



Grant R. Sperry

Forensic Document Examiner

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Responsibilities as a Forensic Document Examiner

Primary responsibilities include the examination and comparison of known and questioned handwriting, hand printing, and machine produced documents for the purpose of identifying or eliminating an individual or machine as the source of the questioned material. Additional examinations involve altered, obliterated, dated, erased, charred, water soaked, and indented documents. Educated and experienced in digital image acquisition and processing. When requested, written reports of findings are prepared and testimony with demonstrative exhibits are provided at judicial or non-judicial proceedings.

Continuous Professional Experience

Forensic Document Examiner (private practice), Germantown, TN, 1993 to Present

Forensic Document Examiner and Manager with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service Forensic Lab, Memphis, TN, 1992 to 2006

Forensic Document Examiner with the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory System, 1979 to 1992
(Assignments at Ft. Gordon, GA; Ft. Gillem, GA and Frankfurt, Germany)

Key Accomplishments:

- Examined questioned and known documents in conjunction with thousands of criminal and civil cases submitted by attorneys, corporations, all branches of the U.S. Department of Defense, NATO forces and numerous other Federal, State and local investigative agencies.
- Provided expert testimony on hundreds of occasions in federal, state and military courts. Conducted over one million comparative examinations.

Court Testimony and Quality Assurance

Qualified and testified as an expert witness in the scientific field of Forensic Document Examination and Digital Imaging. In excess of 345 occasions in Army, Navy, Marine, and Air Force courts; Federal District courts, International courts, and numerous state courts.

Technical reviews of examinations periodically reviewed for accuracy. Third party proficiency testing is taken on an annual basis.

Related Investigative Experience

Conducted and resolved numerous fraud and economic crime investigations as a Criminal Investigation Agent (CID) and Military Police Investigator between 1973 and 1979.

Received extensive formal training in economic crime investigation through Department of Defense funded courses and seminars.

Training

Completed:

- Two year structured (in-residence) training course in the Examination of Questioned Documents at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory, Ft. Gordon, GA., November 1980. Continuous training and experience since 1985 in the forensic applications of Digital Image Processing.
- U.S. Secret Service Questioned Document Course, Washington, D. C.
- Federal Bureau of Investigation Fundamentals of Document Examination Course, Quantico, VA.

Participated in and Received Training at:

- Georgia Bureau of Investigation Laboratory, Atlanta, GA
- Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory, Washington, D. C.
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police Laboratory, Montreal, Canada
- International Symposium of Questioned Document Examiners, Washington, D.C.
- Immigration and Naturalization Service Laboratory, Washington, D. C.
- Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Laboratory, Washington, D. C.
- Bureau of Printing and Engraving, Washington, D.C.
- First European Conference of Handwriting Experts, Wiesbaden, Germany
- Rochester Institute of Technology (Digital Image Processing), Rochester, NY
- Mead Paper Knowledge Seminar, Chillicothe, OH
- FBI Digital Image Processing Seminar, Las Vegas, NV

Continuing Education received on an annual basis through attendance and participation at numerous conferences, training seminars and workshops of recognized forensic organizations such as:

- American Academy of Forensic Sciences
- American Society of Questioned Document Examiners
- Southeastern Association of Forensic Document Examiners
- American Board of Forensic Document Examiners (ABFDE)
- American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM)

Engaged in ongoing research and study in the field of Forensic Document Examination, presenting results at professional meetings and seminars. Lectured on forensic document examination subject matter throughout North America and Europe at conferences, workshops and training seminars attended by judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, investigators and civil service personnel.

Professional Certifications

Certified as a **“Questioned Document Examiner”** by the U.S. Department of the Army and Criminal Investigation Command (CID), November 1980.

Certified by examination through the **American Board of Forensic Document Examiners (D-ABFDE)** and awarded diplomat status as a certified Forensic Document Examiner. Re-certification maintained through continuing education credits.

Publications (In Peer Reviewed Journals)

“Applying Specific Digital Enhancement Techniques to ESDA-Developed Impressions,” Journal of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners, Vol. 4, No. 1, June 2001

“Survey of Handwriting Habit Areas Used by Forensic Document Examiners: Degree of Use and Discriminatory Power,” Journal of American Society of Questioned Document Examiners, Vol. 2, No. 1, January 1999

“Platen Information Revealed: A Technique of Locating Latent Test on Typewriter (or Printer) Platens,” Journal of Forensic Sciences, JFS, Vol. 39, No 1, January 1994

(Numerous unpublished technical papers presented at workshops, conferences and seminars)

Professional Associations

American Society of Questioned Document Examiners, Past President
American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Fellow, Questioned Documents Section
Charter member of the Scientific Working Group on Imaging Technologies
Southeastern Association of Forensic Document Examiners, Member
American Board of Forensic Document Examiners (ABFDE), Past Director

Education

Bachelor of Science Degree, University of the State of New York, Albany, NY
Graduate studies through Central Michigan University