

Robert W. Lesnevich
Forensic Document Examiner

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Certification

Diplomate, American Board of Forensic Document Examiners

Experience and Expertise

- United States Department of Treasury, Document Analyst. *
Responsible for maintaining the integrity of U.S. Treasury documents against attempts of fraud, including signature and handwriting analysis, altered and counterfeit examination. Developed and implemented a training program for new document examiners employed with the U.S. Treasury. Casework includes examinations performed for the Bureau of Public Debt, Social Security Administration, Internal Revenue Service and cases of congressional status. Developed a training seminar titled "Preventing Check Fraud" for use by the Federal Reserve Banks and other financial institutions.
(December 2001-Current)
- Full-time practice of forensic document examination. Experienced in the examination of documents: determining the authenticity of signatures, erasures, obliterations, photocopying processes, and other elements of a document in relation to its authenticity.
(March 1994-December 2001)
- Two-year training program in document examination under Gus R. Lesnevich, Diplomat American Board of Forensic Document Examiners. Former Senior Document Examiner U.S.S.S.
(March 1992-March 1994)

Education

Villanova University, Bachelor of Science
University of Baltimore, School of Law (projected graduation May 2007)

Professional Affiliations

- Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientist (NEAFS)
- International Association for Identification (IAI)
- ASTM International, Committee E30
- Candidate, American Board of Forensic Document Examiners

*Because of my current employment, I am unable to accept criminal cases.

Seminars in Questioned Documents

“Canon Photocopier and Facsimile Training Workshop”, American Board of Forensic Document Examiners, October 4-6, 1999, Norcross, GA

“Special Topics In Questioned Documents”, California Criminalistics Institute, California Department of Justice, May 9-12, 2000 Sacramento, CA

“Essentials of Check and Deposit Account Fraud Prevention” June 20-21 2002

“Printing Process Identification and Image Analysis for Forensic Document Examiners”, Rochester Institute of Technology, June 24-27, 2003.

American Academy of Forensic Sciences, 56th Annual Meeting February 16-21, 2004. Dallas, TX

Inkjet Workshop and Forensic Digital Photography, Northeast Association of Forensic Scientist Annual meeting, October 2004.

“The Forensic Examination of Documents Produced by Office Machine Systems Utilizing Inkjet Technology”, Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientist Annual Meeting, October 2004. Mystic, CT.

“Forensic Digital Photography”, Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientist Annual Meeting, October 2004. Mystic, CT.

American Academy of Forensic Sciences, 57th Annual Meeting February 20-25, 2005. New Orleans, LA

American Academy of Forensic Sciences, 58th Annual Meeting February 19-24, 2006. Seattle, WA

“How *Frye* and *Daubert* Have Changed the Presentation of Criminalistics and Questioned Documents in Court”, AAFS Annual Meeting 2006, Seattle, WA.

Papers Presented

Technical workshop titled “Desktop Publishing for the Forensic Document Examiner.” Training session conducted at the Northeast Association of Forensic Scientist Annual meeting, October 1994, to Fellow Forensic Document Examiners.

“Treasury Wages High-Tech Offensive against Document Fraud”, The Financial Connection, April/May 2003, Vol.12, No. 2.

“Security Features of the U.S. Treasury Check”, Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientist Annual Meeting, October, 2004. Mystic, CT.

Court Qualifications

Court of Common Pleas, Delaware County, Pennsylvania
American Arbitration Association
Court of Common Pleas, Bucks County, Pennsylvania
Superior Court of New Jersey, Bergen County
Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Pennsylvania

Assisted in the Following Widely Publicized Cases

- U.S. vs. Eddie Antar (Crazy Eddie)
- U.S. vs. Don King (1995 and 1998)
- U.S. vs. Autum Jackson (Bill Cosby)
- People vs. Chuck Jones (Marla Maples’ Publicist)
- People vs. Edward Leary (N.Y.C. Subway Firebombing)
- Kenneth Starr, Independent Counsel “Vincent Foster Suicide”
- Lawrence E. Walsh, Independent Counsel, “Iran-Contra” Affair, U.S. vs. Casper Weinberger

Laboratory Resources

Document examinations conducted on-site in a state of the art laboratory. All of the latest advances in scientific equipment are available for the examination of a questioned document, including : an Electro-Static Detection Apparatus (ESDA), The Video Spectral Comparator 2000, a digital stereoscopic zoom microscope, and various digital cameras and scanners.

Forensic Document Examination

Included are: the scientific examination of handwriting, typewriting, printing, ink, paper, or any other aspect of a document for the purpose of determining various legal questions asked about documents. These questions could involve identifying the writer of a document, determining if a signature is authentic or a forgery, determining the age of a document, deciphering obliterated or erased writings, or a host of other questions that might be raised in civil or criminal trials. The Forensic Document Specialist relies on his carefully honed judgment and experience, his comprehensive reference files, and a variety of scientific tools to make his determinations. The scientific tools range from a simple magnifying glass to sophisticated instrumentation, such as the Video Spectral Comparator.

Who is Qualified

There are no colleges or universities that offer a diploma or degree in Handwriting Identification. The only way an individual can adequately master this profession is by serving an intensive apprenticeship program, conducted under the direct supervision of Senior Court Qualified Document examiners. The training consists of:

- studying the leading text in the field
- verification of fundamental handwriting comparison principles
- review of research papers and professional articles
- conducting individual research projects
- writing papers
- attending seminars to maintain state-of-the-art credibility as an expert witness
- actual case work assisted by senior examiners who review your work and verify the accuracy of your findings.

Three to four years of continuous study would be required to:

- sufficiently understand and master the intricate skills of the modern-day Document Examiner
- render reliable handwriting opinions in disputed authorship cases
- to be certified as a competent Forensic Document Examiner

Cost of Services and Contract for Services (Effective January 1, 2006)

1. All examination and court preparation time is billed at a rate of \$200.00 per hour.
2. A minimum \$1600.00 retainer is required in advance. This retainer *is not refundable*, but will be applied to the first eight hours of work.
3. A non-refundable retainer of \$1600.00 (8 Hours) is requested at the time I am notified of a court appearance. This retainer will be applied toward the production cost of court chart illustrations necessary to support my testimony.
4. Court Appearances and Depositions are billed at a minimum of \$2,000.00 per day.
5. Court Appearances and Depositions not canceled within 72 hours of the scheduled appearance are subject to my minimum \$2,000.00 billing.
6. Time spent in travel will be billed at a reduced rate of \$75.00 per hour.
7. Any miscellaneous expenses will be billed in addition to the rates listed above.
8. No work will be performed until payment of the retainer. The eight retainer should be enough time to complete an examination and report, however cases that involve numerous documents, require outside travel, additional testing on documents, or reports that include graphics to support the rendered opinion will generate additional billable hours beyond the retainer fee.
9. I will accept direct payment from your client, however you or your law firm are responsible for all fees.
10. All bills are due within 45 calendar days of the billing date. A charge of 10% on the balance due will be assessed after the 45th calendar day. A charge of 15% on the balance due will be assessed after the 60th calendar day. A charge of 20% on the balance due will be assessed after the 90th calendar day and the outstanding balance will be submitted to an outside collection agency.
11. The laws of Maryland will control any disputes and no terms are waived unless done so in writing.
12. By submitting the retainer you and you law firm have agreed to all the above terms and accept responsibility for any outstanding bills.