

AMERICAN BOARD OF CRIMINALISTICS

Promoting Excellence Through Certification

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello ABC Certificants,

ABC has achieved ANAB accreditation under the ISO/IEC 17024:2012 standard with scopes in: Biological Evidence Screening and Forensic DNA. Scopes will be added as new exams are developed. I would like to thank all of the current Board and Examination Committee members and past Board and Examination Committee members who dedicated so much time and effort to develop procedures and exams. We are very proud of this accreditation.

Due to our new ANAB accreditation, we have decided to not renew accreditation with the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB). We have appreciated the opportunity to achieve and maintain accreditation with FSAB, but plan to transition completely over to ANAB as we develop new exams.

We are moving along in the processes for finalizing and offering the Foundational Knowledge Exam and continued development of the Seized Drug Analysis Exam. Please see the Examination Committee Update for more information.

We are beginning the process of moving to an electronic testing format. We have secured a vendor and will be developing procedures and validating the process prior to switching over to the electronic format for examination offerings. More information will be forthcoming as we progress through the validation. We are excited to switch to this format as it will be easier to administer exams and easier for people to sit for the exams as they will not potentially have to travel long distances. We will also be able to score the exams quicker.

If you haven't submitted recertification paperwork, please do so by June 1st to avoid the penalty fee and suspension. Rules of Professional Conduct and/or recertification packets received between March 2 and June 1st must be accompanied by the \$80 maintenance fee + \$25 late fee.

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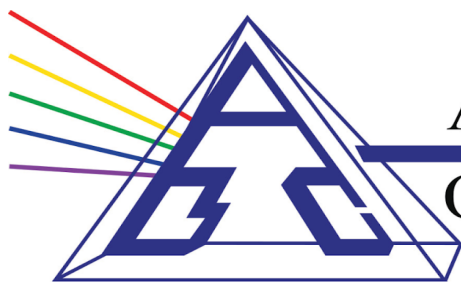
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President's Message Continued

ABC will be raising the annual maintenance fee to \$100 for certificants effective January 1, 2024. In addition, the late fee and penalty fee will be raised to \$50 and \$175, respectively, for certificants and affiliates effective January 1, 2024. The change in fees comes after careful consideration by the Board of Directors and evaluation of the organization's finances. ABC has not raised fees in three years (2020) and the fee was dropped to \$80 from \$90 for Fellows when proficiency testing submissions were discontinued in 2021. Following the evaluation of other certification body fees and consideration of increased costs to continually improve our certification organization (i.e. ANAB accreditation, electronic testing, improved databases) we have decided this increase is appropriate.

As always, if you have colleagues who are interested in certification and have questions, please don't hesitate to have them reach out to any Board members. We would be happy to answer any questions and/or provide any information. Certification enhances our qualifications as forensic scientists, much like accreditation and following quality assurance programs. Certification is a way for us to provide value to our knowledge and skills that we have acquired to successfully perform our duties as forensic scientists.

Respectfully,

Danielle N. Hankinson, MS, ABC-MB
President

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING COMMITTEE UPDATE

As a newer committee with ABC, we're still figuring out to best serve our certificants and applicants. I hope you saw the pictures from the ABC Ice Cream Social at AAFS. I would like to thank our sponsors for that fun evening.

I would also like to thank those of you who responded to the Customer Survey and gave us some ideas for the newsletter. You should see some of that information in this newsletter.

RECERTIFICATION UPDATE

ABC Certificants,

We continue to evaluate and improve the recertification process on a yearly basis.

Please utilize the Point Structure document when filling out your recertification packets. This document provides useful information regarding acceptable documentation.



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Communications Update Continued

Moving forward we will start to include some of the other ideas. You may see an email requesting current and retired ABC Certificants to tell us why it was important for you to become certified. We may also start a "Weird and wild tales from the forensic lab" section for the newsletter. For this, no specific case information could be shared. However, we all have tales that seem unbelievable. You may find that something is more common than you think.

As always, if you have any ideas or suggestions for the committee, please feel free to send them to us at communications@criminalistics.com.



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Recertification Update Continued

The committee will continue to perform abbreviated reviews this cycle, meaning that if you are claiming over the number of points needed to meet your recertification requirements, the committee may not review all of your sections.

Certificants should receive an email after submission of their packets that includes all of the attached documentation they provided. We encourage all certificants to check this email and documentation for accuracy.

In addition, we are implementing a new process which will allow the committee to reach out to you for missing and/or insufficient documentation. This will give certificants a strict two week period to submit missing/insufficient documentation to avoid a loss of points. We are hopeful that this process benefits the certificant by not taking away points for mistakes made during acquisition and upload of documentation.

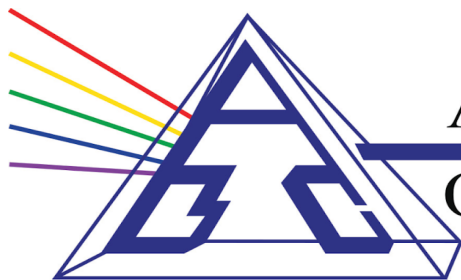
Our new Recertification Liaison to the ABC Board of Directors is currently transitioning into her role. Please welcome Alice Hilker as your new liaison. She will be transitioning into this role throughout 2023.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding recertification.

Respectfully,

Danielle N. Hankinson, MS, ABC-MB and Alice Hilker, MFS, ABC-GKE, ABC-MB

Recertification Liaison - recertification@criminalistics.com



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2023 Proficiency Testing Program:

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- DNA profiling - Y Filer
- 3 x Biological examination inc. biological material ID and DNA
- Kinship (DNA)
- Hair examination

Documents examination

- Document examination
- Signature examination

Chemical Criminalistics

- Personal lubricant examination
- Glass examination
- Fibres examination
- Ignitable fluid residue analysis
- Automotive paint examination
- Pepper spray
- Ink analysis

Fingerprint examination

- Latent marks / ten print comparison
- Enhancement, detection & identification

Inter-laboratory Collaborative Trials Digital Forensics

- Small media examination
- Mobile phone forensics

Forensic Foundations' Proficiency Tests are designed to address:

- ✓ ANAB requirements
- ✓ The end-to-end forensic process
- ✓ Relevance to forensic science facilities
- ✓ Knowledge of the 'ground truth' of the samples
- ✓ Limitation of any potential context information
- ✓ Cost affordability

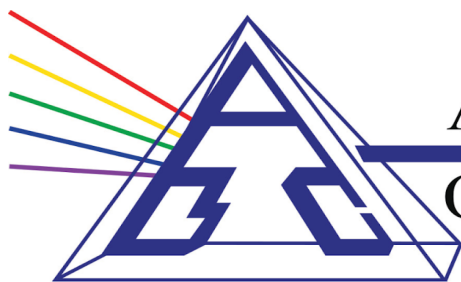
For more information visit forensicfoundations.com.au/proficiencytesting
or email quality@ffint.com.au



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Biological examination inc.
DNA
Chemical Criminalistics
Fingerprint Examination
Forensic Document Examination





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EXAMINATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

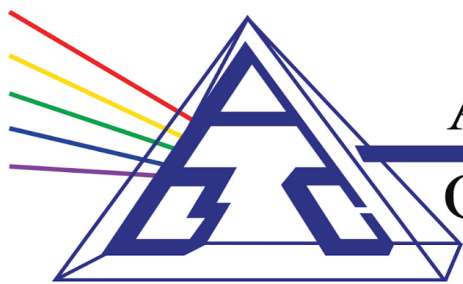
Spring 2023 Update from the Examination Committee – Audra Curry Yovanovich, Chair

Happy spring everyone! Warmer weather is finally here in the Midwest and I'm thrilled to see blooming flowers and sunshine! We have finally completed exam development for the Foundational Knowledge Examination (FKE)! Since the last newsletter, our ABC volunteers have reviewed the statistical analysis of the field test responses and chose the questions that will become the final version of the exam. The final version of the examination was sent to the psychometrician for further statistical analysis. On March 21st, we convened a Cut Score Panel of seven subject matter experts and they made a recommendation for a passing score (also known as a cut score). The last step was to conduct more psychometric analysis on the recommendation from the SMEs and a final cut score was determined. I want to thank all of our field test takers for their patience as we worked our way through this process. This time put into the creation of the new exams ensures that we are writing top notch exams that adhere to ISO 17024 standards. I also want to thank all the EC members who dedicated so much time to creating this exam. A special thank you goes to Amy Duhaime, the FKE Exam Coordinator, for her tireless efforts!

ACCREDITATION MANAGER UPDATE

I am proud to announce that effective January 20, 2023, the American Board of Criminalistics is officially accredited to ISO/IEC 17024:2012 General Requirements for Bodies Operating Certification of Persons in the areas of Biological Evidence Screening and Forensic DNA. This was a decade-long project and our success would not be possible without the dedication of our Registrar's Office and our current and past Directors, Executive Board, Quality Assurance Committee, and other volunteers. This is a significant accomplishment for such a small organization. So what comes next?

We maintain our same assessment team throughout the accreditation cycle. Every year I will submit an annual surveillance report and all of our documents. Our assessment team will conduct a complete document review. Additionally, in Years 1 and 3, one of our assessors will conduct an onsite visit. So as much as I would like to kick back and relax until Year 5, as we all know, accreditation is an ongoing process. Additionally, as we add new examinations to our menu of services, we will be applying for scope extensions,



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Accreditation Manager Update Continued

which will necessitate more assessments. My expectation is that we will be applying for a scope extension for our Foundational Knowledge Examination along with our first annual surveillance report.

One other important note. We will maintain our accreditation under the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board until our current accreditation expires (February 29, 2024). We will not be applying for reaccreditation.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Lajoie

Accreditation Manager

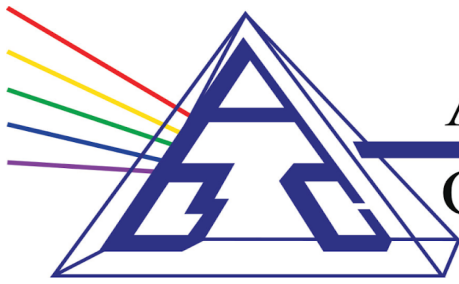
CERTIFICATION STATISTICS

Certification is a voluntary process of peer review by which a practitioner is recognized as having attained the professional qualifications necessary to practice in one or more disciplines of criminalistics.

ABC is comprised of 1199 certificants in the following disciplines:

Biochemistry (BC) - 1	Fire Debris (FD) - 39
Biological Evidence Screening (BIO) - 91	General Criminalistics (GKE) - 174
Comprehensive Criminalistics(CC) - 133	Hair and Fiber (HF) - 16
Drug Analysis (DA) - 312	Molecular Biology (MB) - 375
Drug Analysis (DAT) - 20	Molecular Biology (MBT) - 23
Forensic DNA (DNA) -96	Paint and Polymer (PP) - 13

There are 11 Affiliates and 79 Emeritus members. The American Board of Criminalistics no longer offers Affiliate status. If you are currently an Affiliate, you will be given the remainder of your five years to obtain the required two years of experience and apply for full certification. What is an Emeritus Member? Please see the below for how to become an Emeritus member when you're done serving the community as an active forensic practitioner.



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Conversion to Emeritus

You can apply for Emeritus status if you meet the following conditions:

- You must be leaving the field of forensics.
- You must be in good standing at the time of the request for conversion.
- You must have maintained certification for a minimum of 10 years.

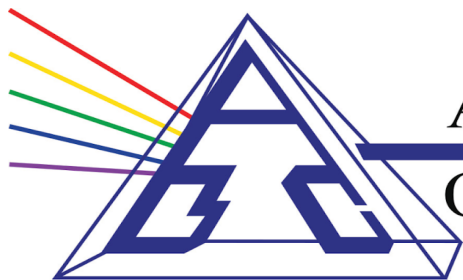
Emeritus is not a certification status, which is why you must be leaving the field to apply for Emeritus. Once granted Emeritus status, you will no longer be certified, although your status of leaving forensics in good standing with the ABC will be identified on the ABC website.

Why I wanted to become certified:

I wanted to become certified in Forensic DNA and Biological Evidence Screening because being certified by the ABC is a testament that my training, ethics, and expertise are of high quality to pass a difficult exam and to maintain certification. Certification allows all practitioners regardless of jurisdiction and training to be challenged and measured by the same set of standardized test requirements. I also believe it provides the public with the assurance that the practitioner's knowledge and qualifications have been tested by an organization outside of their employer.

- Lauren Thonesen

We would like to spotlight our emeritus members and all of our certificants. If you would like to tell your ABC story and why certification was important to you, please email us at the following email: communications@criminalistics.com.



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AIRsight Infrared/Raman Microscope



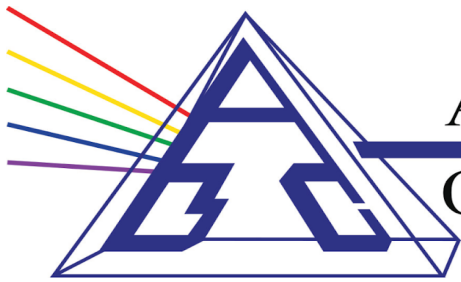
Raman and FTIR Microscopy in Perfect Harmony

Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG) categorizes chemical identification techniques into 3 categories based on their selectivity and sets minimum confirmation requirements for reliable identification. The higher the selectivity of the technique, the less confirmation techniques, work, and time is required to identify the drug and satisfy the SWGDRUG standards.

Shimadzu's **AIRsight** is the **only FTIR and Raman microscope in one system** on the market today! Infrared and Raman spectroscopy quickly reveal chemical and structural fingerprints, and they are both considered Category A techniques with the highest level of chemical selectivity. With only one instrument, one sample placement, and one software, the *AIRsight* allows for complete drug identification via two Category A techniques – saving valuable sample, bench space, and time.

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APPEALS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Effective January 1, 2022, all appeals were successfully filed electronically. In 2022 the Appeals Committee of the ABC Board of Directors received 12 appeals spanning a variety of concerns. The goal of the committee is to carefully review each certificant's appeal and make a determination as to whether the appeal shall be granted based on the information provided and by applying the established policies and procedures of the American Board of Criminalistics.

The Appeals Committee reviews all associated appellate documentation. Most commonly, appeals are associated with recertification documentation and the request for points that may have been denied. When appeals situations are more ambiguous, the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) is notified for process improvements.

The Recertification Committee will begin reviewing the 2022 packets later this spring with recertification points expected to be available over the summer. If for any reason, you believe the points awarded are not reflective of the points earned, please file your appeal in a timely fashion so the appeals committee can evaluate all appeals efficiently.

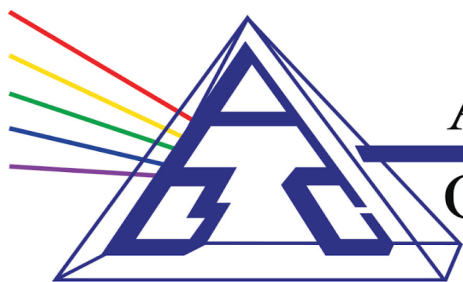
The Appeals Committee will continue to evaluate any new appeals in a judicious manner and note any significant issues that may be remedied by new recommendations to the Board. With each passing year, the number of appeals continues to decrease; the Board, the QAC, and Recertification Committee continue to make great strides in modernizing and simplifying the ABC recertification process.

Please see the [website](#) for further instructions on filing an appeal and do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Erin Tracy – Chair



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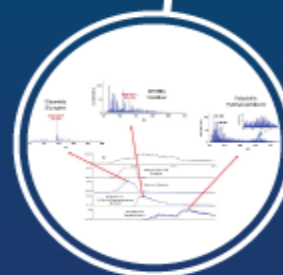
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Instant Analysis of Single Fibers

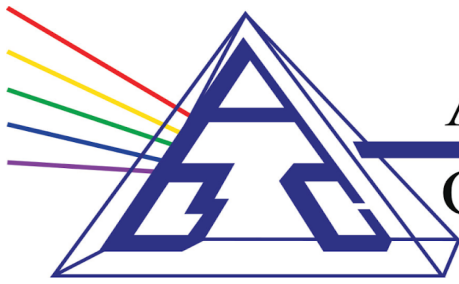


Detect additives and identify base polymers



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SalesInfo@JEOL.com
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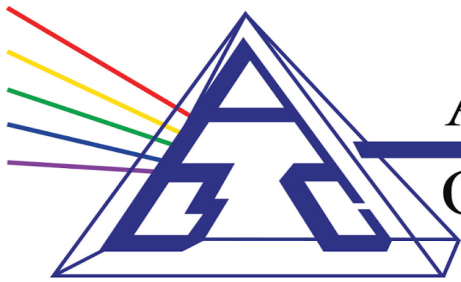
MESSAGE FROM THE ABC REGISTRAR

Our office would like to take this opportunity to remind and/or inform everyone about several important topics.

- Update contact information on the Members Only side of ABC website when necessary. Current email address assists our office to get important information out to you.
- ABC Registrar's Office has a limited printing budget. If a document cannot or should not be submitted electronically via ABC website, please mail it to our PO Box.
- To avoid suspension of your certification or Affiliate status, minimally submit Rules of Professional Conduct and applicable fees by June 1, 2023.
- To avoid revocation of your certification or Affiliate status, submit Rules of Professional Conduct and applicable fees by September 1, 2023.
- Year 2022 Recertification packets will be distributed to Recertification Committee members in mid-May for review of points. ABC Registrar hopes to start entering approved recertification points on the Members Only side of ABC website by late July/early August.
- Please do not staple any documents. Our office must scan many documents and staples will interfere with the operation of the scanner.
- Notify our office when you want to resign your certification. If you are retiring from the forensic field, you might be eligible for Emeritus status. Visit ABC website for information regarding this status.
- Certification exam application deadline is 75 days prior to exam date. This means our office must receive your application by the application deadline.
- If your agency is interested in hosting a certification exam offering, contact our office. If there are less than 7 exam candidates, there may be additional expenses.

Although this office works for ABC, we are here to help You as best we can. Stay healthy and be safe.

Mike and Debbie Healy



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Missing In Action
(as of March 24, 2023)

The ABC has lost contact with the following individuals:

Chasteen, Carl
Chen, Emily
Edwards, Lisa
Hetzl, Susan
Hill, Priscilla
Kinnane, Jean
Methner, Deanna

Mikulasovich, Rebecca
Mouw, Andrea
Sheldon, Janet
Sincerbeaux, David
Suggs, Samuel
Wise, Chris

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL CERTIFICANTS:

Please contact the ABC Registrar if you need to resign your certification.

**Please review the information on the ABC website
regarding Emeritus status; you might qualify.**

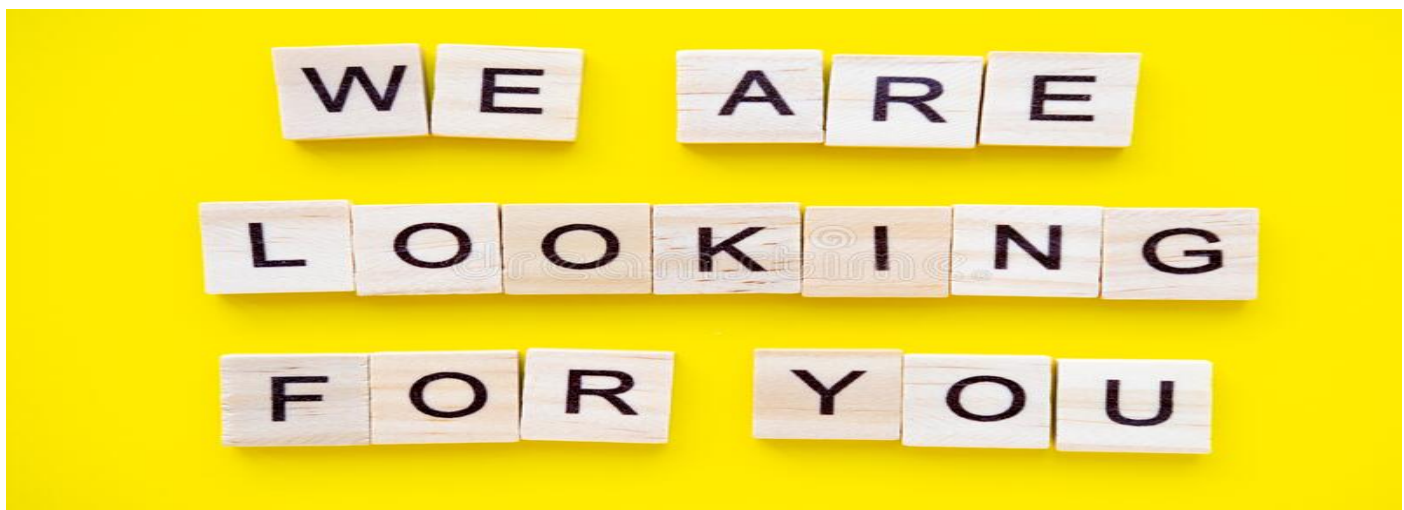
ABC Registrar

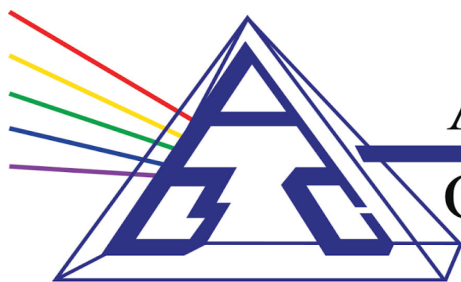
abcregistrar@criminalistics.com

P. O. Box 1358

Palmetto, FL 34220

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ABC - ABOUT Us

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Danielle Hankinson

Vice President
Shawn West

Secretary
Jennifer Remy

Treasurer
Angelica Noyola

Directors for Member Organizations (9)

AAFS Criminalistics Section
Shawn West (Vice President)

ASCLD
Jason Linder

ASTM-E30
Jennifer Remy (Secretary)

CAC
Alice Hilker

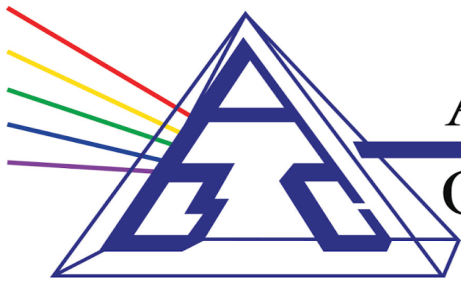
MAFS
Danielle Hankinson (President)

MAAFS
Catherine Savage

NEAFS
Peter Diaczuk

SAFS
Erin Tracy

SWAFS
Angelica Noyola (Treasurer)



AMERICAN BOARD OF CRIMINALISTICS

At-Large Directors (3)

Dave Koppenhaver - Supported by MAFS
Term Expires - Feb. 2024

Rebecca Williams - Supported by MAFS
Term Expires - Feb. 2025

Stacy Guess
Term Expires - Feb. 2026

Public Member - Vacant

Individuals Assisting the ABC

Jenna Crawford
Recertification Committee Co-Chair

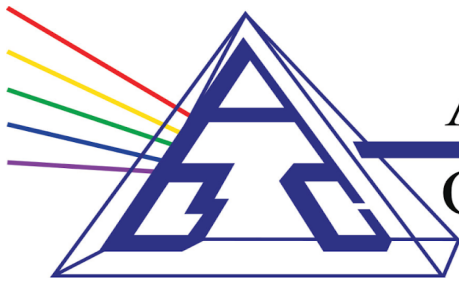
Amy Brodeur
Recertification Committee Co-Chair

Sara Roper
Webmaster of the ABC Website

Julie Sikorsky
Credentials Committee Chair

Task Group - Leads

Recertification Task Group - Chair Gretchen Lajoie
FSAT Task Group - Chair Alice Hilker



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Committees

Examination Committee

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Chance Cline
Esmeraldo Gorecho III
Stephanie Lambert
Michelle Madrid

Tanna Brown (Vice-Chair)
Amy Duhaime
Tammy Jergovich
Ruth Damaso Neely
Amy Reynolds

Quality Assurance Committee - Chair Stacy Guess

Credentials Committee - Liaison Catherine Savage

Recertification Committee - Liaison Alice Hilker

Appeals Committee - Chair Erin Tracy

Exam Committee - Liaison David Koppenhaver

Ed Rhodes Scholarship - Coordinator Catherine Savage

Ethics Committee - Chair Stacy Guess

Communications and Marketing Committee - Chair Catherine Savage

Contractors

Registrar - Mike Healy (Certificate Preparer)

Accreditation Manager - Gretchen Lajoie

Question Database Master - David Stockwell