Testimony training continued in the final quarter of 2023. The table below summarizes the year, including training in the last quarter and upcoming for 2024. Overall, the training was well received and incorporated the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) State Coordinator or designee, a Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (TSRP) or designee, and an individual from the judiciary such as a Judicial Outreach Liaison (JOL). Due to scheduling conflicts, a few more trainings will be held in 2024 with continued funding support from Responsibility.org.

### 2023 RTL Testimony Training and upcoming events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Date</th>
<th>Training Location</th>
<th># of Attendees</th>
<th># of Labs Present</th>
<th>States in Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 16, 2023</td>
<td>Akeny, IA</td>
<td>13 toxicologists, 2 DREs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Iowa and Nebraska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 28, 2023</td>
<td>Columbus, OH</td>
<td>34 toxicologists</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 19-20, 2023</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>75 toxicologists</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>California, Arizona, Nevada, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 27, 2023</td>
<td>Jefferson City, MO</td>
<td>26 toxicologists</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Missouri, Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 7, 2023</td>
<td>Topeka, KS</td>
<td>16 toxicologists</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Kansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 18, 2023</td>
<td>Little Rock, AR</td>
<td>9 toxicologists</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 26, 2023</td>
<td>Waukegan, IL</td>
<td>17 toxicologists</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Illinois, Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November, 15, 2023</td>
<td>Madison, WI</td>
<td>44 toxicologists</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Northern, California (venue TBD)</td>
<td>Future training</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>Future training</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>Future training</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>Future training</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During Q4, the RTLs continued to meet with various state’s SHSOs and highway safety partners for recurring meetings. In addition, the RTLs for R7 and R5 attended and presented at the annual SOFT conference. The focus of the presentation was to report out the work of the SOFT Toxicology Resource Committee (TRC), providing feedback from laboratories across the country. Over 150 laboratories were queried, and we received 96 responses from separate laboratories. Thirty-seven percent of laboratories test blood specimens while 37% test either urine only or a combination of blood and urine. Forty-seven percent of laboratories continue to utilize a stop testing workflow, meaning when the blood alcohol concentration (BAC) and/or illicit substance is detected at a certain concentration, comprehensive drug testing is not performed. The reasons for stop testing varied among the laboratories, some are in place due to workload, and others are directed by policy or statute. The RTLs will continue to work with the
laboratories in their regions to understand why stop testing occurs and find ways to provide support and resources. There have been requests to publish the outcomes from this work, and the RTLs will work with the TRC to write a publication that will be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

**Project challenges:**

The requests for assistance from non-represented regions continue to occur. The RTLs and the Project Manager (PM) work to provide guidance to the extent they are able. In most instances, the PM will provide consultation and resources. There have been several requests for testimony training in states that are outside of the current represented regions. The PM is keeping track of these requests, however, the states with regions 5, 7 and 9 will be given priority. One laboratory offered to cover all costs associated with the training and this will be considered as the remaining trainings are scheduled. Responsibility.org has agreed to continue to fund the trainings in the represented regions. Without the financial support from Responsibility.org, the testimony trainings would not be possible.

Not all laboratories have implemented the ASB documents. This will be addressed in the quarterly regional webinars as the RTLs will work to identify which ASB documents laboratories are struggling to implement and look for support and resources to assist. Standardization of laboratory testing is important as the RTLs begin exploring data harmonization in the coming years.

As always, the Buy America Act continues to hamper efforts to procure much-needed testing instrumentation using highway safety funding. The DUID Toolkit and related funding provided by NHTSA was very useful, but further funding and unique ways to circumvent the BAA are required.

**Future goals:**

Standardization is the primary goal for the RTLs in 2024. To compare data within and between states, the laboratories must achieve the same testing standards. The RTLs will gather feedback from each region's laboratories on whether or not they have implemented any ASB documents. Webinars targeting each of the standards and the process for implementation will be provided throughout 2024 in collaboration with the SOFT Continuing Education Committee.

In March the RTLs are leading a three-day webinar series focusing on method development and standardization. Each day will be about 4 hours of content and will feature presenters from different laboratories who will speak on their experience with different instrumentation. The last 2 days will include vendor-specific breakout rooms so attendees can ask questions relevant to the instruments in their laboratories.

Testimony training will continue on an ongoing basis. Some laboratories have asked for additional training and others have not been able to schedule the training due to various time constraints. The RTLs will ensure that the remaining laboratories in their regions receive the training.

Data harmonization continues to be a need. However, standardization must occur first. Throughout 2024, the RTLs will look to highway safety partners to understand the gaps in data and assist where necessary to build resources.

*See Appendix for full list of activities and financial report*
Appendix

RTL Activities Q4, 2023

R5 Q4 Activities:

Recurring:
RTL weekly meetings – Wednesday each week.
Minnesota DWI Taskforce – Monthly
Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety Staff Meeting – Monthly
Illinois Impaired Driving Task Force Meeting – Monthly
Wisconsin Impaired Driving Work Group - No set time or date
National Safety Council – Alcohol Drug and Impairment Division – Model DUI Law meeting - No set time or date.
National Safety Council – Alcohol Drug and Impairment Division – Cannabis in Safety Sensitive Positions – Meet every two weeks
National Safety Council – Alcohol Drug and Impairment Division – Cannabis Section – Monthly
National Safety Council – Alcohol Drug and Impairment Division – Position Statement on Adoption of Consensus-Based Standards and Laboratory Accreditation- No set time or date.
Academy Standards Board – Toxicology Consensus Body and Leadership Meetings – Monthly
Organizational Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)/Academy Standards Board Leadership Meetings – Monthly
Academy Standards Board – Toxicology Consensus Body Working Group Technical Report Terms and Definitions - No set time or date.
Academy Standards Board – Toxicology Consensus Body Working Group BPR 037-Guidelines for Opinions and Testimony in Forensic Toxicology- No set time or date.
Forensic Science Oversight Board Meeting (MA) – Monthly
RecoveryOhio Drug Trends Meeting - Monthly

Past Single event:

National Judicial College 2023 Indiana City & Town Judges Conference– Indianapolis, IN October 12-13, 2023
New England Forensic Drug Chemists Annual Meeting- Concord, NH October 24, 2023
NSC ADID Meeting – Virtual, October 29, 2023
Society of Forensic Toxicologists annual meeting (Presenter) – Denver, CO, October 29-November 3, 2023
Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists Annual Meeting (Session Chair and Presenter) – Mystic, CT, November 8-10, 2023
Wisconsin Testimony Training – Madison, WI, November 15, 2023

Upcoming Activities:

Academy Standards Board – Toxicology Consensus Body Working Group 173 Standard for Education and Training of Forensic Toxicology Personnel – Weekly Meetings
RTL Q1 Quarterly Meeting-Virtual, January 16, 2024
Region 5 JOL/TSRP Meeting - Presenting on Marijuana-Virtual, January 22, 2024
RTL Method Validation Training – Virtual, March 26-28, 2024
R7 Q4 Activities:

**Recurring:**
- RTL weekly meetings – Wednesday each week.
- R7 Monthly State conference call – Last Tuesday each month
- National Safety Council – Alcohol Drug and Impairment Division - Executive Board – Secretary, member of Administrative Committee.
- Society of Forensic Toxicologists – monthly Board of Directors Meetings (Secretary)
  Additional SOFT Activities include – Chair of Membership Committee, Chair of Policies and Procedures Committee, Member of the Finance Committee, Member of the Toxicology Resource Committee, Co-Editor of ToxTalk
- OSAC Toxicology Subcommittee Monthly meetings
  Additional OSAC work includes participation on the Alcohol Standard Methods subcommittee.
- Midwest Toxicology Collaborative – Round Table – monthly meetings

**Past Single event:**

- Presenter Southwester Association of Forensic Scientists – Houston, Texas, October 2, 2023
- 2023 Annual DWI Workgroup Meeting (TIRF) – Minneapolis, MN, October 23-25, 2023
- National Safety Council Alcohol, Drugs, and Impairment Division Annual Meeting – Denver, CO, October 29, 2023
- Society of Forensic Toxicologists Annual Meeting (Presenter) – Denver, CO, October 30-Nov 3, 2023
  Presenter – SOFT TRC Survey Results
- Wisconsin Testimony Training – November 15, 2023
- Missouri Impaired Driving Subcommittee Meeting – November 17, 2023
- Assessing Impaired Driving Trends Using Comprehensive Testing and a Multistate Approach – Speaker, The Center for Forensic Science Research & Education Webinar, December 6, 2023

**Upcoming Activities:**

- American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting – Denver, CO, February 17-23, 2024
  Session Moderator – Friday February 23, 2024
- National Safety Council Alcohol, Drugs, and Impairment Division Full Division Annual Meeting – Denver, CO, February 18, 2024
- Nebraska Traffic Safety Conference – February 26-29, 2024

R9 Q4 Activities

**Recurring:**
- Weekly RTL Meetings
- Monthly Meetings with NHTSA R9
- Various emails with lab staff within R9
- Various email communication with the RTL Group
- Document preparations for RTL Group
- CA Impaired Driving Task Force April and Nov 8th - These are intermittent.
October
6th - MN Toxicology Presentation
10th – NADS Workshop brainstorm meeting
13th – Met with Debora from MIT to go over the tox presentation from the SOT MN Meeting
National Safety Council Alcohol, Drugs, and Impairment Division Annual Meeting – Denver, CO, October 29, 2023

November
15th – WI Testimony Training
16th – Meeting with Retired Chief Helena Williams (CHP)
16th - Meeting with Chief Kevin Davis CHP
20th - PPT prep for CAT and submission
21st - Coordinated meetings between Chris H and CA DOJ
30th – TRC Meeting
30th – Meeting with Chief Kevin Davis (CHP)
Coordinated meetings between Chris H and CA DOJ

December
3-5 CAT Meeting – Presentation on Dec 4th
OTS-NHTSA in-Person holiday parties
20th – Meeting with Chris H regarding CA DOJ
Communications with speakers for Method Development and Validation Training

Upcoming Activities:
RTL Quarterly Meeting – Jan
Method Development Validation Training – March 2024
Lifesavers – TSRP/JOL/LE – Meeting – April 2024
IACT Meeting – April 2024
NorCal Testimony Training – Spring 2024
CAT Spring Meeting May 2024
MAFS / NADS Conference May 2024
SFME Testimony Training – May 2024
SoCal Testimony Training – Fall 2024
SOF Meeting Oct 2024
CAT Meeting – SoCal Testimony Training – December 2024