



**Erica Lawton** is an Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE) certified Firearm and Tool Mark Examiner and Section Chief of the Firearm and Toolmark Unit at the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences Mobile Regional Laboratory. She is also a past President of AFTE, having served from 2024-2025. Ms. Lawton has served as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Firearm and Toolmark Subcommittee under the Physics and Pattern Scientific Area Committee of OSAC. Ms. Lawton earned her B.S. in Chemistry from Metropolitan State University of Denver, Colorado, and a M.S. in Forensic Science from Oklahoma State University, where she is currently a PhD candidate. She began her employment and training in the field of Firearm and Toolmark Examination with the Miami-Dade Police Department and has also worked for the Broward Sheriff's Office before moving to Alabama in 2017. Ms. Lawton has over 20 years of experience in firearms examinations, toolmark examination, serial number restorations, fracture/physical fit comparisons, muzzle to garment distance determinations, and shoe and tire examinations; fifteen of those years in a leadership capacity. Ms. Lawton is a Technical Assessor for ANAB and has experience testifying both in the United States and internationally.

She was appointed to the [FSSB](#) in 2025 as the AFTE representative.