

KRISTEN HARTY-CONNELL
Senior Forensic Scientist
Curriculum Vitae

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ms. Harty-Connell joined Forensic Analytical Crime Lab in May 2022. She has over five years of experience in forensic DNA analysis with state law enforcement agencies. She specializes in the examination and analyses of physical evidence for biological material with serological methods and the extraction, quantification, amplification, and genetic analysis of DNA, including statistical comparisons. She is proficient with multiple forensic techniques, chemistries and robotics. She has been court qualified as an expert witness in forensic biological screening and DNA analysis in the states of Washington, Oregon, Colorado, California, Montana and the District of Columbia.

EDUCATION

Master of Science, Forensic Science, Graduate with Merit, King's College London, UK 2016

- Research at the Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science, University of Tasmania: 3D Printed Capillary Electrophoresis Adapter for the Extraction and Concentration of Illicit Drugs in Body Fluids

Bachelor of Science, Chemistry, focus in Forensics, minor in Biology, Honors, University of Montana, 2015

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Forensic Scientist 3, Washington State Patrol, Crime Laboratory Division – DNA Unit, 2019-2022

- Examined and analyzed criminal evidence for biological material using serological methods. Performed genetic testing to develop DNA profiles and make statistical comparisons. Proficient in the use of Qiagen EZ1 extraction, Promega PowerQuant, Promega Fusion6C STR amplification kit, Hamilton robotics, 3500xL genetic analyzer, Genemapper ID-X and STRmix. Provided peer review, participated in proficiency testing and testified as an expert witness.
- Validated a new method modification for differential extraction and assisted in the validation of the Hamilton Starlet Robot for use in casework quantification and amplification.

Forensic Scientist, DNA Analyst, Montana Department of Justice, Forensic Science Division – Serology/DNA Section, 2017 – 2019

- Used physical, chemical, biochemical and genetic test to characterize biological stains, develop DNA profiles and publish reports on the results of the analyses performed. Essential functions included case examination, report writing, professional education, evidence management, testifying as an expert witness, continuing education and proficiency testing. Proficient in the use of the Promega Maxwell16 extraction, Promega PlexorHY quantification, Qiagen Investigator 24plex amplification.
- Validated the Qiagen QIAcube robotics system for differential extraction in casework.

Intern, Montana Department of Justice, Forensic Science Division – Serology/DNA Section, 2015

- Managed and developed research project exploring the use of an alternative method of DNA differential extraction, the *Erase* Sperm Isolation Kit from Paternity Testing

Work Study Student, Montana Department of Justice, Forensic Science Division – Serology/DNA Section, 2012-2014

- Executed the preparation of reagents and performed quality control tests

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists

Licensed by the Texas Forensic Science Commission in Forensic Biology/DNA, September 2022

California Association of Criminalists

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

DNA Analyst in house training, Montana Department of Justice, Forensic Science Division
January – November 2017

28th International Symposium on Human Identification, hosted by Promega in Seattle, WA
October 2-5, 2017

2018 NWAFFS Conference, hosted by the Northwest Association of Forensic Science Board of Directors, attended the Boise, ID conference virtually, September 18-19, 2018

Forensic Scientist in house training, Washington State Patrol, Crime Laboratory Division, July
2019 – May 2020

STRmix Training Course, hosted by ESR in Columbus, OH, December 10-13, 2019

25th Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics, Led by Bruce Weir at the University of Washington, July 27-29, 2020

20th Annual Forensic DNA Conference, hosted by Bode Technology in Denver, CO, October 19-22, 2021

EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY

Montana

Lewis and Clark County, Judge McMahon, April 12, 2018
Yellowstone County, Judge Harris, June 12, 2018
Anaconda Deer Lodge County, Judge Dayton, September 28, 2018
Lincoln County, Judge Cuffe, December 12, 2018

Washington

King County, Judge Scott, May 20, 2021
King County, Judge Sutton, April 18, 2023
Klickitat County, Judge Krog, August 8, 2024

Oregon

Washington County, Judge Garcia, April 21, 2023
Clatsop County, Judge McIntosh, March 13, 2025

Washington D.C.

Superior Court, Judge Epstein, June 20, 2023
Superior Court, Judge Epstein, May 23, 2024

Colorado

Pueblo County, Judge Ernst, December 12, 2024

California

Placer County, Judge Penney, March 19, 2025

United States District Court

Eastern District of California, Judge Shubb, March 26, 2025