



# Under the Microscope

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Newsletter of IADE

2018

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## DAUBERT EDITORIAL

I am currently preparing for a Daubert Hearing because a judge in an upcoming case does not believe that a handwriting examiner can be of assistance to him in a pending case. He does not believe that handwriting identification is a valid science and that a handwriting examiner can demonstrate the authenticity or spuriousness of handwriting.

Since I always give my clients the qualifying questions for court, I am revising them for the upcoming case by adding questions to bring out the importance of handwriting identification. I will also be sharing my work with my students on my Monday night classes.

I began by writing the answers that I need to give in court. From the answers, I was able to write the questions. I started with basic qualifying questions about my career and interspersing questions related to why handwriting identification is important.

My first Daubert-related question is, "How can testimony by a document examiner assist the court?" My next question is, "Why does it require a handwriting examiner to determine if a handwriting is genuine, disguised or simulated?"

One of the reasons for skepticism is the fact that document examiners will come up with different opinions so that some cases have examiners on both sides of a case. I wrote an article several years ago entitled *Fifteen Reasons that Document Examiners Disagree*. There are basically three issues for differences. The first issue resolves around the training that an examiner has received. Unfortunately, there is no standard training method. Many examiners are being trained by people who do not understand handwriting.

The second issue is related to the documentation given to an examiner. Both sides of a case may be using different comparison documents. This is the reason why we always want to have everything that an opposing examiner reviewed in cases where we are opposed.

The third issue concerns cognitive bias that can occur when an examiner finds in favor of his client because of the task he was given by the client. This is one of the reasons for obtaining a peer-review from an independent document examiner. And part of this issue is the fact that some experts are hired guns.

We must all be prepared to address these issues when we testify.

*Kathie*



# High-tech Pen Allows Handwriting Identification

## By Bill Koppenhaver

The Bio-Pen should be able to identify someone by their signature, but a hands-on demonstration showed up some glitches.

Signing on the dotted line could soon become a way to digitally authenticate oneself, according to one company that has started selling a USB-connected pen that they claim can identify a user from the pressure and velocity of their handwriting.

Secure Signature Systems (SSS) demonstrated its Bio-Pen at the InfoSecurity Europe conference in London.

“The way you write is individual to you,” said an assistant at SSS’s stand at InfoSecurity Europe. “With this you can log into computers or use it for access control over restricted areas.”

The software application that comes with the pen has to record the writer’s signature three or four time before it can identify them from their writing style. SSS, which is targeting European markets with the product, said the data recorded by the pen could help companies to track user behavior on their systems.

A single Bio-pen, complete with USB lead and software, will cost £199 (\$227.42), but prices escalate for companies who want to deploy several of them around their organization.

## Janice Faye Leach



**Winter Park, Florida** – Janice Faye Leach, 75, died peacefully in her sleep on Thursday, August 9, 2018. She was born in Albany, NY to the late James Leach, Sr. and Jane Leach. Jan, to all who knew her, was a graduate of Taylor University with a Bachelor of Arts degree and from University of California, Fullerton with a Master of Arts degree in Communication.

After graduation she taught high school in New York and Puerto Rico and then at the University of Alabama – Huntsville. Later, Jan established Janus College and Career Services, Inc. in Winter Park in 1985 and did testing and coaching of young people for admission to colleges. Later the business did placement of college graduates into positions with major businesses in the United States. In the last decade she concentrated on Forensic Document

Examination and testified on behalf of clients through her Janus Document Examination business. She was a Certified Questioned Document Examiner.

She is survived by brother James R. Leach, Jr. and wife Janet of Albany, NY, sisters Jacquelyn Whinnery Miller and husband Robert Miller of Huntsville, Alabama; Judith Piromalli and husband Bruno Piromalli of Altamonte Springs, Florida, and longtime partner, Victor Soto of Orlando, Florida as well as numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

The family would like to thank the Hospice of the Comforter for their loving care and attention given to Jan. Memorials can be made to the Hospice of the Comforter, 480 W Central Pkwy, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

A memorial service will be held at a future date. Condolences may be sent to Janus Document Examination, 222 W. Comstock Avenue, Suite 201, Winter Park, FL 32789.

## BOARD MEMBERS

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# The Book Shelf



## Document Verification and Currency Transaction Manual

By Frank Abagnale,  
Published by Abagnale and Associates  
Reviewed by Katherine Koppenhaver

Frank Abagnale was once a con artist who passed \$2.5 million in fraudulent checks in five years. He is now an authority on check fraud and has spent over 40 years assisting financial institutions in preventing check fraud. He works for the FBI and now he is presenting lectures through AARP in 15 states a year.

According to the Foreword of this manual, "Frank Abagnale has created this publication as a guide for document and currency verification." Since payment by check or credit card is most common, document examiners should know what can be forged and counterfeited and how it can be done. Frank Abagnale gives us this information in this manual.

This manual contains chapters on Hot Checks, Forgeries, Government Checks, Counterfeit Money, Traveler's Checks/Money Orders/Credit Cards, Driver's License and Plate Display, and Armed Robbery/Short-Change Artist. It also includes a Directory that provides phone numbers to various offices of the FBI, Secret Service, State Police and Motor Vehicle Registration Offices.

Beginning with the chapter on Hot Checks, Mr. Abagnale discusses the meaning of various numbers on checks and safety features with specific tips to help identify fraudulent checks. For example, counterfeit checks generally are not perforated on one side. All checks except government checks are perforated on at least one side.

Mr. Abagnale covers various types of forgeries and what to look out for when examining a suspicious check. He explains the Federal Reserve Bank System and Bank Routing Numbers. He discusses color copiers and how to spot photocopied checks. Safety paper is another area that is addressed with examples. Mr. Abagnale reviews various other safety features that modern checks and negotiable instruments incorporate to guard against counterfeiting. A special section is devoted to government checks. He talks about credit card features as well.

Each section is graphically illustrated. This is most useful for the section devoted to examples of all of the driver's licenses for North America.

The book comes in a binder so that pages can be inserted and removed. Each year Abagnale and Associates gives book owners an opportunity to update their driver's license section for a modest fee.

This book is an excellent reference book for document examiners as it covers forgery techniques and illustrates genuine checks and check features that every DE should reference and can be purchased from Frank Abagnale & Associates, P.O. Box 701290, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74170. His phone number is 800-237-7443. Mr. Abagnale also has other material available for training purposes such as You Catch a Thief Training Video which was shown at the 1996 NADE Conference. Slide Charts for Checks and Currency contain a condensed version of his check features information.

I had the pleasure of attending a lecture presented by Mr. Abagnale. IADE will be listening to the lecture I attended during our upcoming seminar.

## Membership

### 2018 Information

(March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019)

Application Fee \$25.00

Dues \$100.00 Individual  
(Annual – Prorated)

Lab \$100.00 First Individual  
\$50.00 Additional Individuals

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Deadline for next issue

October 18, 2018



The International Association of Document Examiners (IADE) was incorporated on January 7, 2015 in Maryland. Kathie Koppenhaver is the resident agent and President of the organization. Kathy Carlson is Vice President, Beth Chrisman is Secretary, and William Smith is Treasurer.

# West Rock Paper Company

## By Jeff Chadney

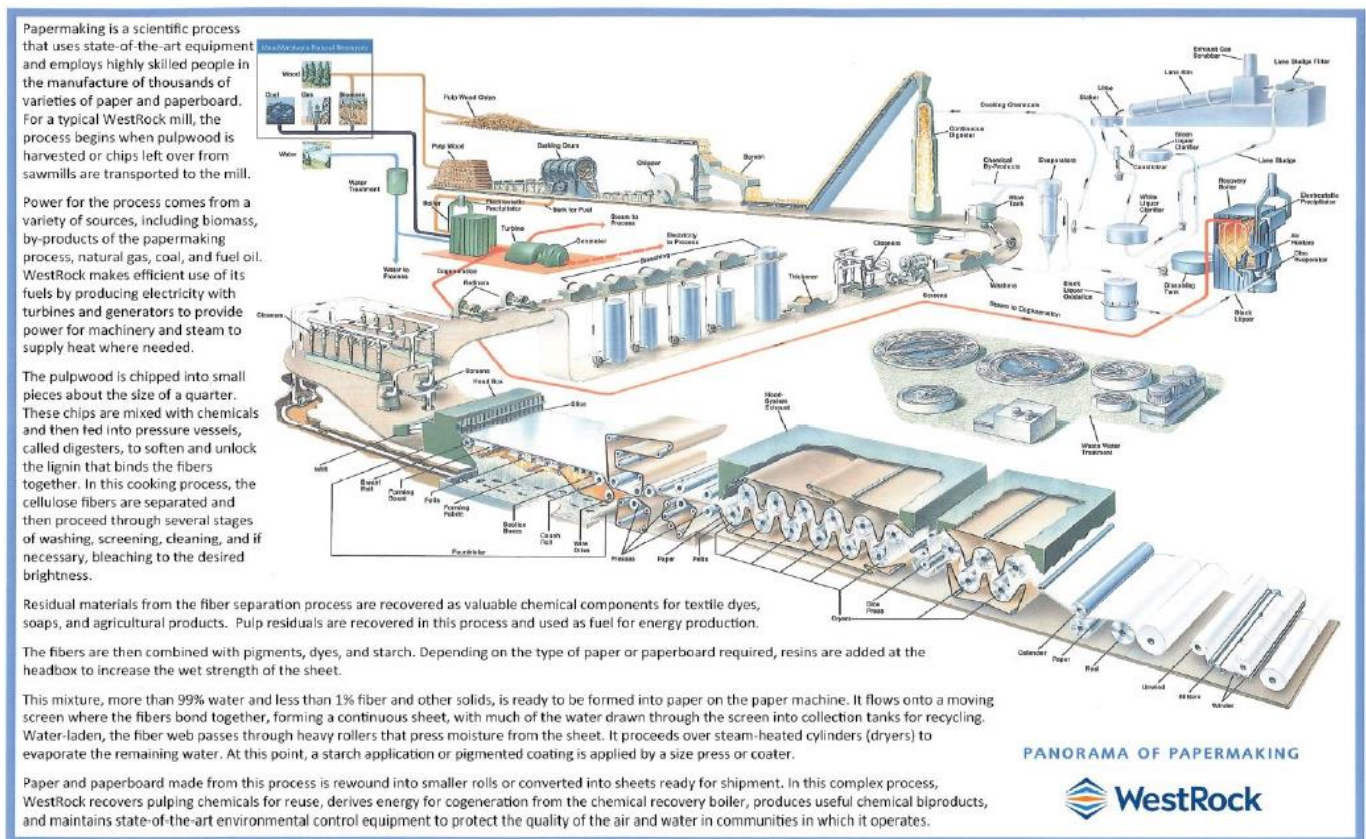
On October 24, 2017 I went to the West Rock Paper Company (formerly Mead WestVaco) in Evadale, Jasper County, Texas. I met with Penny Sullivan (Manager-Human Resources) and she gave me a tour of the facility.

This facility is one of three paper mills in the United States, West Rock (Evadale) is the largest. The plant employs 1700 employees, and brings approximately 250 million dollars back into the local community. It produces 700,000 pounds of paperboard daily.

I had to watch a safety video, don a hard hat and safety glasses prior to debarking on my journey through the facility. We toured the entire process from the wet area where timber is stacked and watered prior to debarking, the chipping and cleaning. The chips are then placed in boilers which are more like pressure cookers, and certain materials are extracted and the product comes out to be pulp.

The pulp is further refined, and flattened into a sheet like material. At this point coating is added in two of the four paper machines, where it is spun unto rolls, and cut to the customers dimensions. It is then wrapped and shipped either by truck or rail to the customer.

Some of the end users are Starbucks (white paperboard coffee cups), and Coca Cola cups, fruit juice boxes. The tour was informative and aside from the smell (odor is not toxic) it was a great experience.



USED WITH PERMISSION

# Q & A

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWER:

ESDA stands for Electrostatic Detection Apparatus. It is a specialized piece of equipment commonly used in questioned document examination to reveal indentations or impressions in paper that may otherwise go unnoticed. It is a non-destructive technique (will not damage the evidence in question), allowing further tests to be carried out. It is a sensitive technique capable of detecting indentations on pages several layers below the top sheet and many years after the indentations were created.

**How can you detect indented writing?**

Answer will be in the next issue.

## *Tips and Tactics*

“Challenges to professional experience should be met with a knowledge of the literature and affirmations of the worth of your own experience.”

~Stanley L. Brodsky, *Testifying in Court*, p. 26



**IADE**  
International Association  
of Document Examiners

**CONFERENCE/SEMINAR**

**PAGES**

### Fourth Annual IADE Seminar / Workshop 2018 August 24 and 25, 2018 Via Webinar

An intimate training experience for novice, student, or seasoned professionals.

Download the Registration Form (printable PDF). Complete the form and mail or scan and email (instructions for submitting the Registration Form are included on the form).

This year's seminar training will include:

**Registration Form**

Paper Forensics — various topics of paper including the dots we see under magnification

Beverly East — Identifying Signatures without Exemplars

Eue Kam Tay — Mandarin Handwriting

Beth Chrisman — A Comparison of Standards: ASTM, SWGDOC and SAFE

Bill Smith — Technology & Equipment, Apps for Computers and Phones

Bill Koppenhaver — Workshop on Wills

Kathie Koppenhaver — Daubert and its Challenges

Stump the Panel — Discussion on Hard Attorney Questions

Roxanne Brand — PowerPoint Demonstration: How to Use PP to Make an Exhibit

Kathie Koppenhaver — Workshop on Photocopies or Originals