

LINDA L MITCHELL, D-ABFDE

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Linda Mitchell is a Certified Forensic Document Examiner and Handwriting Expert. To a great extent the work of a document examiner involves the identification or authentication of handwriting; but, there are many other aspects of the profession that can be applied to a document in question. Among them, Linda enjoys deciphering documents containing indented writings, and obliterated content, all of which can be part of a complex multiple-page document examination often found in medical malpractice matters and real estate fraud.

Linda’s laboratory includes state-of-the-art equipment and a full library of reference resources. She provides informative presentations about most aspects of the field document examination for small or large audiences, and is a competent expert witness. Her current professional research is entitled, The Reliability of Hand Printing Identification by the FDE. She initiated this blind study in response to a recent ruling by the 7th District Court disallowing testimony because of the lack of meaningful research on the subject. Linda is also a Notary Public, commissioned in the State of California.

Ms. Mitchell completed her formal apprenticeship in questioned document examination under the direct supervision of Manny Gonzales, who has more than 34 years of professional experience involving most aspects of forensic document examination. (Mr. Gonzales’ CV is available upon request.) Her training conformed to SWGDOG.org guidelines and the Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners (SWAFDE) Training Guidelines (2006) which included training from FBI and Secret Service materials.

EDUCATION

University of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ BS in Criminal Justice Administration	2006-2008
Alliance Forensic Services Internship and Training in Forensic Document Examination 30-month full-time training that conformed to SWGDOC.org guidelines	2008-2011

CERTIFICATION

Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners	2014 – present
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SCOPE OF PRACTICE

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real Estate Transactions • Corporate Investigations • Personal Investigations • Medical Malpractice • Criminal/Civil Litigation • Immigration Matters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Law • Anonymous Letters • Sexual Harassment Defense • Insurance Fraud • Probate Matters |
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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Handwriting and Signature Identification and Authentication
- Development & Decipherment of Indented Writings
- Analysis of Computer-Generated Documents
- Relative Document Dating & Anachronisms
- Photocopier Classification & Identification
- Typewriting Classification & Identification
- Non-destructive Ink & Paper Analyses
- Detection of Altered Documents
- Decipherment of Obliterations
- Expert Witness Testimony
- Photocopy Manipulations
- Counterfeit Detection
- Consulting

SWORN TESTIMONY (5 YEARS)

- Riverside County Superior Court, Judge Omar Sterling, case #IND 1500454
Deposition – Atty. Micheal Vivoli, case #37-2014-00005266-CU-BC-CTL **2015**
- Los Angeles Superior Court, Judge Ralph C. Hofer, case #ED020916
San Diego Superior Court, Judge Ronald S. Prager, case #37-2013-00038575-CU-OR-CTL **2014**
Riverside County Superior Court, Judge Mark E. Peterson, case MVC1400929
San Diego Probate Court, Judge Julia C. Kelety, case# PN29924/ROA #603
- San Diego (North County) Small Claims Court, Comm. Donald L. Armento, case# 37-2013-00301951-SC-SC-NC **2013**
Deposition – Atty. Robert H. Tyler, case# PN-29924
Los Angeles Superior Court, Comm. David Cowan, case# BP132278
San Bernardino Superior Court, Comm. Khymberli S. Apaloo, case# VFLVS 027405
Deposition – Atty. Jim Terrell, case# VFLVS 027405
- San Bernardino Superior Court, Judge Duke R. Rouse, case# FAMSS 1101751 **2012**
San Diego Federal Bankruptcy Court, Judge Laura Taylor, case# 07-02952-T11
Los Angeles Superior Court, Judge Gregory Alarcon, case# LASC 434034
San Diego (North County) Small Claims Court, Comm. Ernest Gross, (Brothers v. Wynn)
Deposition – Atty. Yosina M. Lissebeck, case# 07-02952-T11
- Deposition – Atty. Branden Timboe, case# 37-2010-00087977-CU-BC-CTL **2011**

MEMBERSHIPS

- ABFDE – Diplomat of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners – Newsletter Editor
AAFS - American Academy of Forensic Sciences – Questioned Document Section (Associate)
SWAFDE - Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners
IAI - International Association for Identification – Questioned Documents Section
RCBA - Riverside County Bar Association - Associate
National Notary Association

OTHER ENDEAVORS

- Moot Court Training for the San Diego Sheriff Crime Lab trainees
San Diego County Office of Assigned Counsel Expert
Riverside Counties Office of the Public Defender Expert

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- The Reliability of the FDE in Identification of Hand Printing, A Blind Study** **2015**
AAFS Annual Scientific Session
SWAFDE Annual Conference
ASQDE Annual Conference
- The Anatomy of a Document Examination**
LSI (Legal Secretaries Inc.) Quarterly Conference, Palm Springs, CA **2014**
- An overview of the role of the Forensic Document Examiner**
Lake University, Guest Lecturer for Criminalistics Class Camp Pendleton, CA.
(Marine Gunner, Vincent H. Kyzer, instructor)
- Arabic Signatures on American Documents; Are there Class Characteristics?** **2013**
AAFS - American Academy of Forensic Science Annual Scientific Session
(Ron Morris, Diplomat – ABFDE presented on her behalf)
- Working with a “Document Detective”** **2012**
LSI (Legal Secretaries Inc.) Quarterly Conference, Palm Springs, CA
- Methods for Reassembling Crosscut Shredded Documents**
ASQDE Annual Scientific Session, Charleston, SC
(presented on behalf of Larry A. Olson, Diplomat – ABFDE, IRS lab director, Chicago, IL)
- Training Requirements for the Forensic Document Examiner**
IAI, California Regional Education Conference, San Diego, CA (co-presenter, Manny Gonzales)

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS (CONTINUED)

- The Fraud Investigator and the Forensic Document Examiner** 2012
ACFI (Assoc. of Certified Fraud Investigators) (2 MCLE units) Orange County, CA
(co-presenter Manny Gonzales)
- Is a Notarized Document Genuine?***
Syndicated through Ezine @rticles to NBIZ Magazine
- Evidence Collection for a More Productive Document Examination** 2011
National League of Licensed Investigators, Ontario, CA
(co-presenter Manny Gonzales)
- The Forensic Significance of Handwriting Biometrics***
Published in Digital Forensics Magazine
(co-author Bill Flynn, Diplomate-ABFDE)
- Computer-Generated Altered Document Detection**
SWAFDE, 30th Anniversary Meeting, Scottsdale, AZ
- Forensic Document Examination 101 for the Fraud Examiner**
Orange County Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Irvine, CA
(co-presenter, Manny Gonzales)
- Forensic Document Examination 101 for the Private Investigator**
The Annual Conference of California Association of Licensed Investigators - CALI , Costa Mesa, CA
(co-presenter, Manny Gonzales)
- Training a Forensic Document Examiner; A Trainee's Perspective** 2010
IAI, International Educational Annual Conference (co-presenter, Manny Gonzales), Spokane, WA
- Alleged Alteration of Computer-Generated Documents Resolved?** 2010
IAI, International Educational Annual Conference (co-presenter, Manny Gonzales), Spokane, WA
- Introduction to Forensic Document Examining for Attorneys** 2009
San Diego Public Defenders (MCLE provider units; co-presenter, Manny Gonzales), Vista, CA
- Onsite Infra Red/Ultra Violet Examination of Questioned Documents** 2009
SWAFDE Annual Scientific Session (co-presenter, Manny Gonzales), Los Angeles, CA
- General informational presentations to San Diego Republican Women's Club, Escondido Rotary,
Escondido Chamber of Commerce, Fallbrook Women's Association,
Forensic Expert Witness Association (FEWA San Diego Chapter)

EXAMINED DOCUMENTS & RECENTLY RENDERED CONCLUSIONS ON BEHALF OF:

Fernandez & Karney – Santa Monica
Bonne Bridges et al. – Los Angeles
Kimball, Tirey & St. John LLP – Irvine
Riverside County Public Defender
Caldwell, Kennedy & Porter - Victorville
Musick, Peeler & Garrett – San Diego
Mark V. Santa Romano, Esq. – Los Angeles
Michael Rubin, Esq. – Tarzana
John Cronin, Esq. – Escondido
David J. Estrada, Esq. – Santa Ana
John Staley, Esq. – San Diego Oceanside Unified
School District
California Dept. of Consumer Affairs
Kerrie C. Justice, Esq. – Victorville
Jude Powers, Esq. – Hemet
Our Lady of Soledad Catholic Church – Coachella
Steven A. Ehrlich, Esq. – Irvine
Bellflower School District – Bellflower
James O. Douglass, Esq. – Palm Desert
Christopher Radlinski, Esq. – Temecula
Kyle A Patrick, Esq. - Riverside
Other Private Individuals and Companies

HIGHLIGHTS OF APPROVED CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- AAFS – Annual Scientific Session attended 2007-2012, 2015
- ASQDE – Annual Scientific Meetings attended 2011-2015
- SWAFDE – Annual Conferences attended 2009-2014
- NIST – Measurement Science Standards in Forensic Handwriting Analysis Conference 2013
- ICAP – Annual Education Conference 2012
- FBI/NIJ – Impression and Pattern Evidence Symposium 2012
- Notary Learning Center, Notary Public Mandatory Training 2012
- IAI – Annual Scientific Meeting 2012
- LCI – Methods of Latent Print and Crime Scene Processing 2009
- Escondido Adult Education – Photoshop Applications 2009
- ST²AR FDE Workshop 2008
- SEAK – Expert Witness Conference 2007

ADJUNCTIVE TRAINING

- San Diego Police Department Documents Laboratory, San Diego, CA **2010**
Moot Court with Randy Gibson, Diplomate ABFDE; Hugh Curfman, Diplomate ABFDE; and, Bill Roberts, Esq.
- San Diego Police Department Documents Laboratory, San Diego, CA **2009**
Moot Court with Randy Gibson, Diplomate ABFDE and Hugh Curfman, Diplomate ABFDE
- Moore Document Laboratory, Fair Oaks, CA **2009**
5-day on-the-job training with David Moore, Diplomate ABFDE, former US Army Crime Lab
- Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), Rochester NY **2009**
Printing Process Identification and Image Analysis for Forensic Document Examiners
- McCrone College of Microscopy, Westmont, IL – Microscopy for the Forensic Document Examiner **2006**

A full list of Continuing Education is available upon request

Following are full names represented by the acronyms above:

AAFS – American Academy of Forensic Sciences, multi-disciplinary professional organization that provides leadership to advance science and its application to the legal system. Highly regarded among forensic experts; membership in FDE section is vetted.

ASQDE – American Society of Questioned Documents Examiners, the oldest and largest organization in the world dedicated to the profession of forensic document examination. Strict membership requirements.

SWAFDE – Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners, a regional organization of FDE's; membership is vetted.

NIST – National Institute of Science and Technology

ICAP – Inland Counties Association of Paralegals

IAI – International Association for Identification, oldest and largest forensic association in the world. Membership in the QD section is vetted.

LCI Services– Lewis Consulting and Investigative Training, Inc., a for-profit law enforcement training company.

ST²AR – Skill Task Training Assessment Research, Inc., training, testing and research provided for a fee by ABFDE certified Forensic Document Examiners with the express goal of advancing the forensic sciences.

SEAK – Skills, Education, Achievement, Knowledge, a for profit continuing education, consulting and publishing company.