

LINDA L MITCHELL, D-ABFDE

Mailing Address: 243 S. Escondido Boulevard #550, Escondido, CA 92025-4116 | 888.760.0339

Lab Address: 260 S. Orange Street #10, Escondido, CA 92025 | 760.310.1279 | forensicqde@gmail.com

Riverside Office: 7121 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504



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 up-to-date 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, to be published in June 2016 in the Journal of the American Society of Forensic Document Examiners, is entitled, *A Blind Study of the Reliability of Hand Printing Identification by the Forensic Document Examiner*. She initiated this 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 35 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

2008-2011

30-month full-time training that conformed to SWGDOG.org guidelines

CERTIFICATION

Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners

2014 – present

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

- Real Estate Transactions
- Family Law
- Corporate Investigations
- Anonymous Letters
- Personal Investigations
- Sexual Harassment Defense
- Medical Malpractice
- Insurance Fraud
- Probate Matters
- Criminal/Civil Litigation

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)

Deposition - Atty. Danielle Doremus, case# RG14718709 Riverside Superior Court, Family - Comm. Eric V. Isaac, RID204171 Orange County Central Superior Court - Judge Mary Fingal Schulte, 30-2015-00782508-CU-BC-CJC	2016
San Diego Probate Court – Judge Gregory W. Pollock, 37-2013-00038575-CU-OR-CTL Deposition – Atty. Ronald K. Giller, case #BC517236 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 Riverside County Superior Court, Judge Mark E. Peterson, case MVC1400929 San Diego Probate Court, Judge Julia C. Kelety, case# PN29924/ROA #603	2014
San Diego (North County) Small Claims Court, Comm. Donald L. Armento, case# 37-2013-00301951-SC-SCNC 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	2013
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	2012

MEMBERSHIPS

ABFDE – Diplomat of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners – Board of Directors
AAFS - American Academy of Forensic Sciences – Questioned Document Section (Associate)
ASQDE – American Society of Questioned Document Examiners (Provisional)
SWAFDE - Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners
RCBA - Riverside County Bar Association - Associate
NNA - National Notary Association

OTHER ENDEAVORS

California Secretary of State – Voter Fraud Examiner
Moot Court Training for the San Diego Sheriff Crime Lab trainees
San Diego County Office of Assigned Counsel Expert Riverside
County Office of the Public Defender Expert
Fresno County Office of the Public Defender Expert

PUBLICATIONS 2009-PRESENT

The Reliability of the FDE in Identification of Hand Printing, A Blind Study
This paper has been accepted for publication in the Journal of ASQDE, June 2016

AAFS Annual Scientific Session
SWAFDE Annual Conference
ASQDE Annual Conference

Is a Notarized Document Genuine?

Syndicated through Ezine @rticles to NBIZ Magazine

The Forensic Significance of Handwriting Biometrics

Published in Digital Forensics Magazine
(co-author Bill Flynn, Diplomat-ABFDE)

PRESENTATIONS 2009-PRESENT

The Anatomy of a Document Examination

LSI (Legal Secretaries Inc.) Quarterly Conference, Palm Springs, CA

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?

AAFS - American Academy of Forensic Science Annual Scientific Session
(Ron Morris, Diplomat – ABFDE presented on her behalf)

Working with a “Document Detective”

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)

The Fraud Investigator and the Forensic Document Examiner

ACFI (Assoc. of Certified Fraud Investigators) (2 MCLE units) Orange County, CA
(co-presenter Manny Gonzales)

Evidence Collection for a More Productive Document Examination

National League of Licensed Investigators, Ontario, CA (co-presenter Manny Gonzales)

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

IAI, International Educational Annual Conference (co-presenter, Manny Gonzales), Spokane, WA

Alleged Alteration of Computer-Generated Documents Resolved?

IAI, International Educational Annual Conference (co-presenter, Manny Gonzales), Spokane, WA

Introduction to Forensic Document Examining for Attorneys

San Diego Public Defenders (MCLE provider units; co-presenter, Manny Gonzales), Vista, CA

Onsite Infrared/Ultra Violet Examination of Questioned Documents

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:

Tulare County Sheriff’s Department
Vivoli Sacuzzo, LLP - San Diego
Fernandez & Karney – Santa Monica
Bonne Bridges et al. – Los Angeles
Kimball, Tirey & St. John LLP – Irvine
Riverside County Public Defender
Schena & Small, San Diego
Caldwell, Kennedy & Porter - Victorville
Musick, Peeler & Garrett – San Diego
Mark V. Santa Romano, Esq. – Los Angeles
Michael Rubin, Esq. – Tarzana
JD Hall, Esq. - American Samoa
David J. Estrada, Esq. – Santa Ana

Fresno County Office of the Public Defender
Oceanside Unified School District
CA Dept. of Consumer Affairs
Kerrie C. Justice, Esq. – Victorville
Steven A. Ehrlich, Esq. – Irvine
Bellflower School District – Bellflower
James O. Douglass, Esq. – Palm Desert
Christopher Radlinski, Esq. – Temecula
Kyle A Patrick, Esq. - Riverside
Robert W. Pederzani, Esq. - Newport Beach
Many other Private Individuals, Attorneys and
Companies

HIGHLIGHTS OF APPROVED CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- AAFS – Annual Scientific Session attended 2007-2012, 2015-2016
- ASQDE – Annual Scientific Meetings attended 2011-2015
- Texas A&M – Foundations of Fingerprint Comparison 2015
- SWAFDE – Annual Conferences attended 2009-2015
- NIST – Measurement Science Standards in Forensic Handwriting Analysis Conference 2013, 2015
- ICAP – Annual Education Conference 2012
- FBI/NIJ – Impression and Pattern Evidence Symposium 2012
- Notary Public Mandatory Training 2012, 2016
- 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**

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.