

2026 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: 47th 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 & 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*): Earned 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.
 - 2025: Passed the Advanced Personal Property Appraisal exam
- 2023: Completed online 15-Hour USPAP course for Personal Property, Gems & Jewelry, and Machinery & Technical Specialties through the American Society of Appraisers (ASA)
- 2024: Earned Accredited Gem Lab (AGL) credential with the NAJA
- 2024: Retained as an expert witness in the case of Maia Magee v. DW Gem Services, LLC Connecticut Superior Court KNL CV23-6061842 by Frank Liberty of The Liberty Law Firm, LLC
- 2025: Retained as an expert consultant by J.D. Taliaferro of Loeb & Loeb Law, LLP
- 2025: Completed online 7-Hour USPAP Update course for Personal Property, Gems & Jewelry, and Machinery & Technical Specialties through the American Society of Appraisers (ASA)

Collaborative Research, Contributions & Industry Related Conference Attendances:

- Co-author of research booklet: *Identifying Diamond Types and Laboratory-Grown Diamond with CPF (Cross Polarized Filters)* (3rd 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
- Co-authored of research booklet: *ID of Blue Gems with Portable Instruments* (2025) with Branko Deljanin of Gemological Research Industries, Inc.
- 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 details 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 1st, 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; Carlsbad, CA 2025
- 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; 64th ACE©It Mid-Year Webinar Education Conference 2025; NAJA ACE©It 65th Winter Education Conference 2026
 - Completed color vision testing and received "exceptional color vision" on August 13th of 2023

Speaking Engagements: The following speaking engagements focused on diamond clarity grading and plotting, diamond and colored gemstone identification using standard and advanced methods of evaluation/testing, and jewelry appraising principles.

- 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)
- AGS/GIA Converge conference in Carlsbad, CA (2025)