Bakas & Associates
Legal Nurse Consulting



Andrea S. Bakas

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MEMBER
NACLNC
National Alliance of Certified Legal Nurse Consultants

Founder

Certified Legal Nurse Consultant
Bakas & Associates

Professional Experience

Andrea brings over 20 years of experience in health care to the helm of Bakas & Associates. She is a nurse practitioner who has served as a multi-specialty surgical assistant, with an abiding interest and expertise in the workings of the operating room. She is the author of "OR Circulating in the Outpatient Setting", a hybrid 4-session course designed to teach nurses how to function in the outpatient operating room setting. Her professional background includes ventures in public health research, project management and teaching. In 2016, she served as Clinical Advisor for incoming nurse practitioner students at her alma mater.

In addition to her certification in Legal Nurse Consulting, she is board certified in Family Practice and has earned Master's degrees in both Public Health and Nursing. She is a certified RN First Assistant and certified Operating Room nurse. She served as a surgical assistant on volunteer surgery missions in Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. In 2016, she served on a volunteer team of healthcare providers who traveled to northern Greece to provide critical medical care to persons displaced by conflict in Syria.

She is the recipient of awards for Professional Leadership and Academic Achievement during her graduate nurse training.

Education

- Master of Science, Nursing (MSN), Ambulatory Care
  Western University of Health Sciences 2015
- Master of Public Health (MPH)
  UCLA School of Public Health 2006
- Bachelor of Arts (BA), Psychology
  UC Berkeley 1993
- Associate of Science, Nursing, with Honors
  Albuquerque TVI 2002

Professional Certifications

- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
  Western University of Health Sciences 2015
- Board Certification, Family Nurse Practitioner
  American Association of Nurse Practitioners 2015
- RN First Assistant (RNFA)
  National Institute of First Assisting 2012

Professional Certifications cont'd

Certified Perioperative Nurse (CNOR) — 2010-2030
Competency & Credentialing Institute

Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)
Basic Life Support (BLS) — Current through 2027
American Heart Association

Professional Licensure

Registered Nurse
Nurse Practitioner

State Boards of Nursing
All licenses active
California
Colorado
Nevada
Oregon
South Carolina
Washington

Professional Affiliations

American Association of Nurse Practitioners — 2015-2027
National Alliance of Certified Legal Nurse Consultants — 2024-2027

Professional Experience

RN, OR Circulator

Specialties: Orthopedics, Spine, Pain Mgmt, General, OB/GYN
Parkway Surgery Center, Henderson, NV — 2024-2025
Surgery Center of the Pacific, Santa Monica, CA — 2007-2017
DISC, Marina del Rey, CA
Wilshire SurgiCenter, Beverly Hills, CA
Center for Ambulatory Surgical Treatment, Los Angeles, CA — 2003-2006

- Prepared and maintained OR; readied equipment and supplies
- Monitored patient safety, positioning and comfort during procedures
- Ensured surgical field sterility
- Documented case details and problem solved as needed
- Liaised between surgical team, staff and patient families

NP and Surgical Assistant, Locum Tenens; Orthopedics

Pioneers Medical Center, Meeker, CO — 2026
Tahoe Forest Hospital, Truckee, CA — 2025

- Assisted in surgeries
- Managed outpatient & inpatient care: patient consults, daily rounding, assessments, orders, therapies, assistive devices; care coordination, discharges
- Educated patients and family members
- Collaborated with surgeons, hospitalist, clinical and administrative staff

Professional Experience cont'd

NP and Surgical Assistant, Orthopedics

Santa Monica Orthopedic Group, Cedars-Sinai
Center for Hip & Knee Replacement, Providence St. John's
Santa Monica, CA

2018-2024

- Assessed and diagnosed hip and knee conditions
- Ordered and interpreted diagnostic tests
- Developed treatment plans, including nonsurgical, pre- and postsurgical care
- Assisted in surgeries and prescribed medications, therapies, or assistive devices
- Educated patients on conditions, treatment options and rehabilitation
- Collaborated with surgeons, clinical and administrative staff

RN First Assistant

Specialties: Orthopedics, General, OB/GYN, Neurosurgery
Providence St. John's Health Center, Santa Monica, CA
Sierra View Medical Center, Porterville, CA
Valley Children's Hospital, Madera, CA

2012-2018

- Assisted surgeons with procedures including patient preparation, tissue handling, suturing, and wound closure
- Maintained sterile field and monitored patient condition intraoperatively
- Provided post-operative wound assessment and patient education
- Collaborated with surgical team to ensure optimal outcomes

Clinical RN

Cardiothoracic Telemetry
UCLA Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA

2002-2004

- Assessed, monitored, and managed post-op cardiothoracic surgery patients
- Coordinated care with clinical and administrative staff
- Administered oral, enteral, parenteral therapies; managed IVs, chest tubes, drains, wound care
- Educated patients and families

RN Research Project Manager

Evaluation of "Transforming Care at the Bedside"
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation project
UCLA School of Public Health, Los Angeles, CA

2006-2008

- Coordinated project activities: data collection, analysis, and reporting
- Developed project work plans and monitored task completion
- Managed budget, compliance, and staff hiring/training
- Ensured regulatory compliance with sponsor and human subjects committee

Teaching Experience

Adjunct Faculty

2016

Clinical Advisor, FNP Program
Western University of Health Sciences
College of Graduate Nursing

- Guided student cohort through clinical training and skills evaluation
- Led weekly discussions and evaluated clinical reports
- Interviewed preceptors

Teaching Assistant

2012
2015
2024-2025

Suture and Tying Workshop
National Institute of First Assisting

- Instructed RN First Assist students in suturing, tying and tissue handling
- Supported course coordination, set-up and take-down

Course Creator and Instructor

2012

"OR Circulating in the Outpatient Setting"

- Developed 4-session hybrid course to train RNs in outpatient operating room practice
- Taught principles of patient safety, sterile field monitoring, case flow management, documentation and patient hand-offs

Community Service

OR RN Volunteer, Surgical Missions

2012-2018

Aloha Medical Mission
Faith in Practice
Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua

- Served as scrub and assistant in general, pediatric, and gynecologic surgeries
- Ensured availability and sterilization of surgical instruments

Nurse Practitioner Volunteer, Primary Care Mission

2016

"Project Hermes", Team Rubicon initiative
Elpida Home for Refugees, Thessaloniki, Greece

- Provided acute and chronic care to persons displaced by war in Syria
- Managed communicable diseases, prescribed medications and delivered health education

Presentations

"Layers of Complexity: Reflections on the Elpida Home for Refugees"

Keynote Speaker — 2017
The Orthodox Center for the Advancement of Biblical Studies
Annual Conference, Wichita, KS

Guest Speaker
The Basil P. Caloyeras Center for Modern Greek Studies
Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA

Guest Speaker
Philoptochos Society
St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Los Angeles, CA

**"One Nurse's Experience & Perspective on Nursing &
How You Can Best Meet the Needs of Nurses for the Sake of Patients"**

Guest Speaker — 2006
Library Science Graduate Students
The Department of Library Sciences
UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

Honors and Awards

Awardee — 2015
Professional Leadership Award
Western University of Health Sciences
College of Graduate Nursing

Awardee — 2014
Academic Achievement Award
Western University of Health Sciences
College of Graduate Nursing

Member — 2006
Delta Omega National Public Health Honors Society

Member — 2002
Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society