

BETHANY PRIDGEN

The DEVAUS Group, LLC

Expert Witness

Laboratory Assessor

Independent Consultant

CONTACT

Education

Master of Forensic Sciences
Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
Minor in Physics

Employment

The DEVAUS Group, LLC (Wilmington, NC)

Expert Witness/Independent Consultant, July 2019-present

*Technical Assessor – Toxicology and Controlled Substances/Seized Drugs (A2LA and ANAB),
January 2020-present*

Lead Assessor – Forensic Testing and Calibration Laboratories (A2LA), March 2021-present

*Quality Manager – Clinical and Forensic Toxicology (PinPoint Testing, LLC – Little Rock, AR),
Jul. 2021-present*

Wilmington Police Department, Crime Laboratory (Wilmington, NC)

*Forensic Lab Director/Quality Assurance Manager/Forensic Chemist – Toxicology and Seized
Drugs, January 2008-July 2019*

Orange County Crime Laboratory (Santa Ana, CA)

Forensic Scientist I/II – Toxicology, April 2006-January 2008

San Diego County Sheriff's Crime Laboratory (San Diego, CA)

Criminalist Internship, December 2005-April 2006

Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Family Violence and Sexual Crimes Unit (Washington, DC)

Internship, January 2004-May 2004

The George Washington University (Washington, DC)

Women's Leadership Program, Women in Science and Medicine Fellow

Chemistry Graduate Teaching Assistant, August 2003-May 2004

Quality Chemical Laboratories (Wilmington, NC)

Synthetic Chemistry Laboratory Technician, February 2002-August 2002

Professional Associations/Committees

AOAC International (Association of Official Analytical Chemists), Member, March 2023-present

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD), Member, Sept 2010-present

International Association for Chemical Testing (IACT), Member, May 2007-present

Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers (AFQAM), Member, Oct 2014-present

Board Member, North Carolina Forensic Science Advisory Board, Drug Chemistry and Toxicology
Sub-Committees, Jan 2012 – Oct 2019

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Expert Testimony

Sixty (60) in-person testimonies, One (1) remote testimony, One (1) video testimony
Federal Trials (Eastern District of North Carolina) – 2
Criminal Jury Trials (North Carolina, California, Florida, Minnesota, South Carolina) – 47
Criminal Hearings/Depositions (California, Georgia) – 2
Civil Jury Trials (Superior Court of North Carolina) – 2
Civil Hearings/Depositions (Superior Court of California, Superior Court of North Carolina) – 4
Administrative hearings (California Department of Motor Vehicles) – 5

Areas of expert witness consultation/opinion/testimony: Forensic alcohol analysis, alcohol metabolism in the human body, retrograde extrapolation, interpretation of performance of driving and post-stop behaviors in relation to impairment, Standardized Field Sobriety Tests and Field Sobriety Tests, formation of opinion of driving impairment due to alcohol and drugs, drug impaired driving, analysis of legal and illegal narcotics, forensic drug analysis, cannabis testing, Hemp vs. Marijuana, CBD, delta-8-THC, delta-9-THC, Heavy metals testing, ISO 17025 laboratory quality management and operations, laboratory testing policies, procedures and protocols, Sleep vs. impaired driving

Professional Certifications/Permits

Lean Six Sigma – Greenbelt Certification
Chemical Analyst, Permit to Perform Chemical Analyses of Blood, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Permit No. 356
Forensic Alcohol Analyst, California Department of Health Services

Specialized Training

Alcohol Screening Test Device Training, Wilmington Police Department, October 2, 2008
The Zzzz Drugs: From Analysis to Interpretation, RTI International and National Institute of Justice, On-line Course, May 15, 2008
Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST), Refresher Course, Wilmington Police Department, June 23 – 25, 2008
150+ hours – DUI Observations/Field Training, California Highway Patrol, Costa Mesa Police Department, Fullerton Police Department, Huntington Beach Police Department, June 2006 – March 2007
DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Course (NHTSA), POST certified, Fullerton Police Department, December 12 – 14, 2006
D.U.I. Seminar, POST certified, Cavanaugh & Associates, August 21 – 25, 2006

Professional Training

Eliminating Impaired Driving, Abbott Laboratories (Webinar), February 28, 2023
Lean Six Sigma – Greenbelt Certification Course, UNCW, Wilmington, NC, January – April 2019
ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) – Forensics, ISO/IEC 17025: 2017, Technical Assessor Course, Cary, NC, November 2018.
Advance Testifying Skills for Experts: The Master's Program, SEAK, Inc., Clearwater Beach, FL, May 3 – 4, 2018

Professional Training cont.

ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB), ISO/IEC 17025:2017, Lead Assessor Course, Tampa, FL, February 2018

Forensic Analysis for Legal Professionals, Axion Analytical Laboratories, Inc., Axion Training Institute, Chicago, IL, June 28 – July 1, 2017

Effective Ways to Teach Ethics, 15th Annual AFQAM Training Conference, Little Rock, AR, October 2016

Morale and Management, 15th Annual AFQAM Training Conference, Little Rock, AR, October 2016

Latent Print Unit Management for the Non-Latent Print Examiner, ASCLD Symposium, May 5, 2014

The Paradox of Backlog Reduction, RTI/ASCLD (Online), December 18, 2013

Ethics in Forensic Science, West Virginia University, Fall 2012 (Online)

Leadership and Management, VAL-U, City of Wilmington, NC, January 26 – February 23, 2012

Forensic Mass Spectroscopy, West Virginia University, Winter 2011 (Online)

New Laboratory Supervisors: Hints, Tips and Tricks, ASCLD Symposium, September 19, 2011

Corrective and Preventive Actions, ASCLD Symposium, September 18, 2011

Conducting Effective Management Reviews, ASCLD Symposium, September 18, 2011

Transition to Leadership, West Virginia University, Spring 2011 (Online)

Conducting Internal Laboratory Audits, ASCLD/LAB, ASCLD Symposium, September 12, 2010

Developing Your ASCLD/LAB International Conformance File, ASCLD/LAB, ASCLD Symposium September 12, 2010

Uncertainty of Measurement Made Easier, Heusser-Neueigh, ASCLD Symposium, September 13, 2010

Thermo Fisher Scientific, Trace DSQ II Course, Thermo Scientific Training Institute, West Palm Beach, FL, December 14-17, 2009

Introduction to Forensic Drug Chemistry, West Virginia University, Fall 2009 (Online)

DEA Forensic Drug Chemist Workshop: Drug Topics of Interest, SAFS, MAFS, MAAFS and SWAFS Joint Meeting, October 20, 2009

DEA Forensic Drug Chemist Workshop: Analytical Considerations, SAFS, MAFS, MAAFS and SWAFS Joint Meeting, October 19, 2009

Introduction to Uncertainty in Forensic Chemistry, Part III, RTI International and National Institute of Justice, On-line Course, April 29, 2009

Introduction to Uncertainty in Forensic Chemistry, Part II, RTI International and National Institute of Justice, On-line Course, April 15, 2009

Introduction to Uncertainty in Forensic Chemistry, Part I, RTI International and National Institute of Justice, On-line Course, March 23, 2009

Leadership and Management Skills, National Seminars Group, AFQAM 2008, October 8, 2008

The Basics of Writing Policies and Procedures, National Seminars Group, AFQAM 2008, October 7, 2008

Forensic Laboratory Planning and Design, SmithGroup, Michael Mount, AIA, LEED, Principal, Forensic Facilities Architect, IAFS 2008, New Orleans, LA, July 22, 2008

Fundamentals of GC, Columns and Troubleshooting and Headspace Theory, Application and Method Development, Perkin Elmer, October 10 – 11, 2007

American Society of Crime Lab Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB), International Preparation Course (ISO), Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department, February 14 – 16, 2007

Independent Professional Development

Drug Evaluation and Classification Training, “The Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) School”
Instructor Manual, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Preliminary Training for Drug Evaluation and Classification Program, “The Pre-School” Instructor
Manual, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Professional Honors

2012 Civilian of the Year, Wilmington Police Department

Presentations

Chemistry and the Law: When They Don't Agree, Georgia State University, Clarkston, GA, November 10, 2023

The Immiscibility of Science and the Law, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Chemistry Department, April 1, 2022

Benefits of a Local Crime Laboratory to Traffic Safety Initiatives, NC Governor's Highway Safety Program, DWI Summit, Asheville, NC, November 17, 2016

Brick Walls, GCs, Machetes (When Rock, Paper, Scissors Won't Do): Mastering the Tools to Build a Quality Lab, Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers, 15th Annual AFQAM Training Conference, Little Rock, AR, October 2016

How Gas Chromatography Separates Components but Brings Us Together, DWI & DUI Advocacy for North Carolina and South Carolina Practitioners Seminar, Myrtle Beach, SC, September 19, 2014.

Real World Forensics and the CSI Effect, Cape Fear Community College, Wilmington, NC, April 21, 2010

Chemistry, Crime and the CSI Effect, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Chemistry Department, Wilmington, NC, January 29, 2010

Professional Meetings

30th Annual Expert Witness Conference (SEAK), Clearwater Beach, FL, May 6-7, 2023
2023 A2LA Annual Conference (formerly Technical Forum), Tucson, NM, April 16-19, 2023
Cannalaw Summit, Online, Navigating the Evolving Legal Landscape of the Cannabis Industry, May 3 – 5, 2022

29th Annual Expert Witness Conference (SEAK), Clearwater Beach, FL, April 23 – 24, 2022
2021 A2LA Technical Forum, Chantilly, VA, August 2021

2021 Online Forensic Symposium – Current Trends in Seized Drug Analysis, June 2021

2020 The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT) Educational Symposium, December 2020

ASCLD 2018 Symposium, Atlanta, GA, May 2018

27th Annual National Expert Witness Conference (SEAK), Clearwater Beach, FL, May 5-6, 2018

ASCLD 2017 Symposium, Dallas, TX, May 2017

2017 Lifesavers Conference, Charlotte, NC, March 2017

Professional Meetings cont.

15th Annual AFQAM Training Conference, Little Rock, AR, October 2016
ASCLD 2016 Symposium, Bellevue, Washington, April 2016
14th Annual AFQAM Training Conference, Pensacola Beach, FL, October 2015
NIST 2015 International Symposium, Forensic Science Error Management, Arlington, Virginia, July 2015
ASCLD 2015 Symposium, Washington, District of Columbia, May 2015
ASCLD 2014 Symposium, Scottsdale, Arizona, May 2014
ASCLD 2013 Symposium, Durham, North Carolina, May 2013
ASCLD 2011 Symposium, Denver, Colorado, September 2011
ASCLD 2010 Symposium, Baltimore, Maryland, September 2010
20th Annual CADCA Conference, National Harbor, Maryland, February 2010
The Southern, Midwestern, Mid-Atlantic and Southwestern Associations of Forensic Scientists, 2009 Joint Meeting, Orlando, FL, October 2009
Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers (AFQAM) 2008, Virginia Beach, VA, October 2008
International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS) 2008 18th Triennial Meeting, New Orleans, LA, July 2008
International Association for Chemical Testing (IACT) 2007 Annual Conference, Wilmington, NC, May 2007