
2010 CANDIDATES FOR THE ASCLD BOARD

The ASCLD Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following list of candidates for positions that will be filled at our upcoming symposium in September. They are listed here in alphabetical order. Following this list are answers the candidates have provided in response to questions they were asked to consider as candidates for the ASCLD Board.

Barry C. Funck

City of Valdosta Valdosta-Lowndes Regional Crime Laboratory

Jay W. Henry

Utah Bureau of Forensic Services

Charles B. Morden

Michigan State Police

Forensic Science Division (Northville Laboratory)

Michael F. Sparks

Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences

Randall Wampler

Oregon State Police Forensic Services Division

Kris Cano Whitman

Scottsdale Police Department Crime Laboratory

Patricia C. Wojtowicz

New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner

Department of Forensic Biology

BARRY C. FUNCK

City of Valdosta Valdosta-Lowndes Regional Crime Laboratory
1708 North Ashley Street, Valdosta, Georgia 31602

Office: 229-333-1898

Mobile: 229-251-9774

E-mail:

bfunck@valdostacity.com

Education:

B.S. Chemistry and Zoology

University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida July, 1974



Employment Experience:

- Laboratory Director, City of Valdosta, March 2010 to date
- Laboratory System Director, Forensic Program Office, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, 2006 to 2009 (retired)
- Laboratory Director, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee Headquarters Laboratory 2001 to 2006
- Forensic Services System Quality Manager, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Forensic Program Office, 1998 to 2001
- Crime Laboratory Analyst Supervisor, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Orlando Regional Crime Laboratory 1988 to 1998
- Senior Crime Laboratory Analyst, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Orlando Regional Crime Laboratory—Toxicology 1978 to 1988
- Crime Laboratory Analyst, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Orlando Regional Crime Laboratory—Drug Chemistry 1975 to 1978

Prior ASCLD experience (previous Board member, committee member, meeting volunteer, etc.):

Participated in the forensic survey provider of unaccredited labs for the SE region advocacy group

If elected, I am interested in working on the following ASCLD issues/committees:

Advocacy, membership, etc.

As a member of the Board, you may be asked to represent ASCLD at speaking engagements or develop written statements on behalf of the Board. How would you describe your ability to communicate ideas verbally and in writing?

Excellent, having held executive levels positions in the forensic sciences in the past, I effectively communicate within the agency/lab system, as well as externally with clients, customers, constituents, and other stakeholders on many occasions.

How committed are you to serving on the ASCLD board? What skills will you bring to the table?

I have extensive leadership experience, both at the section, the laboratory and the laboratory system level. I have a keen appreciation for the needs of both local and state crime laboratories. I have extensive prior experience interacting and communicating with local (city and county) governments, state legislative and US congressional membership on a variety of needs within the criminal justice community to include: forensic, law enforcement and judicial.

What role should ASCLD play in developing a strong future for forensic science laboratories?

ASCLD should be the primary focal point for access, garnering the support of and utilization of forensic practitioners, academia, law enforcement, and the judiciary in the contemplation of the forensic sciences strategic plan.

JAY W. HENRY

Utah Bureau of Forensic Services

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E-mail:

Jhenry@utah.gov

Education:

BS Degree – Forensic Science/ CSUS Sacramento

Employment Experience:

Sacramento County DA’s Laboratory – 1989-1990

Utah Bureau of Forensic Services – 1990 - present

- Criminalist I and II
- Supervising Criminalist
- Deputy Director
- Laboratory Director



Prior ASCLD experience (previous Board member, committee member, meeting volunteer, etc.):

- Participated in the ASCLD accreditation mentoring program.
- Volunteered but have not been selected for any committee work.

If elected, I am interested in working on the following ASCLD issues/committees:

- Advocacy Committee
- Membership Committee
- Education and Training Committee
- Symposium Planning Committee

As a member of the Board, you may be asked to represent ASCLD at speaking engagements or develop written statements on behalf of the Board. How would you describe your ability to communicate ideas verbally and in writing?

I think my communication skills are fairly well rounded. However, my writing skills are probably better than my verbal. I am comfortable speaking in public and as director, have to frequently write articles, letters and memorandums.

How committed are you to serving on the ASCLD board? What skills will you bring to the table?

I have a very good understanding of the commitments required to serve on the ASCLD board. Whether it is policy, funding or oversight, I realize that there are many people relying on us (ASCLD) to get it right. We cannot let the profession down and we must act.

Although I haven't served on the board before, I bring enthusiasm, knowledge of the profession and a committed effort to work hard. I have strong verbal and written communication skills and a network of people that can help solve problems. I also have an enduring commitment and passion for forensic science. (After 20+ years, I still really like this job!)

What role should ASCLD play in developing a strong future for forensic science laboratories?

We should maintain and expand our influence with our nation's lawmakers and bridge the gap of misunderstanding that sometimes exists between our law enforcement and legal partners. Our role is central and crucial to making this profession better. I know of no other organization with the knowledge, experience and talent to help direct the course for implementing the recommendations within the NAS report, secure more funding for this unique profession and unite our benefactors.

Twenty years from now, when our younger protégés reflect on this period in time, they will say that they were thankful that ASCLD was there to make a stand against uninformed detractors, provide wisdom to law makers, and guide our other criminal justice colleagues. There is too much exacerbated media noise in our society regarding forensic science and CSI. ASCLD needs to continue to be the focal point for answers, the beacon of common sense and the resource that policy makers rely upon to make sound decisions.

CHARLES B. MORDEN

Michigan State Police – Forensic Science Division

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Education:

Master of Science – Criminalistics/Forensic Science
Bachelor of Science - Chemistry

Employment Experience:

Laboratory Director (5/08 to Present)
Michigan State Police
Northville Forensic Laboratory



Unit Supervisor (6/06 - 5/08)
Latent Print Unit
Michigan State Police
Northville Forensic Laboratory

State Police Specialist – Latent Prints
Michigan State Police
Northville Forensic Laboratory (2/04 – 6/06)
Bridgeport Forensic Laboratory (11/00 – 2/04)

State Police Trooper (3/98 - 11/00)
Michigan State Police

Prior ASCLD experience (previous Board member, committee member, meeting volunteer, etc.):

ASCLD/LAB – Trained ISO Assessor

If elected, I am interested in working on the following ASCLD issues/committees:

I am interested in working and participating on any ASCLD issues/committees.

As a member of the Board, you may be asked to represent ASCLD at speaking engagements or develop written statements on behalf of the Board. How would you describe your ability to communicate ideas verbally and in writing?

As an adjunct instructor at local universities and a presenter for in-service officer training, I'm comfortable speaking to groups and communicating information in an organized manner. My writing skills are high quality as I prepare correspondences on a regular basis, proposals for equipment, and have written research papers for publication.

How committed are you to serving on the ASCLD board? What skills will you bring to the table?

I am very committed to serving on the board since ASCLD plays an integral role in the forensic science community. ASCLD's positions and responses to issues in the forensic science community are respected and provide guidelines for maintaining the integrity of the profession. My ability to analyze problems and provide solutions through creative and logical thinking while applying professional knowledge would be a benefit to the board.

What role should ASCLD play in developing a strong future for forensic science laboratories?

It is essential for ASCLD to continue to be an advocate for crime laboratories as challenges develop concerning the integrity and practices of the forensic science community. To meet challenges, collaboration with the Scientific Working Groups and professional forensic science organizations is crucial to ensure best practices, standards, and guidelines. These alliances ensure quality and uniformity throughout the forensic science community while developing a strong future for the forensic science laboratories.

MICHAEL F. SPARKS

Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences

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Education:

BS Biological Sciences-Auburn University
Masters Public Administration-University of Alabama-Birmingham



Employment Experience:

32 years with the Alabama Dept of Forensic Sciences at all levels.

Technician-1978 to 1980; Scientist-1980 to 1985;
Section Chief-1985 to 2005;
Assistant Director-2005 to 2007;
Director-2007 to present.

Prior ASCLD experience (previous Board member, committee member, meeting volunteer, etc.):

I became a member in 2009.

If elected, I am interested in working on the following ASCLD issues/committees:

Political & Policy issues; Position statements; NAS; Advocacy committee

As a member of the Board, you may be asked to represent ASCLD at speaking engagements or develop written statements on behalf of the Board. How would you describe your ability to communicate ideas verbally and in writing?

I am capable of adequately communicating my thoughts and opinions in both verbal and written formats.

How committed are you to serving on the ASCLD board? What skills will you bring to the table?

The times we live in are pivotal in the history of forensic science and I would welcome the opportunity to play a part in crafting the future course as a board member.

I believe I can discuss any pertinent topic with outside interest groups without alienating them in the process. I feel confident I possess the people skills necessary to serve as a board member.

What role should ASCLD play in developing a strong future for forensic science laboratories?
In my opinion, ASCLD should be the primary reference source for any question concerning the future organization of forensic science. The nationwide management of forensic science, as addressed by the National Academy of Science report, should contain a framework endorsed/written by ASCLD.

RANDALL WAMPLER

Oregon State Police Forensic Services Division

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Education:

B.S. Degree Microbiology – 1984 – Oregon State University

Employment Experience:

1985 – Present – Oregon State Police Forensic Services Division
1985-1986 – Laboratory Technician – Portland Forensic Lab
1986-2000 – Criminalist (Drug Chem, Tox, Serology, DNA) – Portland Forensic Lab
2000-2007 – Supervisor – Portland Forensic Lab
2007-2008 – Operations Manager – OSP Forensics Division – GHQ - Salem
2008-Present – Division Director – OSP Forensics Division – GHQ - Salem



Prior ASCLD experience (previous Board member, committee member, meeting volunteer, etc.):

Currently Serving as an Advocacy Committee Point of Contact for Northwest Region.

If elected, I am interested in working on the following ASCLD issues/committees:

I am currently working with the Advocacy committee and would like to continue in that arena.

As a member of the Board, you may be asked to represent ASCLD at speaking engagements or develop written statements on behalf of the Board. How would you describe your ability to communicate ideas verbally and in writing?

In my current capacity, I present both formally and informally to various groups within the state of Oregon. From testimony in front of legislative committees to large groups including chiefs and sheriffs or district attorneys. With proper preparation, I am fine with speaking to groups.

How committed are you to serving on the ASCLD board? What skills will you bring to the table?

I am very committed to serving on the ASCLD board, as this is a period of time that is crucial for Forensic Science and Crime Labs. Never before has there been a time that Forensics has been subject to external forces scrutinizing the field as is currently occurring. ASCLD must take a leadership role in the reshaping of Forensics as not only are we subject matter experts in the forensic disciplines, but also in the operational aspects of running crime labs.

I bring the skill of collaboration; working with other entities to work toward common ground. I have been a member of the Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF), a victim centered victim advocacy group. During that time, there was increased collaboration between the Oregon SATF, thus a cooperation for training, legislation and other efforts.

With twenty-five years of experience in forensics, covering a variety of disciplines, I have a well rounded understanding of the various forensic disciplines and their importance for all being considered as priorities for technological and quality assurance advancement. In addition, we must strive for increased funding opportunities for all disciplines as well as public laboratories in general.

What role should ASCLD play in developing a strong future for forensic science laboratories?
ASCLD must be leading the charge for the future of forensic science. No other organization is comprised of those both working as scientists as well as laboratory managers. The management of crime laboratories comes with many unique challenges that must be addressed as changes come to the forensic science field.

KRIS CANO WHITMAN

Scottsdale Police Department Crime Laboratory

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Education:

Masters of Arts Degree – Chemistry
University of South Florida

Bachelor of Science Degree – Biochemistry
Florida State University

Employment Experience:

Crime Laboratory Director – Scottsdale Police Department Crime Laboratory

Manage the day to day operations of a full service crime laboratory that serves the City of Scottsdale and other contracted agencies.



Forensic Biology/DNA Examiner – US Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory and Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Prior to taking my position at SPD in 2002, I was a Forensic Biologist with the United States Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory in Forest Park, Georgia. I conducted Serological/DNA analysis for the Department of Defense and assisted in the quality assurance of the DNA section.

Prior ASCLD experience (previous Board member, committee member, meeting volunteer, etc.):

ASCLD Vendor Committee (2009 and 2010)
ASCLD Membership Committee (2010)
ASCLD Board Nominee (2009) Volunteer (2008 and 2009)
ASCLD Poster Presentations (2007 and 2008)
ASCLD/LAB Forensic Biology Proficiency Review Committee – 2009 to present
ASCLD/LAB Technical Advisory Board (Forensic Biology) – 2005 to present
ASCLD/LAB Mentoring Committee (2003-2004)
ASCLD/LAB – Legacy Assessor – 2002 to present
ASCLD/LAB- International Assessor – 2005 to present

If elected, I am interested in working on the following ASCLD issues/committees:

I would be interested in working on creating or maintaining best laboratory practices and creating consistency within each forensic discipline. In order to provide objective analysis, the standardization of common laboratory methods that would benefit our community would be a primary focus. With more challenges in court with regard to forensic science, I would like to serve the ASCLD membership by developing appropriate responses to those who criticize our science. The criticism we receive can make us better as a community but as an organization we should be prepared to address these challenges professionally and be prepared versus reactive.

I would enjoy being involved in the advocacy, membership and symposium committees. Being involved in the advocacy and membership committee would allow me to share my enthusiasm for this field with others and soliciting their involvement with the organization to make partnerships that will make this organization stronger. Making others aware of ASCLD and gaining external support will ensure our continued success as an organization in the future. The membership and symposium committee would also be exciting since I enjoy to plan and organize events.

As a member of the Board, you may be asked to represent ASCLD at speaking engagements or develop written statements on behalf of the Board. How would you describe your ability to communicate ideas verbally and in writing?

Throughout my career I have been involved with public speaking and business writing. I have written solicitations for grants that our laboratory has received and have provided training to all levels of law enforcement. I also have a significant amount of experience in court testimony which has provided me with the necessary skills to speak under pressure and against adversity. As a manager, I have also learned how to make educated decisions and formulate ideas to my superiors and subordinates in a manner that is respectful but gets my point across. My ability to communicate both verbally and in writing comes naturally as I am required to communicate in this manner on a

daily basis. I have also taken several management courses where I have gained the knowledge and skills in this area.

How committed are you to serving on the ASCLD board? What skills will you bring to the table?

I am extremely committed to serving on the ASCLD board which is demonstrated by my running in this election for a second year. I have been a member of this organization for several years now and would like the opportunity to become more involved by serving on the Board of Directors. I work in a laboratory environment that is strongly committed to this organization and will allow me the necessary time required to effectively serve this membership.

The skills that I bring to the table are that I can multi-task effectively and that I am dedicated, hard-working, organized and an enthusiastic member of this organization. I also have a diverse background where I have experience in larger and smaller organizations and understand the challenges that each type faces. I have a good fundamental understanding of most forensic science disciplines since I do manage multiple sections and I also have kept abreast more in depth with the DNA section and would have the necessary skills to address issues in this area of forensics.

What role should ASCLD play in developing a strong future for forensic science laboratories?

ASCLD should be involved in the support of forensic science laboratories. ASCLD should work with ASCLD/LAB to be the body which certifies all forensic scientists through the established accreditation programs. ASCLD membership should seek out appropriate funding sources for forensic laboratories to operate in a manner that ensures the highest quality of casework is produced. ASCLD should be an advocate for forensic science programs to develop new examiners and to keep up the training and skills for those more experienced examiners. ASCLD should also seek involvement from the current membership to attain the goals of the organization and provide a solid future organization for future laboratory directors.

PATRICIA C. WOJTOWICZ

New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner
Department of Forensic Biology

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Education:

BA Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN Major: Chemistry
MSFS, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.



Employment Experience:

1979-80: Chemist A (Drug Chemistry), Virginia Bureau of Forensic Science, Merrifield, VA

1980-2005: Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, St. Paul, MN

1980-1984: Forensic Scientist (Drug Chemistry)

1984-1987: Forensic Scientist (Microscopy-Serology)

1987-1989: Forensic Scientist (Serology)

1989-1998: Lead Forensic Scientist (Serology/DNA)

1998-2000: Forensic Science Supervisor & DNA Tech Lead (Biology/DNA Section)

2000-2005: Program Services Supervisor/Quality Manager

2005-2008: Manager of Accreditations, Forensic Quality Services, Largo, FL

2008-present: Deputy Director, Department of Forensic Biology, Office of Chief Medical Examiner, New York City

Prior ASCLD experience (previous Board member, committee member, meeting volunteer, etc.):

ASCLD Annual Symposium

Workshop Coordinator, 2004

Poster Coordinator, 2005

ASCLD Accreditation Mentor Program, 2003-2005

ASCLD Training & Education Committee member, 2004-2005

If elected, I am interested in working on the following ASCLD issues/committees:

I would be happy to serve wherever most needed; however, if given a choice my preference would be to work with the Education and Training Committee and/or the Advocacy Committee.

My interests with respect to Education and Training are (1) management training and (2) mentoring and development of bench level staff. Forensic laboratory managers need assistance to transition from “scientist” to “manager/leader” and prepare themselves to deal with a laboratory environment that has never held more challenges, including: increased scrutiny of laboratory operations; increased demands for the services forensic laboratories provide; increased needs for research and validation; rapid technology changes; expanding accreditation requirements; and significant staff training needs—all at a time when laboratory budgets are feeling the effects of the current economic climate. As well, continuity of operations and continual improvement of laboratories depends upon developing and mentoring bench staff—not only to enable them to work to their maximum potential now, but to prepare them to be the leaders of the future.

With respect to Advocacy, I am interested in issues surrounding the recommendations of the NAS, particularly how we as an organization can help to develop responses/proposals that have real value for enhancing our profession and are not just change for the sake of change.

As a member of the Board, you may be asked to represent ASCLD at speaking engagements or develop written statements on behalf of the Board. How would you describe your ability to communicate ideas verbally and in writing?

Effective communication is part of what puts the “forensic” in forensic science. I’d like to think that that I have been, and continue to be, an effective communicator. I enjoy writing, I enjoy public speaking and training, and I would have no qualms about being asked to do any of those things on behalf of ASCLD.

How committed are you to serving on the ASCLD board? What skills will you bring to the table?

One of my core beliefs is that promises and obligations should be honored--if I were not committed to serving on the ASCLD Board I would not be a candidate. I fully understand that it is a four-year term, and barring circumstances beyond my control, would fulfill the responsibilities that come with selection to the Board.

I have been fortunate in my career to have worked in a variety of laboratory and business environments. This gives me a broad perspective from which to evaluate issues that affect forensic science laboratories. I have strong analytical skills and love to grapple with problems, believing that there is always *some* solution to any problem. I enjoy collaborative efforts and the give-and-take of ideas that, hopefully, leads to the best outcomes.

What role should ASCLD play in developing a strong future for forensic science laboratories?

ASCLD’s great resource is the experience and knowledge of its membership. The challenge is to get greater involvement of those experienced and knowledgeable members in creating and shaping the forensic science institutions and practices that will develop in response to the NAS report and other influences. Sometimes it seems as though every group *but* forensic scientists is driving that discussion. ASCLD needs to: continue to be a strong advocate for laboratories; dispel misinformation about forensic science; propose solutions to address deficiencies in our field; help to provide “best practice” training for laboratory managers; and be a recognized “expert witness” for ethical and effective forensic laboratory operations.