

2024 USPAP Compliant & NAJA Accredited Gem Lab

*\* Proof of any of the below qualifications, experience, or affiliations can be furnished upon request\**

**Professional/Academic Experience & Affiliations:**

- 2009 – 2013: Bachelor of Arts in the Geological Sciences from Augustana College, Rock Island, IL with an emphasis in mineralogy, volcanology, and petrology
  - Presented research at the 2013 North-Central Section: 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Geological Society of America Meeting (<https://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2013NC/webprogram/Paper218233.html>)
- 2015 – 2017: Sales Associate for Helzberg Diamonds
- 2017 – 2019: Gemological Institute of America (GIA) – Earned Graduate Gemologist (GG) diploma and Pearls Graduate while employed as a diamond grader
- 2019 – 2020: Company manager & Gemologist for Michael Couch & Associates
- 2020: GemWorld Intl., Inc. – Completed in-person courses focusing on colored gemstone grading, pricing, & corundum treatment identification
- 2020 – 2022: Gemologist-Appraiser for Christopher's Fine Jewelry
- 2020 (*current*): Accredited Gemologists Association (AGA) Accredited Senior Gemologist member
- 2022: Passed the American Gem Society (AGS) Certified Gemologist Appraiser exam
- 2022 (*current*): National Association of Jewelry Appraisers (NAJA) Certified Member
- 2022 (*current*): Passed the International School of Gemology (ISG) Registered Gemologist Appraiser exam & completed ISG's Litigation and Expert Witness course
- 2023: Enrolled in Advanced Personal Property Appraisal course offered by William D. Hoefer Jr.
- 2023 (*current*): Completed online 15-Hour USPAP course for Personal Property, Gems & Jewelry, and Machinery & Technical Specialties through the American Society of Appraisers (ASA)
- 2024: Recognized as an Accredited Gem Lab (AGL) with the NAJA

**Collaborative Research, Contributions & Industry Related Conference Attendances:**

- Co-author of research book: *Identifying Diamond Types and Laboratory-Grown Diamond with CPF (Cross Polarized Filters)* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2023) with Branko Deljanin of Gemological Research Industries, Inc. and Dusan Simic of Analytical Gemology & Jewelry
- Co-author of research poster: *CPF (Cross Polarized Filters) Technique for Screening & ID of Diamonds: Natural, Lab-grown & Post-Growth Treated* Branko Deljanin of Gemological Research Industries, Inc.
- Co-authored an article titled *Cross Polarized Filters as a Clue to Diamond Origin* in the Issue 2 of 2022 AGS Spectra magazine with Wade Abel, Director of Gemological Services with the AGS
- Featured on the magazine cover of *Gems & Jewellery* (Winter 2023/Volume32/No.4) for winning photographer of the year with the Gemmological Association of Great Britain (Gem-A)

- Pages 12-15 also detail my winning photo along with my fourth-place photo entry, both regarding diamond characteristics.
- Regular columnist for the NAJA quarterly newsletter since 2021
  - Columns focus on the technicalities of diamond and colored gemstone testing, and their relevancy to jewelry appraisers.
- Active gemology instructor for Branko Gems online Gemstone Academy
  - I am responsible for lecturing on the topics of introductory gemological testing and diamond identification using standard methods of evaluation (i.e., polarized illumination, UV illumination, and basic microscopy to identify inclusions and characteristics of diamond)
- Active 3-year term with the Appraisal Foundation's Personal Property Resource Panel (effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023)
  - Additionally, I am serving on the Personal Property Qualifications Task Force with the Appraisal Foundation
- American Gem Society Conclave attendance - Dallas, TX 2021; Oklahoma City, OK 2022; Louisville, KY 2023, Austin, TX 2024
- NAJA conference attendance - 57th ACE©it Winter Virtual Conference 2022; 58th ACE©it Mid-Year Virtual Conference 2022; 60th ACE©it Mid-Year [in-person] Conference, Providence, RI 2023; 62nd Annual Mid-Year ACE©It Education Conference, Chicago, IL 2024
  - Completed annual color vision testing and received "exceptional color vision" on August 13<sup>th</sup> of 2023

**Speaking & Training Engagements:** The following speaking engagements focused on diamond clarity grading & plotting, diamond identification, colored gemstone identification using standard methods of evaluation such as microscopy, polarized light, UV illumination, and inclusion identification. All engagements included a discussion of why these topics are relevant to appraising.

- Lectured at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL (2021)
- Virtual lecture to the New College of Florida as part of the Natural Sciences seminar series (2022)
- Virtual lecture hosted by Branko Gems (2022)
- AGS speaker engagement in Fayetteville, AR (2023)
- AGS speaker engagement in St. Louis, MO (2023)
- AGS speaker engagement in Hillsboro, NC (2023)
- AGS Conclave speaker (2023)
- Hired by National Rarities in St. Louis, MO to lecture on diamond identification (2023)
- Hired by Jewelsmith Inc. in Durham, NC to lecture on diamond identification (2023)
- AGS Conclave co-speaker (2024)
- AGS speaker engagement in Pittsburgh, PA (2024)
- GIA & AGS speaker engagement in Bethlehem, PA (2024)
- GIA & AGS speaker engagement in Washington, DC (2024)