



Under the Microscope

Vol. 5, No. 3

Newsletter of IADE

2019

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BEING PUBLISHED EDITORIAL

Being a published author is one of the most important criteria for an expert witness. Writing increases your marketability. It gives you more presence. It helps to validate you as an expert in your field. Attorneys prefer to work with the expert “who wrote the book.”

However, every expert is not going to write a book and have it published. In fact, it is difficult to find a publisher who will handle a book and pay royalties for the privilege of publishing it. Some experts will self-publish but that is expensive and time-consuming.

Writing journal articles is also an asset to an expert. These articles could be published in a trade journal in the field of forensics or in a field whose members use the services of a document examiner.

There are many topics of interest in our field. Is there a technique that you have applied to a case that would assist other document examiners? Have you had an unusual case or an unusual situation that would be worth sharing? Is there new technology available that our members should utilize? Any research in the field would also be valuable information to share with other document examiners.

If you find it difficult to write, then take a course in technical writing from your local college or collaborate with a colleague. I think that many of our members who publish would be willing to assist you. I know that I am. Modern methods of communication make it easy to work together even though we do not live near each other.

There should be so many members wanting to be published that we cannot accommodate all those who submit articles. Consider writing an article for publication. Doing so will enrich your colleagues in IADE and enhance your image as a professional.

Kathie

HIGH TECH SOLUTIONS

MODERN METHODS OF PRESENTING EXHIBITS IN COURT

By Kathie Koppenhaver

Most document examiners may be familiar with recent innovations in technology that has made it easier for expert witnesses to present exhibits in court when testifying. This a reminder of some of these methods.

SCANNING

Scanners attached to computers enable document examiners to scan their exhibits into the computer, enlarge them, rearrange them, label them and print them in one operation. This method is easy but labor- intensive and requires training in a software program used to manipulate data. Photoshop is the most well-known program of this type. There are others equally good.

POWER POINT PRESENTATION

Power Point is a program that enables one to present a digital display with color, text, graphics, animation and video. A document examiner can insert exhibits into a Power Point Presentation to be used in conjunction with his court testimony. Modern courtrooms will have an LCD projector available for use with a computer. You will need to bring a laptop to court or make certain that one is available that can read the file. Prepare copies of your exhibits that can be admitted in court and attached to the record.

ELMOS

An Elmo is a device that captures the image of anything that you put on its stage. This includes printed documents, photographs, charts, graphs and even three-dimensional objects. They are then viewed via LCD panels, large screens or TV data monitors

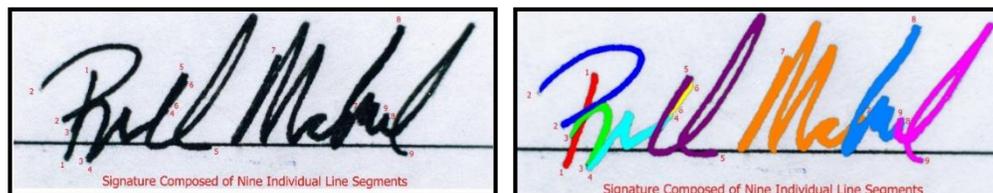
VIDEOS

Video demonstrations represent another new visual aid useful in the courtroom. Document examiners can set up a microscopic video camera in court and project an image onto a computer screen or a monitor. Since the device is projecting and not recording, photographs should be prepared for the record to memorialize the testimony. The device can also be integrated with files from a computer.

Once the photographs or photocopies are selected as exhibits, you must decide what method you want to use to display your exhibits. You may prepare hand-held enlargements; transparencies for overhead projectors, power point with LCD projectors, or large charts on easels. Power point presentations are the most modern method for creating exhibits and they are easy to prepare. Make sure that you have copies of your exhibits that can be entered into the court record. A copy of your power point presentation needs to be created for the court record.

Federal courts have upgraded their equipment. These courtrooms are equipped with annotation monitors that allow witnesses to mark an exhibit. Having the opportunity to use such a device has been an interesting experience. You use your finger to mark the screen to demonstrate your findings. The marks that you make can be saved. To erase the marks, you tap on the screen three times.

Which exhibit gives a clearer illustration of the problems with the signature?



A different color for each segment of the signature clearly shows the problems with the signature.

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The Book Shelf



Membership

2019 Information

(March 1, 2019 through February 29, 2020)

Application Fee \$25.00

Dues \$100.00 Individual
(Annual – Prorated)

Lab \$100.00 First Individual
\$50.00 Additional Individuals

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
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Newsletter

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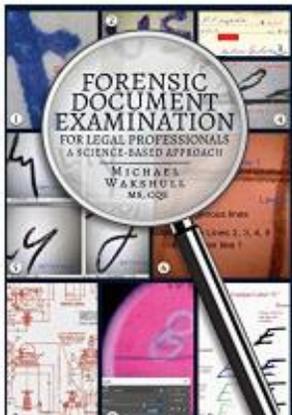
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Deadline for next issue
November 18, 2019



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.



“Forensic Document Examination for Legal Professionals”

A Science-Based Approach

By Michael Wakshull, MS, CQE

Reviewed by Robert Baier, CQDE, CFDE

As the title states this book is an excellent resource for attorneys who are working with questioned document cases. It covers every aspect of document examination giving the attorney a full understanding of the profession and what document examiners do from A to Z. However, in the reverse, the information in this recent 2019 release can be readily used by the professional in the field, as an excellent guide for themselves, as well as a resource to assist their attorney with a case.

Court cases/citations are interspersed throughout the 17 individual chapters giving everyone a clear understanding of Federal and State “Rules, Laws and Rulings” of past document examination cases. The attorneys will have many court citations at their fingertips for their questioned document cases.

Mr. Wakshull is a practicing civil and criminal court qualified forensic document examiner in the state of California who gives many personal stories of what he has experienced in his profession. All the while using these stories to assist the reader to more easily understand the information he was attempting to explain at that moment.

The author’s command of the English language, his use of perfect wording, along with his more than 75 Figures/Images make it incredibly easy to understand everything he is explaining.

For the attorney and yet probably even more so for the professional in Chapter 10 “The future of document examination” there is in depth coverage of some of the latest challenges in the field such as signatures on digital tablets, electronic signatures on real estate and other documents, scanned files and photographs, PDF files and Email.

In support of his explanations, he uses quotes and excerpts from books of those forefathers who have come before us in the field of document examination.

In some of his prior cases Mr. Wakshull fully explains, along with images, how he solved these cases using different pieces of equipment and types of software.

Continued on page 4

Q & A

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWER:

The two words in the English language that contain all of the vowels in order are "abstemious" and "facetious." What do these words mean? Abstemious means temperate and usually refers to eating and drinking in moderation and facetious means playful or humorous.

What is a tittle?

Answer will be in the next issue.

If you would like to submit an answer, contact the editor. See page 3.

HELP! HELP! HELP!

Dear Members,

We have a real need for articles. If you would like to submit an article for the newsletter, please contact me at ...

DianaJ.Mears@comcast.net

The Deadline is January 18, 2020

griffonage n. (*plural* griffonages)

1. (rare) Careless handwriting; A crude or illegible Origin French
<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/griffonage>

Compliments of Dr. Ray K. Berweger

IADE members, if you want your photo to go on the website with your contact information, please submit it to [Diana J. Mears](mailto:DianaJ.Mears) soon. We'd like to have them up by the end of the year.



Tips and Tactics

“Good definitions are necessary but not sufficient bases for answering fundamental questions. Broader conceptual understanding is needed.”

~Stanley L. Brodsky, *Testifying in Court*, p. 49

**IADE's
Sixth Annual
Conference
to be determined.
Coming 2020**

Continued from page3

This book is a “Must Have” for attorneys who deal in cases with questioned documents. It is also an excellent up to date resource for every professional document examiner. The book is beautifully written and everything is succinctly stated with clear explanations and photographs. This book is a good contribution to the document examination community and should be a part of every professional's library.

This book can be purchased on Amazon.com for \$22.84 or Barnes and Noble.



The 5th Annual IADE Conference in Montego Bay, Jamaica 2019

Coming back to Jamaica was a great honor for me on a personal level. Anyone that comes to my birthplace and loves it - fills my heart with joy! Last month was no exception!

My goal was to “up my game” from the 2015 conference hosted in Jamaica by providing both cultural material and higher subject matter. I wanted to elevate the conference with stronger substance for all of us to learn and grow from. I attended both NADE and SAFE this year and our content level far exceeded the other organizations.

Getting great speakers without pay was a challenge but, I was fortunate to get several. We stayed within our budget (I think). Although, I do not have the final figures. I fought long and hard with the hotel as we did not meet our quota. I have written to the corporate office of the Hilton group in making my complaints.

The IADE conference was featured in our national newspaper, The Jamaica-Gleaner, in the business section. Please check out the following link when you have a moment. <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20190910/document-examiners-conference-montego-bay-week>.

The Hilton Rose Hall Resort and Spa is a lovely property to return to. However, there were some “hiccups” outside of my control (A/C not working, moving from one room to another which made no difference to our comfort). I believe, I delivered and most attendees were content.

At the airport, I arranged the “Diplomat Welcome Meet and Greet Service” for attendees to sail through the long lines of immigration and customs. After a long flight who wants to stand in line?

We began with a welcome reception which I thought was important as most people were traveling on 9/11. Some people had already arrived and had a chance to relax and test the lovely blue sea. A pannist named Sadiki delivered our National Anthem on the steel pan drum and a moment of silence was observed. Unfortunately, we had to relocate into an inside space as rain clouds were looming. But, an impromptu Karaoke session was steered by Sharon Hampton and Patricia and Larry Sigel.

The conference started with Robert Farr – soft spoken and direct on the “Points of Truth” and how to connect the dots in the work we do. As a former investigator, he guided us through two cases.

The highlight of the conference, for me, was the presence of Brigadier General, Rebecca “Becky” Halstead a tiny woman with a powerful message. Although, she knew very little about document examination the focus of her presentation, “Steadfast Leadership”, was on ethics and how we lead ourselves. I believe it is necessary to keep us on our toes. She received a standing ovation!

Patricia Siegel brought a wealth of knowledge on an area that is relevant with her presentation “The Physiological Influences on Handwriting”. So much so, that one of the attendees have decided to make it her “niche area”.

Bob Baier, from New York, gave a remote presentation since he was unable to attend this year. He gave us some valuable information and advice about additional documents being thrown out at the last minute. His presentation was titled, “Closed Case: A Learning Experience”.

“Handling Questions in Cross Examination When Challenged for Not Belonging to Specific Organizations” was presented by Kathie Koppenhaver. It was good (although I missed most of it sorting out the A/C with the hotel). It informed us how to defend ourselves from the myths we often encounter in court.

The Poster Session gave those not attending an opportunity to showcase specific cases. Thank you to all who contributed and to Kathy Carlson who put it all together.

On day two, we were taken into the digital world by David Witzke regarding “A Digital Look at Questioned Documents”. We were able to learn remotely as he was in Portugal at another conference. Very technical, but as this is the next wave of fraud - we better get on board with the digital age!

Sharon Hampton made us think outside the box by introducing us to “Defining and Finding False Knowns Within a Document Examination”. She also closed the session with a soulful rendition of Amazing Grace.

Beth Chrisman commanded the attention with her well prepared presentation on “Cognitive Bias and Document Examiners”.

To follow was an energetic panel discussion, opened to all, on “Scientific vs Technical: What is Our Profession”. It was well received and argued from many angles. A special thanks goes to our panel members; Beth Chrisman, Kathy Carlson, and Kathie Koppenhaver.

“Simplified Signatures and Complex Signatures” presented by Diana Mears was a very lively interactive presentation that was well needed by the third day.

Our local presenters were . . .

Warren Williams an investigator with INDECOM gave us insight into various cases where handwriting analysis has been important in solving those cases.

One of the most respected judges on the island, Justice David Batts, gave a humorous and informative presentation from a judge’s perspective titled, “The Forensic Scientific and Judicial Expectation”.

Caroline Hay, QC (Queen’s Counsel) delivered quite an instructive presentation, “The Handwriting Expert – The Prosecutor’s Perspective”. Her team of junior associates from Hay Law, Kalisia Miller and Neco Pagon navigated Moot Court with their well-prepared, hard hitting cross examinations.

Finally, there were people behind the scenes who were instrumental in making the conference a success. I am in debt to them all; to Bill Smith for holding the purse and sending out funds, to Roxanne Brand for assisting me throughout the planning and helping Bob Baier in setting up his virtual presentation, and to Bryan Sydnor for assisting me with all the technical deficiencies that the hotel staff was incapable of fixing. Also, for jumping in to “break the ice” of the moot court session. Bravo Bryan!

I believe the conference was a success based on the evaluations received! Thanks to all for this opportunity. I look forward to a London conference at which year the organization chooses.

Beverley East
2019 IADE Conference Chair

JAMAICA





CONFERENCE/SEMINAR PAGES

Pictures from SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2019



IADE ANNUAL CONFERENCE JAMAICA

Hilton Rose Hall Resort



Conference Attendees



Getting ready for Moot Court



Pat Seigel – Moot Trial
Beverley East as judge,
Neco G. Pagon & Kalisia B. Miller
as court team.



Sharon Hampton – Moot Trial
Beverley East as judge,
Neco G. Pagon & Kalisia B. Miller
as court team.



Beverley East introducing Rebecca "Becky" Halstead Brigadier General, US Army, Retired



Becky Presenting "Steadfast Leadership"



Beverley thanking Becky for coming to our conference.



Becky & Kathy Carlson



Beth Chrisman & Becky



Sharon Hampton & Becky



← Sharon Hampton
"Don't believe everything you think"
This was her father's mantra
~Robert G. Young, Sr.~
b. 5/25/23 d. 5/5/05

Diana Mears
Presenting "Simplified Signatures and Complex Signatures" →





Warren Williams presenting
“Experts and Oversight Bodies Nexus”



Beth Chrisman presenting
“Cognitive Bias and Document Examiners”



Kathie Koppenhaver, IADE President (L)
Beverley East, IADE 2019 Conference Chair
Kathy S. Carlson, IADE Vice President (R)



BEVERLEY



The Scientific Journal
of the
International Association
of Document Examiners

If you would like to submit an article
for the journal contact
Kathie Koppenhaver
at fordocexam@aol.com
by November 30, 2019.

Please submit more pictures of the conference
and I will put them in the next issue.
Attendee comments regarding conference also
welcome. Due by November 18, 2019.

~[Diana J. Mears, Editor](#)