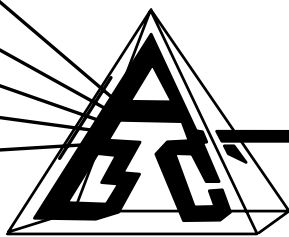


Official Publication  
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of Criminalistics

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WWW.Criminalistics.com  
m/ABC



# Certification

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# News

Volume 8 Issue 1 Summer 2001

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### A New Beginning Building on a Solid Past

I look forward to serving on the ABC Board of Directors as President. I will strive to continue the tradition of quality leadership exhibited by those that have served before me. Rick Tontarski, Kary Tontarski, and Carl Selavka did a remarkable job of taking the ABC from its inception to the outstanding place that it is today. Of course, they did not accomplish this on their own. Many quality individuals that have previously served and are currently serving on the Board of Directors, Examination Committee, Peer Groups, and regional organizations supported them in their endeavors. At this time, I want to personally thank each and every one of you for your excellent work and sacrifices that has gone into creating and maintaining quality certification exams and an unparalleled certification process.

The 2002 American Academy of Forensic Science theme is "Certification, Accreditation, Education, Competence, and Personal Professional Integrity". This is great news to see Certification taking the lead. The ABC Certification program has been available since the early 1990's starting with General Knowledge exams, progressing to Specialty exams in Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Trace Evidence, Fire Debris, and Drug Analysis and to the piloting of the Technical Specialist in Molecular

Biology and Drug Analysis. Thus one can see the ABC Certification has developed into an extensive program.

Certification has always been used to test the skills of the practicing forensic scientist. Certification can also be used as a knowledge base needed for individuals interested in furthering their career in Forensic Science. To this effect we have worked closely with educational institutions and have offered the GKE exams as part of the fulfillment of Forensic Science training. Along this same vein, the ABC is developing a protocol for acceptance of coursework that would encompass questions that may be encountered on the ABC Certification Exams and provides a solid basis for the understanding of Criminalistics. ABC Diplomats and Fellows, just by participating in the certification process, have brought to the attention of not

only the forensic science community, but the legal community and the general population, the importance of having this solid basis of knowledge of criminalistics and furthered the professionalism of their chosen career.

I, again, want to thank all of these individuals for their pioneering participation in the development

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their career in Forensic  
Science**

# American Board of Criminalistics

## Mission Statement

To raise the level of competence in Forensic Science through peer based certification and promotion of professional development.

The American Board of Criminalistics is dedicated to the highest quality standards and programs for certification of scientists involved in the administration of justice.

### Confused about the Proficiency Test process?

The Board of Directors has changed the way Fellows and Technical Specialists will report their annual Proficiency Test results. You now need ONLY submit the new ABC 701 form that is signed by yourself and your Laboratory Official. A Laboratory Official can be the Lab Director, Quality Assurance Coordinator or another Authorized Official who can vouch for your work product.

You DO NOT submit the Proficiency Test Result Packet (results and/or answer sheets) which has been done in the past. HOWEVER, you still need to retain those Proficiency Test Result Packets and supporting documentation for five years. The ABC will randomly select 20 to 25% of the Fellows and Technical Specialists to either submit their Proficiency Test Result Packets or allow ABC Officials to come into their Laboratory to review their results. This way all Fellows and Technical Specialists will have their Proficiency Tests reviewed in depth at least one time during the five year span of their current certification period.

### ASTM E-30 Committee on Forensic Science

With the increasing emphasis on standards, the E-30 Committee offers an outstanding opportunity for the generation of standards by specific disciplines within the forensic sciences. The ASTM process offers forensic disciplines and Scientific Working Groups a comprehensive and established means for generating consensus standards. For example, fire debris and trace evidence task groups within the E-30 committee have been successful in generating numerous standards. Remember, in the ASTM process, these standards are subject to continuous review by the forensic community, and this ensures the extensive participation in, and state-of-the-art quality of the standards.

ABC fellows and diplomates have the requisite knowledge and experience to serve as active and influential members of task groups in the ASTM E-30 committee. Standards are becoming more integrated into virtually all areas of forensic practices, and certified ABC practitioners have a vested interest in, and obligation to high quality, relevant, and practical standards. Please consider joining and participating in the ASTM E-30 committee. It is a rewarding and increasingly more important part of professionalism within the forensic community. If you are interested in joining ASTM E-30, please contact John Lentini, phone: 770-218-2180, extension 3047.

#### **REMINDER**

When adding your certification accomplishment to your signature block, the ABC encourages you to use

**D- ABC for Diplomate**  
and  
**F-ABC for Fellow**

Let these marks of distinction bring you recognition for the effort you put into meeting the certification challenge.

# Your (new) Representatives to the ABC

**The ABC and the decisions that are made by the people involved in its operation can effect us and our profession. Its important to know a little about the backgrounds and qualifications of the people serving your interests on the Board and Examination Committee. These are the people to call, e-mail, write, or corner at a meeting, to express your views, concerns, and ideas.**

## Recent Changes:

- Larry Presley has moved from representing ASTM E-30 on the Examination Committee to the Board of Directors.
- Peter Barnett has moved to fill Peter De Forest's position as Chair of the Examination Committee.
- David Green has replaced Charles Barna as the MAFS representative to the Examination Committee.
- The ASCLD position on the Board of Directors is currently vacant.

## Representative of the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists – MAFS

### David Green – Examination Committee

Dave has worked at the Lake County Regional Forensic Laboratory since 1989. He started his first six months in drug chemistry, then in 1990 he became the lab's lone trace evidence examiner which included hairs, fibers, paint, glass, footwear, tire-track, explosive, fire debris, and vehicle lamp examination. He is a Diplomate of the ABC and is also a member of the SWGMAT glass subgroup and the TWGFEX explosives subgroup, ASTM E-30. He is currently president of the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists.

He is excited about serving on the ABC Examination Commit-

tee in such a transitional period. Part of his interest in becoming active in the organization is to assist in the reforming of the Trace Specialty examination. During this process, he looks forward to working with ASTM and all the regional organizations trace exam representatives. He states that he strongly believes in the certification process and hopes to assist in the expansion of the number of trace examiners who participate.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO DEPARTING MEMBERS

This year saw the exit of one member of the Board of Directors and two members of the Examination Committee.

Peter De Forest has long served the ABC on the Examination Committee. The quality of the current examination process would not be what it was today without his presence. He chaired the Examination Committee through many years of growth, change, and controversy. His presence and input will be missed.

Charles Barna also served for several terms on the Examination Committee. He had the thankless job of coordinating the biology examinations. His hard work in the administration of the biology Fellow examinations and the start of the Technical Specialist – Molecular Biology was much appreciated.

Kevin Lothridge served as the ASCLD representative to the Board of Directors. His unique perspective as a Director of the National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC), coupled with his experience as a laboratory director and past president of ASCLD helped the ABC look at the process of certification in new and unique ways.

Thanks again to all of you for your hard work and participation in the ABC.

# ABC CALENDAR

## PLEASE POST ON YOUR LAB BULLETIN BOARD

<b>Date/Deadline</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>For More Information, Contact:</b>
<i>October 4, 2001</i> <i>Deadline August 4, 2001</i>	All ABC Exams, NEAFS Meeting Battleboro, Vermont	Judy O'Conner 718/558-8745
<i>October 20, 2001</i> <i>Deadline August 20, 2001</i>	All ABC Exams, CAC Meeting Universal City, Los Angeles	Greg Matheson 213/847-0043
<i>October 27, 2001</i> <i>Deadline August 27, 2001</i>	Special Offering Augusta, Maine	Elizabeth Ziolkowski 617/343-4690
February 13, 2002 <i>Deadline December 13, 2001</i>	All ABC Exams, AAFS Meeting Atlanta, Georgia	Carol Hunter 310/763-2374
April 24, 2002 <i>Deadline February 24, 2002</i>	All ABC Exams, MAAFS Meeting Fredericksburg, Maryland	Susan Blankenship 301/739-8577
May 11, 2002 <i>Deadline March 11, 2002</i>	All ABC Exams, CAC Meeting San Francisco, California	Jennifer Mihalovich 510/238-3386
May 24, 2002 <i>Deadline March 11, 2002</i>	Special Offering – John Fay College New York, New York	Judy O'Conner 718/558-8745
September 18, 2002 <i>Deadline July 18, 2002</i>	All ABC Exams, MAFS Meeting Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Dani Bergman 651/642-0700
October 18, 2002 <i>Deadline July 18, 2002</i>	All ABC Exams, CAC Meeting Huntington Beach, California	Greg Matheson 213/847-0043

**To arrange to sit for an examination, you must contact the Registrar by letter or fax (715-845-4156) by the deadline listed.**

**Local contacts are provided for conference information only.**

**To arrange for ABC Exams to be administered in your laboratory, contact your regional representative.**

## ABC EXAMINATION REPORTS SUMMARY SHEET (7/01)

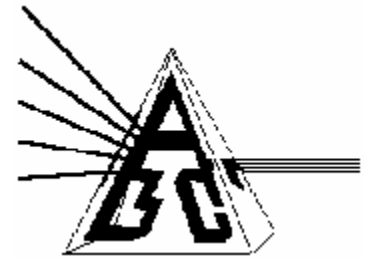
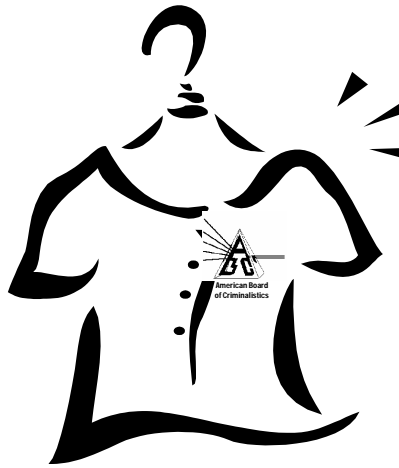
<b>EXAMINATION TYPE</b>	<b># SAT</b>	<b># PASSED</b>	<b>% PASSED</b>	<b># CERTIFICATES ISSUED</b>
Drug Analysis Specialty Exam	74	58	78%	45 Fellow certificates
Fire Debris Specialty Exam	27	25	92%	25 Fellow certificates
Biochemistry Specialty Exam	55	37	67%	21 Fellow certificates
Molecular Biology Specialty Exam	87	64	73%	62 Fellow certificates
Hairs and Fibers Specialty Exam	26	21	81%	12 Fellow certificates
Paints & Polymers Specialty Exam	15	13	87%	7 Fellow certificates
General Knowledge Exam (GKE) (non-Affiliates)	681	457	67%	588 Diplomate
General Knowledge Exam (GKE) - Affiliates	72	35	49%	Not applicable

\* Includes persons who successfully completed the CAC exam and Affiliate upgrades.

All totals are as of July 2001. Diplomate status available since July 1993. Fellow status in Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Drug Analysis, and Fire Debris available since July 1994. Fellow status in Hairs & Fibers and Paints & Polymers available since July 1995. Affiliate status available since January 1997.

# ABC Shirt Order Form

White short sleeve  
Polo shirt  
W/ ABC logo  
100% cotton



**American Board  
of Criminalistics**

\$27 plus \$3 shipping and handling  
No exchanges or refunds

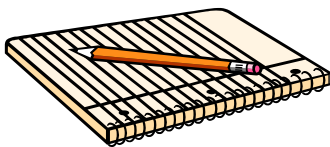
M	L	XL	Price	Total
			\$30.00 each	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with a check payable to the ABC to:  
American Board of Criminalistics  
P.O. Box 1123  
Wausau, WI 54402-1123



## **NOTES FROM THE REGISTRAR**

**Replacement ABC lapel pins can be purchased from the Registrar for \$10: Make checks payable to the ABC. Additional ABC lapel pins can be purchased by certifi-**

**cate holders for \$10 each. There is not a separate lapel pin for Fellows.**

Recertification paperwork should be submitted in **triplicate, one original and two copies.**

If certificate holders or certificate-eligible individuals choose not to submit recertification paperwork for any year, for any reason, they are still responsible for paying the \$30 maintenance fees for that year. If payment is made after June 1<sup>st</sup> of that year, the fees increase to \$50. For each year that maintenance fees are not paid, a \$10 non-payment fee is added to the balance.

## ABC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>President</b>	<i>Jennifer Mihalovich</i> - CAC Oakland Police Department Crime Lab 510/238-3386
<b>Vice President</b>	<i>Gregory B. Matheson</i> - CAC At Large Los Angeles Police Dept. Crime Laboratory 213/847-0043
<b>Secretary</b>	<i>Lynn Henson</i> - SAFS At Large US Army Criminal Investigation Lab 404/469-7265
<b>Treasurer</b>	<i>Dan Bergman</i> - MAFS Minnesota BCA Lab 651/642-0700
<b>Members:</b>	<i>Susan Blankenship</i> - MAAFS Hagerstown Police Department 301/739-8577 ext. 231  <i>Carol Hunter</i> - AAFS, Criminalistics Section Forensic Analytical Inc. 310/763-2374  <i>Lawrence Presley</i> - ASTM E-30 FBI Academy 703/632-4627  <i>Michael Healy</i> - SAFS Manatee County Crime Laboratory 941/747-3011 x2280  <i>Judy O'Connor</i> - NEAFS New York Police Department 718/558-8745
<b>At Large</b>	<i>David Epstein</i> - ASCLD At Large NFSTC 727/549-6067

**Counsel** *Thomas Kubic*  
516/261-2117

## Examinations Committee

<b>Chair</b>	<i>Peter Barnett</i> - CAC Forensic Science Associates 510/222-8883
<b>Vice Chair</b>	<i>Robert Parsons</i> - SAFS Refional Crime Lab at IRCC 561/462-4765
<b>Secretary</b>	<i>Albert Lyter</i> - MAAFS Federal Forensic Associates 919/848-3696
<b>Members</b>	<i>Reta Newman</i> - AAFS Criminalistics Section Pinellas County Forensic Laboratory 727/582-6810  <i>Dave Green</i> - MAFS Lake County Regional Forensic Laboratory 440/350-2183  <i>Edward Bernstein</i> - NEAFS Agawam Crime Laboratory 413/786-6163  <i>Elizabeth Ziolkowski</i> - ASTM E-30 Boston Police Department Crime Lab 617/343-4690  <i>Frank Schehr</i> - ASCLD 517/337-7383

*Certification News* is the official publication of the American Board of Criminalistics. Published semi-annually in summer and winter.  
Address questions or comments to:

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c/o Los Angeles Police Department Criminalistics Laboratory  
555 Ramirez St. Sp 270 Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone 213.847.0043  
FAX 213.847.0040 e-mail: GBM1@aol.com

## ABC Committees

### Ed Rhodes Award

Judy O'Conner  
Dan Bergman

### Certificates

Kary Tontarski

### Recertification

Mary Kate McGilvray – Chair  
Bob Avery  
Robert Birr  
William Bowles  
Lisa Brewer  
Barbara Caraballo  
Gary Cortner  
Lydia de Castro  
Don MacLaren  
Dale Mann  
Kathy Marks  
Chris Montagna

Larry Quarino  
Erin Filey  
Barbara Rowley  
Elizabeth Ziolkowski

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Steve Renteria

### Ethics Committee

Larry Presley  
Dan Bergman

### Appeals Committee

Mike Healy – Chair  
Judy O'Connor

### Proficiency Administration Committee

John Wegel

### Accreditation Committee

Rick Tontarski – Chair

Judy O'Connor

Dan Bergman  
Carl Selavka

### By-Laws Review

Susan Blankenship

### Credentials Forms

**Modification**  
Dan Bergman – Chair  
Steve Renteria  
Greg Matheson

### UK Competency Assessment Program

Frank Schehr – Chair  
Carl Selavka  
Keith Hadley

### Training and Education

#### Liaison Ad Hoc

Carol Hunter – Chair

Judy O'Connor

Jennifer Mihalovich  
Charlie Barna  
Larry Presley  
Sue Ballou

### FAQ

Carol Hunter  
Sue Ballou  
Bob Parsons

### Marketing Ad Hoc

Carol Hunter  
Susan Blankenship  
Mike Healy  
Greg Matheson

# SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

**AUGUST 1990 – JUNE 2001**

**INCOME** (Categories)

300 Member Dues	\$30,800.00
310 Donations	\$ 2,700.00
320 Interest	\$ 3,813.81
330 Application Fees	\$ 28,260.00
340 General Test Fees	\$106,649.20
350 Specialty Exam Fees	\$ 7,425.00
355 Technical Exam Fees	\$ 9,600.00
360 Recertification Fees	\$ 73,730.00
390 Miscellaneous Income*	\$ 4,419.08
<b>NIJ 92IJCXK007</b>	<b>\$ 37,643.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$305,040.09</b>

**EXPENSES** (Categories)

400 Postage	\$ 29,297.31
410 Supplies	\$ 9,107.36
420 Printing	\$ 28,912.36
425 Miscellaneous Expenses*	\$ 6,717.29
430 Bank Fees	\$ 72.24
435 Equipment	\$ 5,729.73
440 Wages	\$ 46,701.38
445 Insurance	\$ 8,533.29
450 Telephone	\$ 3,005.19
460 Travel Expenses	\$ 31,838.26
470 Lodging	\$ 9,590.36
470 Room-Meals	\$ 28,375.32
475 Miscellaneous Travel*	\$ 2,613.03
480 Legal	\$ 507.50
485 Contractual	\$ 33,552.06
490 Awards	\$ 1,163.73
490 CAC Payback	\$ 11,501.00
496 Insufficient Funds Checks	\$ 370.00
500 Accreditation	\$ 1,250.00
510 Meeting Stipend	\$ 16,757.47
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$275,594.88</b>

**INCOME LESS EXPENSES \$ 29,445.21**

**TRANSFERS**

To CD	\$-10,000.00
To Money Market	\$-25,000.00
From ABC	\$ 25,000.00
From CD	\$ 10,512.36
<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS</b>	<b>\$ 512.36</b>

**OVERALL TOTAL BALANCE\$ 29,957.57**

**PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT**

**JANUARY 1, 2000 – DECEMBER 31, 2000**

**INCOME** (Categories)

300 Member Dues	\$ 4,000.00
320 Interest	\$ 539.44
330 Application Fees	\$ 3,330.00
340 General Test Fees	\$ 10,820.00
350 Specialty Exam Fees	\$ 700.00
355 Technical Exam Fees	\$ 9,400.00
360 Recertification Fees	\$ 13,860.00
390 Miscellaneous Income*	\$ 280.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 42,929.44</b>

**EXPENSES** (Categories)

400 Postage	\$ 4,087.65
410 Supplies	\$ 3,207.06
420 Printing	\$ 3,753.36
425 Miscellaneous Expenses*	\$ 779.22
430 Bank Fees	\$ 10.57
435 Equipment	\$ 210.99
440 Wages	\$ 7,050.00
445 Insurance	\$ 1,093.20
450 Telephone	\$ 677.47
460 Travel Expenses	\$ 966.15
470 Lodging	\$ 477.99
470 Room-Meals	\$ 1,107.55
475 Miscellaneous Travel*	\$ 147.54
485 Contractual	\$ 800.00
500 Accreditation	\$ 500.00
510 Meeting Stipend	\$ 5,026.88
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 29,896.03</b>

**INCOME LESS EXPENSES \$ 13,033.41**

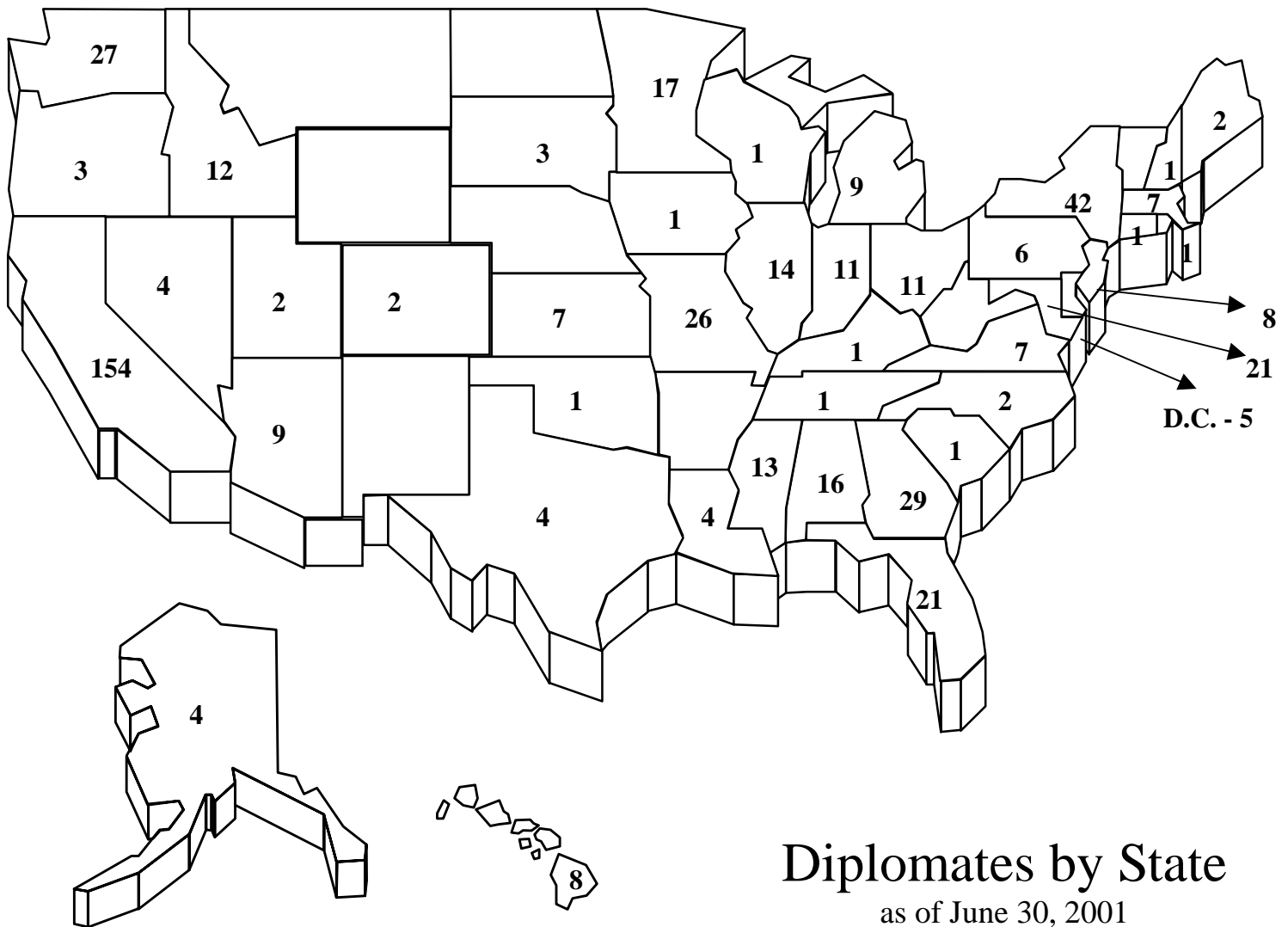


## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Regarding the certification process or the ABC, please contact your regional representative or the ABC Registrar. If you don't know who your representative is, the ABC Registrar can provide you with his or her name and phone number.

The Registrar can be reached at 715/845-3684.

If you are on-line, you can download information from the ABC's Home Page at [www.criminalistics.com/ABC](http://www.criminalistics.com/ABC). The Website contains a detailed description of ABC operations, a list of officers, the current Directory of Diplomates, Fellows, and Affiliates, Study Guides, and more.



## Diplomates Outside of the United States

British West Indies – 1      Italy – 1      Manitoba, Canada – 1  
Puerto Rico – 1      United Kingdom – 7

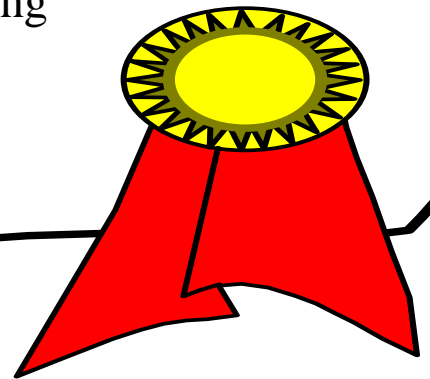
# ANNOUNCEMENT

## The piloting is done!

The Technical Specialist Certificates will be included as a regular offering of the ABC starting November 1, 2001.

Please share this information with those analysts in your laboratory interested in obtaining a Technical Specialist Certification in either Molecular Biology or Drug Analysis.

Deadline to apply to sit for the Technical Specialist Certificates at the 2002 AAFS meeting in Atlanta is December 13, 2001.



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Wausau, WI 54402