

**Andrea R. Swiech**  
**Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation**



**Education:**

Master of Business Administration, Cameron University

Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science, University of Central Oklahoma

Bachelor of Science in Biology, University of Central Oklahoma

**Employment Experience:**

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation

Division Director of Criminalistics	Oct. 2009 – Present
Assistant Division Director, Crim.	Dec. 2005 – Sept. 2009
Supervisor, SW Regional Laboratory	Aug. 2002 – Nov. 2005
Criminalist, Forensic Biology	Aug. 1998 – July 2002

In my current position, I am responsible for the following activities:

- directing the daily operations of the OSBI's state-wide laboratory system which includes five laboratory facilities strategically located throughout Oklahoma;
- evaluating and reacting to issues involving forensic science in Oklahoma;
- proposing, drafting and promoting legislation related to forensic science;
- interacting with legislators at the state and federal level;
- directly supervising Administrative Staff members who oversee the work of approximately 90 employees;
- supporting the Research Committee that I initiated within the Division; and
- serving as Chairperson for Oklahoma's Forensic Improvement Task Force and as a member of the Bureau's Quality Improvement Committee, Oklahoma's Justice Commission and various other task forces inside and outside of the OSBI.

**Prior ASCLD experience (previous Board member, committee member, meeting volunteer, etc.):** I am a certified ASCLD/LAB Assessor. I have participated in assessments for the Legacy and *International* programs. I have not yet served as an ASCLD Board or committee member, but I welcome the opportunity.

**If elected, I am interested in working on the following ASCLD**

**issues/committees:** I would greatly appreciate working on any committee in which my experience, skills and/or connections could most benefit ASCLD. If given my preference, I believe I would most enjoy participating in the Advocacy

Committee; however, I am also interested in serving on either the Training and Education Committee or the Research 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?** In my current role, I regularly communicate, both in writing and verbally, with individuals from all walks of life. As Chair of our Victim's Support Program, I interact directly with victims and family members. To be effective in these communications, I must convey compassion and understanding while also being able to explain complex scientific issues in a manner that non-scientists understand. The majority of interactions with this group are verbal. I have been successful at easing tense situations and calming concerns of victims who have been treated coldly by others in the criminal justice system.

As the Lab Director, I create written documents for outside entities on an almost daily basis. I draft language for legislation, news articles, responses to professional organizations and various other formal requests. I am extremely comfortable communicating in writing and am able to direct my writing to the layperson, the scientific professional, and everyone in between.

Additionally, I present information to legislative committees in both the House and Senate at the State level to encourage or discourage support of bills that directly impact forensic science in Oklahoma. I also visit personally with Oklahoma's delegates in Washington D.C. to inform them of important forensic issues when necessary.

**How committed are you to serving on the ASCLD board? What skills will you bring to the table?** I am the type of person who commits 100% to whatever responsibility I accept. While I am familiar with the mission of ASCLD and the benefits it provides to the forensic science community, I realize that my understanding comes only from an outsider's view. If selected to serve on the ASCLD Board, I vow to dedicate myself to learning everything I can about the inner-workings of ASCLD, its Committees, members, and customers so that I can

do my part to help ASCLD continue to positively influence the professionals and the field.

I am passionate about forensics! Whether I am selected or not, I offer to ASCLD my enthusiasm, creative thinking, willingness to do more than is expected, and broad knowledge of many disciplines to serve the organization in any capacity I am needed.

**What role should ASCLD play in developing a strong future for forensic science laboratories?** ASCLD should continue to play a major role in shaping the future for forensic laboratories and professionals. With more national attention being focused on the field of forensics today than at any other time in history, it is critical that ASCLD builds and strengthens relationships with key people and organizations that will shape the future of our field. It should be our goal to be the voice that directs the actions of these groups where forensics is involved.

To accomplish this, we must:

- inform members of the government so that laws which are enacted are appropriate and sound for our laboratories and personnel;
- encourage greater involvement from members to influence positive change;
- educate members of the criminal justice system about the capabilities of our profession;
- partner with universities to develop educational programs that assist laboratory directors in expanding their leadership and management skills;
- collaborate with universities to expand research in the field; and
- support each other as we maneuver the challenges of managing in one of the most rewarding, yet demanding, careers anyone could be fortunate enough to have.