



# Organization of Bar Investigators

Promoting Excellence within the Legal Profession

## 2017 Board of Directors

**President**  
Erin Ross-Johnson  
Investigator

**Vice President**  
Michelle Burton  
Sr. Paralegal/  
Probation Officer

**Secretary**  
Carla McCoy  
Investigator

**Treasurer**  
Randy Ross  
Investigator

**At-Large Director  
2016-2018**  
Jim Easoz  
Investigator

**At-Large Director  
2017-2019**  
Jim Burton  
Investigator

**Immediate Past-  
President**  
Dawn Meeks, CP  
Sr. Certified Paralegal/  
Investigator

## 2017 Committee Chairs

**Elections**  
Kelly Dillon  
CFE/Investigative  
Examiner

**Membership**  
Vanessa Norman  
Investigator

**Planning & Program**  
Karen Brown  
Investigator

**Web & Publications**  
Dean Veenstra  
Investigator

**NOBC Liaison**  
Michelle Burton  
Sr. Paralegal/  
Probation Officer

February 1, 2017

Dear OBI Members:

I would like to send out a big thank you to all who attended the 2016 annual training conference in Des Moines. My fellow investigators from Iowa were thrilled to be able to host everyone in our city. I met some new faces, mingled with some old faces and had a great time. I heard a lot of great feedback about the conference agenda, the speakers and the accommodations.

During the conference the membership elected a new At-Large Director, Jim Burton of Springfield, Illinois. Welcome aboard! Jim is serving a two-year term that replaced outgoing At-Large Director, Dean Veenstra.

During the 2017 annual training conference elections will be held to elect a new Board of Directors. This includes every Board position with the exception of Jim Burton. In a few months Election Chair Kelly Dillon will be requesting nominations for the open Board positions to be elected this year. If anyone has questions about the duties of any of these Board positions, please contact me.

At-Large Director Jim Burton will soon be sending out the annual dues notices to the previously designated contact person in each jurisdiction. Please return the invoice to Randy Ross with a check made payable to OBI. OBI Membership Chair, Vanessa Norman will follow-up with the contact person for any revisions to the OBI membership roster for their agency. If a member in your office leaves or a new employee is hired, please contact Vanessa so that they can be removed or added to the roster, added to the email listserv and be given a password to access the OBI website.

Florida investigators are working on planning the conference in Orlando later this year. Please mark your calendars for October 4, through October 6, 2017. The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites Orlando-International Drive-Convention Center. The room rate will be \$164 for single and double occupancy. Look for more information on registering for the conference and reserving your rooms later this spring.

The Board is busy working to secure a conference location for the 2018. We have had some informal interest, but nothing has been secured yet. If your jurisdiction is interested, please talk to your bosses and ask the Board for information to find out what all is involved in hosting a conference.



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During the 2016 conference we had a number of members sign up to volunteer for a committee. Thank you! I will be sending those committees and their chairs more information in the near future. If you have an interest in becoming more involved with the OBI, but not quite ready to run for an elected position, please consider volunteering to serve on one of the committees. This is a great way to see a bit of how the OBI operates. Please contact me if there are any questions about what each committee does or if you would like to volunteer for a particular committee.

Last week Michelle Burton sent out the first Case of the Month for this year. If any member worked on a case or knows of a case that is informative, interesting or entertaining, please send a summary or link to an article of the case to Michelle to send out as a future Case of Month.

Your ongoing support of the OBI is greatly appreciated by the Board. Please contact me at [erin.ross-johnson@iowacourts.gov](mailto:erin.ross-johnson@iowacourts.gov) if any member would like to make any comments, suggestions or complaints about the OBI.

Sincerely,

Erin Ross-Johnson  
Investigator  
President, OBI