

**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 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, was published in the Journal of the American Society of Forensic Document Examiners, June 2016, 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 and has also been selected by the Office of the Secretary of State as the examiner for voter fraud for the 2016 election year.

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 <b>BS in Criminal Justice Administration</b>	<b>2006-2008</b>
Alliance Forensic Services <b>Internship and Training in Forensic Document Examination</b> 30-month full-time training that conformed to SWGDOG.org guidelines	<b>2008-2011</b>

**CERTIFICATION**

<b>Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners</b>	<b>2014 – present</b>
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**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)

Orange County Superior - Judge Clay M. Smith, 14D 01-03-50 **2016**  
 Orange County Central Superior Court - Judge David L. Belz, 30-2015-00782508  
 Deposition - Atty. Kasey Diba, BC064049  
 Deposition - Atty. Scott Fridley, RIP1500507  
 Riverside Family Court - Judge Christopher Harmon, RID1500219  
 Deposition - Atty. Danielle Doremus, RG14718709  
 Riverside Superior Court, Family - Comm. Eric V. Isaac, RID204171  
 Orange County Central Superior Court - Judge Mary Fingal Schulte, 30-2015-00782508

San Diego Probate Court – Judge Gregory W. Pollock, 37-2013-00038575 **2015**  
 Deposition – Atty. Ronald K. Giller, BC517236  
 Riverside County Superior Court, Judge Omar Sterling, IND1500454  
 Deposition – Atty. Micheal Vivoli, 37-2014-00005266

Los Angeles Superior Court, Judge Ralph C. Hofer, ED020916 **2014**  
 San Diego Superior Court, Judge Ronald S. Prager, 37-2013-00038575  
 Riverside County Superior Court, Judge Mark E. Peterson, MVC1400929  
 San Diego Probate Court, Judge Julia C. Kelety, PN29924/ROA #603

San Diego (North County) Small Claims Court, Comm. Donald L. Armento, 37-2013-00301951 **2013**  
 Deposition – Atty. Robert H. Tyler, PN-29924  
 Los Angeles Superior Court, Comm. David Cowan, BP132278  
 San Bernardino Superior Court, Comm. Khymberli S. Apaloo, VFLVS 027405  
 Deposition – Atty. Jim Terrell, VFLVS 027405  
 San Bernardino Superior Court, Judge Duke R. Rouse, FAMSS 1101751

San Diego Federal Bankruptcy Court, Judge Laura Taylor, 07-02952-T11 **2012**  
 Los Angeles Superior Court, Judge Gregory Alarcon, LASC 434034  
 San Diego (North County) Small Claims Court, Comm. Ernest Gross, (Brothers v. Wynn)  
 Deposition – Atty. Yosina M. Lissebeck, 07-02952-T11

## 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  
 Moot Court Training for the Riverside Sheriff Crime Lab trainee  
 San Diego County Office of Assigned Counsel Expert  
 San Bernardino County Public Defender Designated Expert  
 Riverside County Office of the Public Defender Expert  
 Fresno County Office of the Public Defender Expert  
 Tulare County Sheriff Expert Consultant

## PUBLICATIONS 2009-PRESENT

**The Reliability of the FDE in Identification of Hand Printing, A Blind Study**  
*The Journal of ASQDE, Vol. 19, Number 1, June 2016, pp 25-32.*

**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  
ACFI (Assoc. of Certified Fraud Investigators) (2 MCLE units) Palm Desert, 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, 30<sup>th</sup> 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 &amp; 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 2009-2016
- 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
- ST<sup>2</sup>AR 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 Curman, 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.

ST<sup>2</sup>AR – 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.