



Department of Shared Administrative Services  
Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders  
Secretary Leslie Fiskien

April 21, 2026

The Honorable Breanne Davis, Co- Chairperson  
The Honorable Jim Wooten, Co-Chairperson  
Joint Budget Committee  
Arkansas General Assembly  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Senator Davis and Representative Wooten:

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) submits a request from the Arkansas Department of Public Safety (DPS), Division of Arkansas State Crime Lab, for your review.

DPS requests to establish a Labor Market Rate (LMR) for the classification of SFO02C, Crime Lab Medical Examiner, MED14 at \$300,00.

LMR REQUESTED				
CLASS CODE	TITLE	GRADE	ENTRY	NEW ENTRY
SFO02C	Crime Lab Medical Examiner	MED14	\$208,659	\$300,000

**JUSTIFICATION**

The Arkansas State Crime Lab has previously faced periods of probationary accreditation due to an insufficient number of Medical Examiners, which limited the ability to remain within the required 250 autopsies per doctor ratio. In FY25, DPS was approved for an LMR for this classification, which enabled the department to recruit and retain the number of Medical Examiners necessary to meet the accreditation standards. However, this LMR was discontinued following the pay plan implementation in June 2025. In 2025, the Arkansas State Crime Lab performed 1,750 autopsies with five (5) full-time and two (2) part-time Medical Examiners. Maintaining accreditation requires the continued ability to recruit and retain qualified candidates, and the department has identified two qualified candidates whose acceptance is contingent upon the approval of a \$300,000 LMR. These funds will be 100% from General Revenue.

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OPM has reviewed this request from DPS and **recommends** the rate of \$300,000 for the classification of SFO02C, Crime Lab Medical Examiner, MED14. DPS guarantees our office that it has sufficient funding to support this request.

Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Kay Barnhill, Director  
Office of Personnel Management

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Cabinet Secretary  
Mike Hagar



# NEWS

## ARKANSAS STATE CRIME LABORATORY ANNOUNCES RECRUITMENT OF TWO ASSOCIATE MEDICAL EXAMINERS

October 3, 2025

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – The Arkansas State Crime Laboratory (ASCL) is proud to announce the successful recruitment of two highly accomplished physicians who will join the Medical Examiner Section as Associate Medical Examiners in July 2026: Dr. Lance Van Truong and Dr. Jusmita Saifullan.

Dr. Truong is currently ASCL's first forensic pathology fellow, while Dr. Saifullan is completing her fellowship with the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner's Office in Florida.

Their appointments mark a significant advancement in forensic science in Arkansas, addressing the nationwide shortage of board-certified forensic pathologists. Across the United States, there are only about 800 board-certified forensic pathologists despite an estimated need for nearly twice that number. By securing two top-tier recruits, ASCL is strengthening its capacity to serve the citizens of Arkansas while setting a new standard of excellence.

"Our recruitment of Dr. Truong and Dr. Saifullan is a monumental moment for the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory and our state as a whole," said Dr. Theodore Brown, ASCL Director and Chief Medical Examiner. "Dr. Truong already demonstrated passion, leadership, and a deep commitment to serving Arkansans. Dr. Saifullan comes with the highest recommendations and is widely recognized for her brilliance, humility, and drive to serve t

community. We are incredibly honored to welcome them both.”

Dr. Truong earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Touro University Nevada and completed his residency at Brown University, followed by a pediatric pathology fellowship at Boston Children’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School. Dr. Saifullan received her medical degree from Northeast Ohio Medical University and completed her residency at Duke University Medical Center.

“As the current Forensic Pathology Fellow, I see firsthand the everyday excellence that happens at the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory. I am a true believer in the mission that we have been entrusted with by the people of Arkansas and a faithful supporter of the bold trajectory that the leadership here has set for the Laboratory every day to deliver the highest quality of care to Arkansans while showing national distinction in the realm of forensic science and forensic investigations,” said Dr. Truong. “I remain grateful to be the inaugural Forensic Pathology Fellow, and I feel further blessed for this opportunity to continue serving here for years to come. To quote words once said by Dr. Brown, ‘Together we will achieve epic greatness,’ – and there’s quite simply no place I’d rather be than in Arkansas, proudly serving the needs of everyday Arkansans at the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory, now as an Associate Medical Examiner!”

“The Arkansas State Crime Laboratory has all the components I am looking for in an office, including an outstanding team of medical examiners and support staff, a supportive environment with opportunities to pursue my additional interests in medical education and public health advocacy, and an all-around cohesive and collaborative culture under the excellent leadership of Dr. Theodore Brown,” said Dr. Saifullan. “I strongly believe that a medical examiner’s responsibility not only extends toward serving the deceased but to serving their families and the larger community as well, and I’m confident I’ll have the support needed to pursue avenues to help make a positive difference in the communities within Arkansas. I am thrilled to be joining the team in 2026!”

The mission of the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory is to provide timely, accurate, and reliable forensic science through a collaborative approach that best serves Arkansans. ASCL’s vision is to improve the lives of Arkansans by delivering exceptional forensic science and fostering a culture of continuous learning and improvement.

Dr. Lance Van Truong

Dr. Jusmita Saifullan