securities and bond attorney, Morris was a member of the firm's Institutional Investor Client Services Group and drew on her extensive experience in the public sector to expand the law firm's practice to state and local pension funds and other institutional investors.

Prior to joining Kaplan Fox in 2002, Morris served a term as Treasurer of Virginia. As State Treasurer, Morris was the chief executive of the Department of the Treasury, which serves as the Commonwealth's chief cash and debt manager and manages the concentration, investment, and disbursement of all State funds. She was responsible for the investment of the Commonwealth's General Fund and the issuance and management of all Commonwealth debt. She served as Chairman of the Commonwealth Treasury Board and served on the boards of the Virginia College Savings Plan, the Virginia Public Building Authority, the Virginia Public School Authority, the Virginia College Building Authority and the Debt Capacity Advisory Committee.

From 1994-98, Morris served as the Senior Assistant Attorney General for Finance and Tax in the Office of the Attorney General. In that capacity she was primarily responsible for the legal work for 16 client agencies, boards and authorities including the Office of the Secretary of Finance, Department of the Treasury, Department of Taxation, Virginia Retirement System and Higher Education Tuition Trust Fund (now Virginia College Savings Plan). While serving in the Office of the Attorney General, she was lead counsel for all Commonwealth tax litigation with issues including corporate income tax, state and local tax and individual income tax.

Education and Memberships

- Juris Doctor and Master of Law and Taxation, Marshall-Wythe School of Law, College of William and Mary
- Former Regional Vice President (Southern) of the National Association of State Treasurers
- Member, Virginia State Bar, College Savings Plans Network and College Savings Foundation

About the Virginia College Savings Plan

Independent state agency offering four 529 college savings programs, providing a diverse range of low-cost, high quality savings options, each offering the tax advantages of tax-free growth, tax-free distributions as long as used for qualified higher education expenses and additional state tax advantages for Virginia citizens.

Virginia 529 Programs Offered:

- Virginia Educational Savings Trust (VEST), a direct-sold savings program
- College America, a broker-sold savings program
- Virginia Prepaid Education Program (VPEP), a prepaid tuition program
- College Wealth, a bank-sold savings program