

Sandra L. Homewood

Forensic Document Examiner
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CURRICULUM VITAE

OVERVIEW OF EXPERIENCE

I have more than **30 years experience** as a Forensic Document Examiner. My training and seventeen years experience in law enforcement laboratories, including 9 years in the **San Diego Police Department Crime Laboratory** provided a well rounded level of experience in all phases of questioned document examination and courtroom testimony. While at the Arizona State Crime Laboratory I worked many high profile cases and **testified in court for many jurisdictions** throughout the state of Arizona.

While working as the **Document Examiner for the San Diego County District Attorney's Office**, I examined documents and testified in **many complex and high profile cases** involving massive amounts of documents that one generally does not see at the local law enforcement level. This type of casework was instrumental in developing my **organizational skills to deal with a high volume of documents** and the complex nature of many of these cases. Due to the nature of my work for this office, I testified in court on a regular basis and I was advised that I was hired **based upon my reputation as an effective witness**. Requests for my services more than tripled within the first year of my employment with the San Diego District Attorney's Office.

In December 1991, I left government employment to concentrate on developing a private civil practice while continuing to examine cases for the San Diego District Attorney's Office for ten additional years after leaving that governmental agency. I was instrumental in building the private practice of Forensic Science Laboratories, particularly with respect to developing the business practices & protocol for that company and serving as its first CEO.

In January 2002, I opened my own sole proprietor Questioned Document practice where I continue to examine documents in my fully-equipped document laboratory and provide testimony as an expert witness in civil and criminal litigation. I am **experienced in all aspects of Forensic Documents Examination**. I also **specialize in handwriting identification, handwriting of the elderly, financial elder abuse cases, will & probate cases, real estate fraud documents, and the alteration & fabrication of medical and business records**. In addition to civil casework, I continue to examine documents and testify in criminal cases for the U.S. Attorney's Office, State of California Attorney General's Office, and the San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura District Attorney's Offices, various Public Defenders Offices, and criminal defense attorneys.

I often lecture and give visual presentations on the subject of Questioned Documents to various professional, financial, attorney and law enforcement groups. I consider this to be a teaching opportunity and **do not charge an honorarium for this service**. I have participated in providing supplemental training for several Document Examiner Trainees in San Diego, Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING IN QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS:

Completion of a 2-year, full-time apprenticeship training program in the field of questioned documents, commencing in December 1974 under Sgt. Ralph Schoonover, Document Examiner for the San Diego Police Department Crime Laboratory, covering all phases of questioned document work including multiple forgeries, typewriter comparisons, erasures, obliterations, alterations, anonymous letters, mechanical impressions, paper and ink analysis, taking of exemplars, and handwriting and hand printing comparisons to determine true authorship of questioned documents.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING COURSES AND WORKSHOPS IN QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS:

November 1974:	U.S. Secret Service, Washington, D.C. Questioned Document School (120 hours)
March 1975:	FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia "Survey of Questioned Documents" (40 hours)
1975 – 1976:	Completion of two (2) one-semester courses in questioned documents under the instruction of Mr. D. Norman Gray, former Questioned Document Examiner with the FBI, Grossmont College, San Diego, CA
August 1977:	FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia "Legal Aspects of Questioned Documents" (40 Hours)
November 1978:	FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia "Forensic Crime Laboratory Photography" (120 hours)
August 1984:	FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia "Fundamentals of Questioned Documents" (80 hours)
August 1985:	Institute of Paper Chemistry, Appleton, Wisconsin Paper Fiber Analysis School (60 hours)
March 1987:	FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia "Identification and Classification of Typewriters" (40 hours)
February 1995:	Typewriter Database Workshop, AAFS, Seattle, WA
February 1995:	Digital Imaging Workshop, American Academy of Forensic Sciences AAFS, Seattle, WA
January 1996:	"Difficult & Complex Handwriting Examination Seminar", ABFDE Sponsored, Burlingame, CA (20 Hours)
October 1998:	Microscopy Workshop, ABFDE, Colorado
October 1998:	Checkwriter Workshop, SWAFDE, Colorado
May 2011:	Examination of Digital Signatures Workshop, Scottsdale Arizona

INSTRUMENTAL TRAINING:

IR/UV Videospectral Comparator, Electrostatic Detection Apparatus, Stereoscopic Microscope/Photomicroscopy, various measuring devices, analytical instruments, and photographic apparatus.

FORMAL EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Public Administration (Criminal Justice Administration) graduating Summa Cum Laude, National University, San Diego, California, 1980.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners (SWAFDE) - (Charter member and officer on the Board of Directors, two terms)

Member, American Society for Testing & Materials (ASTM)

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES:

Certified Diplomat by the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners, D-ABFDE (Certificate #231)

Lifetime Teaching Credential, California Community College (Certificate #253077)

EXPERIENCE (CRIMINAL):

Jan. 2006 – Present	Private Criminal Practice, Sandra L. Homewood, Forensic Document Examiner
Dec. 1991 – Dec. 2005:	Forensic Science Laboratories LLC, Examiner of Questioned Documents, First President, CEO; Vice President, CFO(beginning 1/1/02)
Sept. 1986 - Nov. 1991:	Document Examiner for San Diego County District Attorney's Office (plus an additional 10 years after leaving the government laboratory)
Sept. 1983 - Aug. 1986:	Arizona Department of Public Safety, Questioned Document Laboratory
Dec. 1974 - Aug. 1983:	(Apprenticeship training until November 1976); Journeyman level Document Examiner; promoted to Lead Document Examiner, San Diego Police Department Crime Laboratory, Questioned Document Section.

EXPERIENCE (CIVIL):

Jan. 2002 – Present:	Private Civil Practice, Sandra L. Homewood, Forensic Document Examiner
1986 – Dec. 2001:	Forensic Science Laboratories LLC, Examiner of Questioned Documents, President, CEO/Vice President, CFO
1983 - 1986:	Affiliated Forensic Laboratories (Private Civil Practice Corporation), Shareholder and Board of Directors, Phoenix, Arizona
1980 - 1983:	Private Civil Practice, Sandra L. Homewood, San Diego

Since November 1976, I have had direct responsibility for examining cases for identification or elimination of suspects. I have examined more than 13,000 cases, performing in excess of 125,000 comparisons; I have prepared court exhibits for use in Municipal, Superior, and Federal courts. These cases have been submitted by the San Diego Police Department, San Diego City Attorney's Office, San Diego District Attorney's Office, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara District Attorney's Offices, all local law enforcement agencies in the state of Arizona, the U.S. Attorney's office in San Diego, Tucson and Los Angeles, the office of Internal Revenue Service in Arizona and San Diego, the Attorney General in California and Arizona, the U.S. Department of Defense, and local D.E.A., F.B.I. and Narcotics Task Force agencies, the office of Federal Defenders and numerous banks, attorneys and law firms.

I have qualified and testified as an expert witness in the field of Questioned Documents in the Municipal, Superior, Grand Jury and Federal courts in the County of San Diego; Superior Courts in Orange, Los Angeles, Imperial, San Luis Obispo and Riverside counties; Superior and Federal courts throughout the state of Arizona; and various courts for the Department of the Navy.

As lead Document Examiner for the San Diego Police Department, I was responsible for case assignments, maintaining liaison with other agencies, and related work.

Continuing participation in the exchange of information with other Document Examiners throughout the United States.

TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS:

1980:	Guest Lecturer, Identification of Questioned Documents, University of Southern California at San Diego
1981-82:	Instructor, Peace Officer Standards & Training Program, Miramar College, San Diego
1982-83 & 1987:	Developed and taught Masters-level course in the Examination of Questioned Documents, National University, San Diego
1985-86:	Guest Instructor, Questioned Document course, Phoenix City College, Phoenix, AZ

TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS (Continued):

- 1986-87: Guest Instructor, Questioned Documents course, Grossmont College, El Cajon, CA
- May 1997: Instructor, "Advanced Study Course in the Examination of Medical Records", Miami, FL (ABFDE sponsored course taught to journeyman level Document Examiners)
- March 1998: Chairman & Instructor, "Advanced Study Course in the Examination of Medical Records II", San Diego, CA (ABFDE sponsored course taught to journeyman level Document Examiners)
- May 2006: Training for Special Agents, California Department of Justice, Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse; Half Moon Bay, CA

CONTINUING EDUCATION:

I regularly participate in the exchange of information, case study and new technology in the field of Questioned Documents by regularly attending scientific Questioned Document seminars and workshops.

PRESENTATIONS - TECHNICAL PAPERS - RESEARCH:

- 1982: Presentation: "Authentication of Known Handwriting" Southwest Association of Forensic Document Examiners. (SWAFDE)
- 1982: Produced and filmed video presentation, "Cross-Examination of Pseudo Experts".
- September 1988: Conducted workshop on manufacture of antique inks similar to those used in the forgery of Mormon documents, SWAFDE and American Society of Questioned Document Examiners (ASQDE) joint meeting.
- February 1991: Chairperson and presenter for panel discussion, "Professional Ethics," AAFS.
- October 1994: Presentation: "Rushing to Judgment ", SWAFDE, Honolulu, HI.
- August 1996: Panelist: "Private Practice Forum", ASQDE, Washington, DC
- May 1999: Contributing author: California District Attorney's Association's "Forensic Evidence Handbook"
- October 1999: Moot Court Panel, SWAFDE, Santa Fe, NM
- April 2000: Paper Fiber Workshop, SWAFDE, Marina Del Rey, CA
- May 2000: Presentation: "Vital Records Fraud", County Recorder's Association, Newport Beach, CA
- November 2001: Presentation: "Elder Abuse & Medi-Cal Fraud" – Dept. of Justice, Anaheim, CA
- October 2002: Presentation: "Elder Abuse Workshop: The Examination and Litigation of Handwriting of the Elderly", a workshop for other Forensic Document Examiners, presented at the Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners, Honolulu, Hawaii.