



# ABFDE News

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## SPECIAL EDITION:

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

## Board of Directors Nominees

### ABFDE nominations assembled by Lisa Hanson

**Instructions:** Using the enclosed form **or the ABFDE website**, you may vote for up to four candidates or write in 1 to 4 Diplomates not listed. Any ballot with more than four names selected will not be counted.

**Paper Ballot:** Clearly mark your choices and include your certificate number. Inclusion of your certificate number is a control for the ballots submitted, and is mandatory for your vote to be counted. Mail the completed ballot to:

American Board of Forensic Document Examiners  
7887 San Felipe, Suite #122  
Houston, Texas 77063

**On-Line Voting:** Sign in to the ABFDE website using the Members Only link from the home page (<http://www.abfde.org/>). From there, click on the link for the 2013 election ballot. Follow the instructions on the page, and click submit. Ballots submitted online are automatically directed to the Administrative Office.

**Please submit your ballot only once, either by mail or from the ABFDE website. Ballots must be completed by April 1, 2013. Online ballots must be submitted, or paper ballots must bear a postmark, no later than this date. Ballots not in compliance will not be counted.**

### Candidates

1. Thomas P. Riley
2. Kathleen Nicolaidis (Board term ending)
3. Janet Masson
4. Gary Licht
5. Lisa Hanson (Board term ending)
6. Sean Espley

Re-Accredited by  
FSAB in 2012



## Meet the six candidates for the Board of Directors



**Mr. Thomas P. Riley**, D-ABFDE, is a forensic document examiner with Riley Welch LaPorte & Associates Forensic Laboratories in Lansing, Michigan. Mr. Riley has been a Diplomate since 1996 and previously served on the Executive Board of the ABFDE from 2002-2003. Mr. Riley retired from the Michigan State Police Forensic Science Division in 2012. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Florida International University and he is a member of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners, the QD Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and ASTM International. Mr. Riley is also an ASCLD/LAB assessor. Mr. Riley has also served on the Executive Board of the ASQDE (2006-2010).

**Ms. Kathleen Annunziata Nicolaidis** is a forensic document examiner with Affiliated Forensic Laboratory, Inc. (AFL) in Phoenix, Arizona. Kathy received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Literature and the English Language in 1983 from the State University of New York at Binghamton. Kathy was trained by William Flynn, owner of AFL, from 1998--2001. Kathy became an ABFDE diplomate in November 2005 and was recertified in 2010. She was elected to the ABFDE BOD in 2009 and has served as ABFDE Secretary since 2011. Kathy is a member of ASQDE and the Editor of the Journal of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners as well as a past Secretary and Newsletter Editor for the SWAFDE.



During her tenure on the ABFDE Board, she has worked on FSAB reaccreditation, redesign of the RPG, implementation of the Speaker's Bureau, creation of the Legal Library, and the writing of brochures, impact statements, and other public relations material. On all of these projects, Kathy has collaborated with other Board members and/or volunteers. She treasures this spirit of cooperation and commitment, especially when the Board faces the challenge of completing the update of its tests. At this critical time, she feels continuity is important and she wants to help finish the essential work that has begun.

(Candidates continued on page 3)

# Six candidates for the Board of Directors

(Continued from page 2)



**Ms. Janet Fenner Masson** (who answers to both “Janet” and “Jan”) is a native Texan who graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1971 with a Bachelor of Journalism degree. Her interest in photography led her to a position as a photographer and document examiner trainee in Lucile Lacy’s questioned document laboratory in Houston. Janet studied under and worked with Lucile Lacy for eight years prior to opening her own laboratory in 1985. She is a Regular Member of the ASQDE and a Fellow in the AAFS (QD section), and she has been a Diplomate of ABFDE since 1983.



**Mr. Gary Licht** is a forensic document examiner at the Iowa DCI Crime Lab and in private practice. He completed his training in 1997, under the mentorship of Jerry Brown. He began his forensic science career in 1987, in the Microanalysis Section of the FDLE Orlando Lab, where he developed an interest in what FDEs do, and moved to Iowa in 1994 to begin training. Working in both criminal and civil arenas has provided a wide range of casework for an enrichment of professional experience. He is a member of MAFS, AAFS, ASTM and SWGDOC, and currently is focused on helping the new SWGDOC process gain input from FDEs on a larger scale, thanks to dedicated and techno-savvy FDEs from far away states developing new venues for input and review.

(Candidates continued on page 4)

## Six candidates for the Board of Directors

(Continued from page 3)

**Ms. Lisa Hanson**, D-ABFDE, is a forensic document examiner with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension – the MN State Forensic Science Laboratory and is also in private practice. Ms. Hanson holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin - River Falls and is an active member of MAFS, SWGDOC, ASTM International, and a Technical Advisor for ASCLD/LAB where she also serves as a Assessor. She is currently a provisional member of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners and is working towards full membership by conducting research that involves a large hand-writing project funded by NIJ.



Ms. Hanson has been a Diplomate since 2006 and has served on the Executive Board as Vice President since 2010 to the present. She is running for a possible second term because she would like to continue the important work presently being done by the Executive Board: Completing the recommendations suggested by ACT to the ABFDE certification process.



**Mr. Sean A. Espley** began his career as a Forensic Document Examiner trainee in 1997 at the California Department of Justice in Sacramento. His primary training officers were David Crowe, Bill Connor, and David Moore. Since that two-year training program at the DOJ, Sean has worked over 1,000 criminal and civil cases. He has testified in 24 counties within the State of California and 3 counties within the State of Nevada.

Sean has been a Diplomate with the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners (ABFDE) since 2002. Presently, he is the Treasurer of the Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners (SWAFDE) and a Certified Technical Assessor with the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD). He is currently in private practice in the Sacramento area under the name of Integrated Forensic Services.



## VOTING BALLOT

### ABFDE Nominees for Directors

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- Thomas P. Riley** – Riley Welch LaPorte & Associates Forensic Laboratories, Lansing, Michigan
- Kathleen Annunziata Nicolaidis** – Affiliated Forensic Laboratory, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona
- Janet Fenner Masson** - private practice, Houston, Texas
- Gary Licht** – Iowa DCI Crime Laboratory, Ankeny, Iowa and private practice.
- Lisa M. Hanson** – MN State Forensic Science Laboratory, St. Paul, Minnesota and private practice.
- Sean A. Espley** – Integrated Forensic Services, Roseville, California