

**ASCLD/LAB-*International***

**Final Assessment Report**

North Carolina State Crime Laboratory  
Western Regional Laboratory  
Asheville, North Carolina

**PART 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION**

**INTRODUCTION**

This is the *ASCLD/LAB-International Final Assessment Report* of the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory - Western Regional Laboratory. The on-site assessment was conducted during the period February 24-28, 2014.

The *ASCLD/LAB-International* assessment team consisted of the following members:

**Lead Assessor:**

P. Michael Kellett - Staff Assessor, ASCLD/LAB / Riverside, California

**On-Site Technical Assessors:**

Diane Catley - Virginia Department of Forensic Science / Roanoke, Virginia  
Kerri Heward - Washoe County Sheriff's Office / Reno, Nevada

**Off-Site Technical Assessors:**

Cassandra Burke - Baltimore County Police Department / Towson, Maryland  
Kristen Burke - Sacramento County District Attorney / Sacramento, California  
Carl Chasteen - Florida Division of State Fire Marshal / Havana, Florida  
Yanet Gattorno - Broward County Sheriff's Office / Ft. Lauderdale, Florida  
Anthony Goldman - Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation / Enid, Oklahoma  
R. Greg Hilbig - Texas Department of Public Safety / Tyler, Texas  
Warren Hull, Jr. - New York State Police (retired) / Voorheesville, New York  
Dale Gene Linden - Federal Bureau of Investigation (retired) / Manassas, Virginia  
Pamela Mikulcik - Texas Department of Public Safety (previous) / Naperville, Illinois  
Marcus Montooth - Indiana State Police / Evansville, Indiana  
Jennifer Naugle - Wisconsin Department of Justice / Madison, Wisconsin  
William Newhouse - Wisconsin Department of Justice / Madison, Wisconsin  
Dawn Walters - Florida Department of Law Enforcement / Tallahassee, Florida

## OBJECTIVES OF ASSESSMENT

The assessment was conducted to assess the management and technical operations of the laboratory in accordance with the accreditation requirements specified below, and to report the findings of the assessment in a fair and impartial manner to the laboratory and to the ASCLD/LAB Board of Directors for the purpose of accreditation in accordance with the scope of the assessment.

## ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

The assessment was performed using the requirements of *ISO/IEC 17025:2005*; the *ASCLD/LAB-International Supplemental Requirements for Testing Laboratories* (2011) and the laboratory's own documented management system.

The assessment took into account the relatively recent accreditation of the laboratory to *ISO/IEC 17025:2005* by another signatory to the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (IAAC MLA and ILAC MRA).

## SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT

The laboratory is seeking accreditation in and was assessed in the following areas:

<b>Field</b>	
Forensic Science Testing	
<b>Discipline(s)</b>	<b>Categories of Testing</b>
Drug Chemistry	Controlled Substances
Trace Evidence	Fire Debris
Firearms/Toolmarks	Firearms Serial Number Restoration

**Note:** The laboratory's original application included the Quantitative Analysis category of testing in the Drug Chemistry discipline. At the request of the laboratory, this category of testing has been removed and is not included in this scope of assessment.

## LABORATORY OVERVIEW

The North Carolina State Crime Laboratory - Western Regional Laboratory is a state government laboratory that provides forensic services and assistance to law enforcement agencies throughout the state of North Carolina. The laboratory is located at 9-B Walden Ridge Road, Asheville, North Carolina. At the time of the assessment, Joseph R. John, Sr. was the laboratory director and the laboratory had a staff of 11 proficiency tested personnel and 2 non-proficiency tested personnel.

## ASSESSMENT TEAM FINDINGS

The laboratory was found to be in conformance with all ASCLD/LAB-*International* accreditation requirements or the assessment team found that the requirement was not applicable to the operations of this laboratory.

## COMMENTS

Comments include recommendations, suggestions, or other observations documented by the assessment team that are not supported by sufficient objective evidence of non-compliance. The laboratory is not required to respond to comments. The following comment(s) were documented by the assessment team during the on-site assessment:

- The laboratory recently began providing an extensive discovery packet (“Forensic Advantage Discovery Packet”) with each test report. Description of evidence and results of examination information appears on or about page one of this packet. The coverage factor associated with measurement uncertainties that are reported appears further down in this packet. In the Latent Print and Digital & Multimedia disciplines instances were observed in which neither the description of evidence nor the results of examination areas clearly stated the items that were tested. Specific information describing the items tested does appear further down in the discovery packet. The assessment team recommends that the laboratory evaluate the appropriateness of the current placement of this information within the discovery packet.

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

*Other Considerations* may include any topic, issue or information of which the ASCLD/LAB Board of Directors needs to be aware in order to make a more fully informed decision regarding the accreditation decision.

In accordance with ASCLD/LAB policy and procedures the following information was provided by the ASCLD/LAB headquarters office immediately prior to the accreditation decision:

### Proficiency Testing

On-site the assessment team found the laboratory to be in conformance with all applicable proficiency testing requirements. A follow-up check with the ASCLD/LAB Proficiency Program

Manager immediately prior to this final report, reveals that the laboratory is currently in conformance with all applicable, ASCLD/LAB external proficiency testing requirements.

**Complaints against the Laboratory**

No pending complaints known to ASCLD/LAB

**REPORT AUTHORIZATION**

This *Final Assessment Report* of the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory – Western Regional Laboratory is issued by Lead Assessor Michael Kellett. As Lead Assessor, Mr. Kellett has reviewed the contents of this report and affirms that the report represents a true and accurate accounting of the findings of the ASCLD/LAB-*International* assessment team.

**Lead Assessor Michael Kellett**

  
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Signature

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May 22, 2014  
Date

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**DISTRIBUTION LIST**

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- Chuck McClelland, Quality Manager
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- Pamela L. Bordner, ASCLD/LAB Accreditation Program Manager
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