

# Laura B. Sudkamp

Kentucky State Police Division of Forensic Sciences



## Education

- Bachelor of Arts, Chemistry, University of Kentucky

## Employment Experience

Kentucky State Police

- Internship to set up DNA Lab: January 1989–September 1989
- Forensic Drug Chemist: September 1989–November 1998
- Laboratory Supervisor: November 1988–October 2000
- Laboratory Administrative Manager (Grants/Purchasing/LIMS): October 2000–September 2004
- Laboratory Operations Manager: September 2004–present

## Prior ASCLD Experience

- Board Member: 2008–2011, including Chair of the Nominating & Awards Committee
- Advocacy point of contact
- Current Co-Chair of the Sexual Assault Kit Task Group
- Volunteer ASCLD representative on an assessment of the ICITAP Forensic Science program in Mexico

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

I am willing to help wherever you have a need to be filled. I recognize that when Board Members leave, specific holes are created, and new members are needed to fill those gaps. I have a lot of interest in sexual assault kit-related topics and Rapid DNA deployment in forensic laboratories.

## 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 have an extensive speaking and writing background. I routinely speak to our legislators in person and at committee meetings regarding laboratory efforts, backlog status, funding needs, and more. I also do several annual trainings at the statewide Police Executive and Mid-Level Executive conferences held throughout the year. I was the primary author for the findings of the ICITAP-Mexico assessment and the recent ASCLD statement on the survey of labs and the number of sexual assault kits awaiting testing.

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

I have previously served one term on the Board, so I know the commitment that is required both in terms of time and effort. I am committed to being a full participant and serving the membership. I feel that I am someone who is easily approached with questions and concerns from the members. I am comfortable communicating information from the Board to the membership. I have over 30 years of experience in forensic science with almost 20 years in management. I am the System Director with six laboratories across the state, each with their own personalities and different needs, just as our member laboratories come from a wide variety of sizes, services, and needs. I am a good negotiator and am often sought out to facilitate implementation of policies and practices in very diverse laboratories.

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

ASCLD is not just the face of forensic science to the general public and/or legislature and governing bodies. ASCLD is the organization that Crime Laboratory Directors turn to for guidance, consultation, emergency responses, and peer-to-peer networking. I feel that the ASCLD Board needs to facilitate all of those functions and provide an infrastructure that allows for those interactions to occur. As new challenges and technologies arise within our industry, we need to put our heads together and work on solutions that would be impossible to do as individuals. ASCLD also provides training and development for our up and coming leaders through the leadership academy and the interactions at the annual symposium. The ASCLD organization is able to have discussions with national and state leaders to address the needs of crime laboratories. ASCLD stands by our primary duty to ensure that competent, quality, unbiased testing is done and speaks out against pressures for shortcuts and denigration of our work.