

Bethany P. Pridgen, MFS

Summary

Experienced analytical chemist with 13+ years of bench chemistry experience and 11+ years of operational and quality assurance management experience. Experienced expert witness providing testimony in 50+ criminal and civil hearings and/or trials. Proven project manager. Strong focus on building and maintaining relationships. Strategic thinker able to continually find areas for growth and improvement.

Skills: Wet chemistry, gas chromatography, mass spectrometry, infrared spectroscopy, QA/QC, ISO 17025, microscopy, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint), Chromeleon, XCalibur, Spectrum, document management, database administration, project management, technical writing, grant writing and management, public speaking, court testimony

Work Experience

Forensic Lab Director/Quality Assurance Manager, *City of Wilmington (NC), Crime Laboratory*
January 2008 – July 2019

- Founded and directed a new regional forensic science laboratory
- Authored over one hundred (100+) technical documents
- Managed cloud-based policy management site (PowerDMS) to include documents, training courses, personnel training records, and an annual ISO 17025:2005 assessment
- Managed the operations and budget for five (5) individual forensic disciplines: drug chemistry, toxicology, latent prints, computer forensics and crime scene investigations
- Supervised fifteen (15) professional and technical level positions
- Liaised with six (6) judicial districts and fifty (55) law enforcement agencies for testing services
- Developed and managed the quality assurance (QA) system under ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation standards and transitioned to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standards
- Lead all internal audits from 2012 – 2018
- Initiated corrective actions, conducted root cause analysis investigations, developed action plans
- Sought, obtained and managed more than \$1.5 million in Federal and State competitive grants and more than \$100,000 annually in local funding for expanded and continued operations
- Tested, implemented and administrated the electronic laboratory information management system (LIMS)
- Provided expert witness testimony more than thirty (30) times

Forensic Scientist I/II, *Orange County (CA) Crime Laboratory*
April 2006 – January 2008

- Analyzed over 7,800 biological samples for alcohol content
- Testified as an expert witness testimony more than twenty (20) times
- Provided training to law enforcement and attorneys for breath instrument operation
- Audited and edited blood alcohol SOP for ISO 17025 accreditation preparation team

Synthetic Chemistry Laboratory Technician, *Quality Chemical Laboratories*
February 2002-August 2002

- Performed isolation, purification and crystallization of compounds
- Utilized thin layer, column and high performance liquid chromatography techniques
- Maintained laboratory section chemical inventory
- Familiarized with cGMP regulations

Education

2004 Master of Forensic Sciences, *The George Washington University*

- Fellow, Women's Leadership Program – Women in Science and Medicine
- Intern, Naval Criminal Investigative Service

2002 Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, *University of North Carolina at Wilmington*

- Minor in Physics
- DeLoach Scholarship Recipient

Continuing Professional Education

- Project Management Professional Certification – In progress
- Salesforce CRM, Administrator Certification – In progress
- Salesforce CRM, App Builder Certification – In progress
- Lean Six Sigma, Green Belt Certification Course – June 2019
- ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, ISO/IEC 17025: 2017, Technical Assessor Course, November 2018
- ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, ISO/IEC 17025:2017, Lead Assessor Course, February 2018

Professional Associations

- Appointed Board Member, [North Carolina Forensic Science Advisory Board](#), January 2012 – October 2019
- Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers (AFQAM), Active Member, October 2014 – present
- American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD), Active Member, September 2010 – present
- International Association for Identification (IAI), Active Member, June 2008 – present
- International Association for Chemical Testing (IACT), Member, May 2007 – present

References

Available upon request